

**THE ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

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PRESS RELEASE

September 18, 2013

Contact:

David Mussatt, Ph.D.
Director, Midwestern Regional Office
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
(312) 353-8311

**Illinois State Advisory Committee to Hold September 23rd Meeting Examining
Immigration Reform Bill's Civil Rights Implications**

CHICAGO, IL – On September 23, the Illinois State Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights will hear testimony from diverse panelists regarding the civil rights implications of the comprehensive immigration reform bill on Illinois' immigrant communities. The panelists will discuss whether the bill adequately addresses current civil rights concerns and whether the bill, if passed, may create new civil rights issues for immigrant communities.

The meeting will be held at the DePaul North Café Room, 1 E. Jackson Blvd., 11th Floor, Chicago, Illinois from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT on Monday, September 23. An open session where the public will be given an opportunity to provide testimony for the record will be held at the end of the day. An agenda is attached.

Among those who are scheduled to present testimony are DePaul Law Instructor R. Linus Chan; Valparaiso Law Professor Geoffrey Heeren; Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights Director Maria Woltjen; Michael Jarecki; Lisa Palumbo and Miguel Keberlein of Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago; SAAPRI Director Ami Gandhi; Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago Director Tuyet Le; Tejas Shah; Jennifer Chan of the National Immigrant Justice Center; Fred Tsao of Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; Rene David Luna of Access Living; and Immigrant Youth Justice League organizer Stephanie.

The members of the Illinois State Advisory Committee are Chair Barbara Abrajano, Nancy Andrade, Jonathan Bean, Lisa Bernstein, James Botana, Trevor Copeland, Richard Garcia, William Howard, Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, B. Herbert Martin, Malik Nevels, Darlene Oliver, Gordon Quinn, Ennedy Rivera, Cynthia Shawamreh, Betsy Shuman-Moore, Anthony Sisneros, and Farhan Younus. The SAC's reports to the Commission are wholly independent, and are not subject to Commission approval, fact-checking or policy changes.

Congress has directed the Commission to establish state advisory committees (SACs) in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to study issues and forward advisory reports to the Commission on matters within the agency's jurisdiction that reflect the views of the majority of SAC members producing the report.

Midwestern Regional Office of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
55 W. Monroe St., Suite 410

Chicago, IL 60603
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(312) 353-8324 (fax)

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The SACs' reports to the Commission may rely on studies and data from non-Commission sources and are not subject to an independent review by Commission staff. The views expressed in reports are those of a majority of the State Advisory Committee members and do not necessarily represent the views of the Commission or its individual members, nor do they represent the policies of the U.S. government.

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AGENDA

ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE
U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS and
DEPAUL COLLEGE OF LAW ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION CLINIC
ANNOUNCE A MEETING ON THE

**Civil Rights Implications of Comprehensive
Immigration Reform on Illinois' Immigrant
Communities**

Monday, September 23, 2013

**DePaul North Café Room
1 E. Jackson Blvd., 11th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604**

Welcome and Introductions

10:30 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. CT

Barbara Abrajano, Chair, Illinois State Advisory Committee

Panel 1

10:40 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.

R. Linus Chan, Clinical Instructor, DePaul University College of Law

Geoffrey Heeren, Assistant Professor of Law, Valparaiso University Law

Maria Woltjen, Director of The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights,
University of Chicago Law School

Panel 2

11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Michael Jarecki, Law Office of Michael R. Jarecki

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Lisa Palumbo, Supervisory Attorney Immigrants and Workers' Rights Practice Group,
Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
Miguel Keberlein, Supervisory Attorney of the Migrant Project, Legal Assistance
Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

Lunch Break

12:45 – 1:15

Panel 3

1:20 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.

Ami Gandhi, Executive Director, South Asian American Policy & Research Institute
Tuyet Le, Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago
Tejas Shah, Kriezelman Burton & Associates, LLC

Panel 4

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Jennifer Chan, Associate Director of Policy, National Immigrant Justice Center
Alonzo Rivas, Midwest Regional Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and
Educational Fund
Fred Tsao, Policy Director, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Panel 5

3:35 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.

Stephanie, Organizer, Immigrant Youth Justice League
Rene David Luna, Community Organizer, Access Living
Maria Pesqueria, President & CEO, Mujeres Latinas en Acción

Open Session

4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

5:00 p.m.

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