



NEWS RELEASE

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U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Appoints District of Columbia State Advisory Committee Members

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announced today the appointment of 16 members to the District of Columbia State Advisory Committee.

The Commission appointed:

- James J. Sandman (chair)
- Farah S. Abbas
- Nadia J. Firozvi
- Sonia P. Gutierrez
- Clyde J. Hart
- Vernon Dexter Ingram II
- Leila J. Levi
- Daniel P. Lips
- Charles R. Lowery, Jr.
- Alan K. Palmer
- Laurence D. Pearl
- Edwin G. Peterman
- Melissa C. Tucker
- Yisel Valdes
- Sheena Wadhawan
- J. Steven Wagner

State advisory committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning regional, state or local civil rights issues, including justice, voting, discrimination, housing and education. Congress directed the Commission to establish advisory committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The volunteer members serve for two-year terms.

“The District has a special role in the civil rights movement. From the March on Washington fifty years ago to the inauguration of the first African American President, DC has been at the center of civil rights history,” Commission Staff Director Marlene Sallo said.

The past District of Columbia State Advisory Committees reports addressed education, fair housing, and residential mortgage lending disparities. The committee will meet for the first time in April to consider its plans and priorities.

“This is an active advisory committee, and I am confident that we will continue to do important work in the nation’s capital, which is often at the forefront on civil rights.” James Sandman, newly appointed committee chair, said.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with studying and advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about Commission reports and meetings and State Advisory Committee reports, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov>.

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