



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Appoints Wisconsin Advisory Committee Members**

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announced the appointment of 16 members to its Wisconsin Advisory Committee.

The Commission appointed:

- Heather Berlinski of Oconowoc
- Naheed Bleecker of Brookfield
- Rebecca Bradley of Wauwatosa
- Elsa Diaz-Bautista of Whitefish Bay
- Robert Driscoll of Wauwatosa
- W. Lee Hansen of Madison
- Angelique Harris of Milwaukee
- Daniel Kelly of Waukesha
- Demond Means of Milwaukee
- Arthur Pontynen of Oshkosh
- Jason Rae of Milwaukee
- Dawn Shelton-Williams of Brown Deer
- Stacy Taeuber of Madison
- May yer Thao of Milwaukee
- William Tisdale of Milwaukee
- Yang Sao Xiong of Madison

State advisory committee members produce reports and issue recommendations to the Commission concerning statewide or local civil rights issues involving discrimination based upon race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability and in voting rights. Congress mandates the appointment of members to advisory committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Appointees to the advisory committees serve four-year terms and are unremunerated. The Commission appointed Ms. Naheed Bleecker as Chair of the Wisconsin committee.

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Chair Martin R. Castro added, “Our Advisory Committees perform vital work, acting as civil rights watch-dogs in our communities and from our communities. We could not perform our work at the national level without the thoughtful input of these volunteer members and we thank them for their service.” The Wisconsin Advisory Committee most recently conducted a public meeting in Madison to hear testimony regarding hate crimes in the state. The newly-appointed committee will meet on January 21, 2016 to discuss a draft of the report resulting from this meeting and plan for future activities.

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

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