



NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: David Mussatt
Email: dmussatt@usccr.gov
Tel: (312) 353-8311

**Nevada Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
Releases Findings on Municipal Fines and Fees in Advisory Memorandum**

The Nevada Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has issued an Advisory [Memorandum](#) to the Commission following a series of public panel discussions focused on civil rights and the impact of municipal fines and fees on lower income individuals. This Advisory Memorandum will provide state-level input to the Commission's planned 2017 Statutory Enforcement Report.

On March 15, 2017, the Nevada Advisory Committee examined the civil rights impact of the administration of municipal fines and fees on the basis of race or color. The Committee heard testimony from government and elected officials, law enforcement, policy experts, community advocates, and community members. Through this testimony, the Committee identified a number of concerns, including: a severe deficit of demographic data and tracking of individuals impacted by municipal fines and fees on behalf of law enforcement and the courts; the potential for disparate impact on the basis of a number of federally protected classes, including youth of color; a challenge to due process of law in imposing and resolving fines and fees; and an absence of clear standards for court administrators and judges to determine an individual's inability to pay. In an effort to help remedy these concerns, the Committee developed recommendations directed to the U.S. Department of Justice and various state actors.

Committee Chair Wendell Blaylock said, "This work will be the foundation to open a discussion for change in the assessment of fines and fees that will resonate not only in Nevada, but nationwide."

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. The Commission, by Congressional mandate, establishes Advisory Committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning local civil rights issues, including justice, voting, discrimination, housing, education, and other important themes. For information about the Commission and our Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).