



**NEWS RELEASE**  
July 19, 2017

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**Tennessee Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Announces Public Meeting: Civil Rights and Civil Asset Forfeiture**

Nashville – The Tennessee Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a public meeting to hear testimony regarding the extent to which civil asset forfeiture practices in the state may have a discriminatory impact on the basis of race, color, national origin, and/or disability status.

The meeting will take place on **Monday, July 24, 2017, from 9:30 am–4:30 pm, at the Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Nashville, TN 37219**. The Committee will hear testimony from law enforcement, legislators, legal professionals, and advocacy organizations. Members of the public will be invited to speak during the open forum, scheduled to take place from 3:45 to 4:30 pm.

This meeting is open to the public, with the agenda listed below. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact the Southern Regional Office prior to the meeting to make appropriate arrangements. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to [jhinton@usccr.gov](mailto:jhinton@usccr.gov) by August 23, 2017. The Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

Committee Chair Diane Di Ianni stated: “Many states are looking at impact of civil forfeiture on its citizens and communities, and how the revenues are being used. With the recent changes in Tennessee law, it’s important to assess how civil forfeiture is being used in Tennessee.”

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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. For information about the Commission and its Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

**AGENDA**

**9:30 am**                      **Introductions**

**9:45-10:55 am**            **Panel 1 - Law Enforcement Officials**

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- Glenn R. Funk, Nashville District Attorney General
- D. Michael Dunavant, Tennessee District Attorney General Conference, Incoming President
- Stephen D. Crump, Tennessee District Attorney General Conference, Legislative Chair
- Carlos Lara, Lieutenant, Metro Nashville Police Department, Specialized Investigations Division

**11:00 am-12:05 pm Panel 2 - Legislative Panel**

- Rep. Mike Carter, Tennessee General Assembly
- Rep. John Ray Clemmons, Tennessee General Assembly
- Rep. William G. Lamberth, Tennessee General Assembly
- Rep. Martin Daniel, Tennessee General Assembly
- Rep. Harold M. Love, Jr., Tennessee General Assembly
- Rep. G.A.Hardaway, Tennessee General Assembly

**12:10-1:15 pm Panel 3 - National/State Organizations**

- Vikrant Reddy, Senior Research Fellow, Charles Koch Institute
- Lee McGrath, Senior Legislative Counsel, Institute for Justice
- Thomas H. Castelli, Legal Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee
- Rebecca Valles, Managing Director, Poverty to Prosperity Program, Center for American Progress

**1:15-2:00 pm Lunch Break**

**2:00-3:05 pm Panel 4 - Tennessee Practitioners and Academics**

- George Frank Lannom, Attorney, Middle Tennessee Board, Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Joy Radice, Professor of Law, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- John Morris Miles, Attorney, Miles Law Firm, Union City
- Ben Raybin, Attorney, Raybin & Weissman, P.C., Nashville
- Kyle Mothershead, Attorney, Mothershead Law, Nashville
- Elliot Ozment, Attorney, Ozment Law, Nashville

**3:10-3:40 pm Panel 5 - Advocacy Organizations**

- Jackie Sims, Tennessee State Conference of the NAACP
- Christopher M. Bellamy, President, Napier-Looby Bar Association
- Julie Warren, State Director, Tennessee/Kentucky, Right on Crime
- Samuel Lester, Street Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator, Open Table Nashville

**3:45-4:30 pm Public Comment and Community Testimonials**