



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**July 2017 Activities, Briefings, and Reports:  
State Advisory Committees of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights**

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announces July activities of our Advisory Committees. Our Committees play an important role in civil rights advocacy at state and local levels.

At our Commissioners’ July 14 business meeting, we heard [presentations](#) by Diane Citrino, Chair of our Ohio Committee, on its [report](#) on human trafficking in the state; and by Kara Jenkins of our Nevada Committee on its advisory [memorandum](#) on municipal fines and fees. Our California Committee released a [report](#) on voting integrity in the state.

On July 18, our Colorado Committee held a public [briefing](#) on the Blaine Amendment, which deals with public funding for schools. On July 24, our Tennessee Committee [meeting](#) heard testimony on civil asset forfeiture. Our Committees heard from diverse experts, officials, civil society organizations, and members of the public. A number of other state Committees also met to discuss topics for upcoming meetings on important civil rights issues at state and local levels.

Chair Catherine E. Lhamon said: “Our state Advisory Committees are crucial to the Commission’s fulfillment of its civil rights mission. Each Committee provides valuable insight to civil rights issues in its state, and we were privileged to hear compelling presentations on human trafficking and municipal fines and fees this month. I look forward to the Committees’ continuing important work on civil rights fulfillment.”

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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 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. Appointees serve four-year terms and are unremunerated. For information about the Commission and our Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).