



**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
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**U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to Commemorate its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary -  
Tuesday, November 14, 2017, Washington, DC**

Washington, DC – On November 14, at the Library of Congress, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will commemorate its 60-year legacy of influence in civil rights. Our event will feature remarks from Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, and U.S. Representatives Derek Kilmer and F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. Richard Lui of MSNBC, NBC News, and CNN will moderate a panel discussion with Commission Chair Catherine E. Lhamon and former Chairs William B. Allen, Mary Frances Berry, Martin R. Castro, and Gerald A. Reynolds.

The Commission was established on September 9, 1957, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Civil Rights Act - the first federal civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. Starting with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, our guidance has helped to shape every federal civil rights law enacted during our existence.

While each federal agency has a civil rights office, the Commission is the only independent federal entity charged with studying and reporting on rights issues and enforcement. We have influenced legislation that has achieved greater equality for every segment of American society, particularly marginalized communities. We inform all branches of government in seeking to develop well-reasoned solutions to myriad civil rights challenges confronting this nation. In addition to our national, federal perspective, our network of 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective of concerns at state and local levels, and recommend actions to address them.

Chair Catherine E. Lhamon stated: “Our first report, issued in 1959, stated that the ‘gap between the great American promise of equal opportunity and equal justice under law’ and the ‘startlingly inadequate fulfillment in practice’ has been a basic fact of American history. Then, as now when we enter our seventh decade, we strive to close that gap, guiding the ongoing national movement to ensure full civil rights protections.”

For more information about tomorrow’s event, please contact Brian Walch at [bwalch@usccr.gov](mailto:bwalch@usccr.gov) or 202-376-8371.

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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 to view our reports, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).