



PRESS RELEASE
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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces the Appointment of Advisory Committee Members for Two States

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights congratulates the following individuals on their appointments as members of two of our state Advisory Committees.

Advisory Committees have recently [examined](#) education funding, school discipline disparities, policing practices, mental health and the criminal justice system, legal financial obligations, human trafficking, fair housing, hate crimes, voting rights, and collateral consequences of criminal convictions. In addition to advising the Commission, Advisory Committee reports have contributed to policy changes at the national, state and local levels.

The Georgia Advisory Committee to the Commission most recently issued [Disability Rights and Civil Rights in Georgia](#), in which the Committee examined the state of Georgia's progress in implementing the Supreme Court's requirement in *Olmstead v. LC* that the Americans with Disabilities Act required individuals with disabilities to receive services in the most integrated setting possible.

The Maine Advisory Committee to the Commission most recently issued [The Criminalization of People with Mental Illnesses in Maine](#), in which the Committee examined the facilities, care, and resources provided to individuals with mental illnesses in Maine, particularly within the law enforcement and criminal justice system.

For the state of Georgia:

Maria Baeza, Chair; Marpheen Chan; Mufalo Chitam; Gia Drew; Silvestre Guzman; Michael Hawley; Judith Jones; Diane Khiel; Samantha Le; Eric Mehnert; Nicole Rancourt; and Cait Vaughan.

For the state of Maine:

Chantel Mullen, Chair; Percy Brown; Benita Cotton; Jake Evans; Jerry Gonzalez; James Hunt; Eric Jacobson; Tarece Johnson; Richard Lorenc; De'Andre Pickett; Bryan Ramos; Jonathan Rogers; Baker Smith; and Laura Soltis.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).