

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS Eastern Regional Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Federal Civil Rights Panel to Convene Community Forum on Immigration and Education Issues

What: New Jersey Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

When: Friday, May 8, 2009, from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM

**Where: Legislative Annex of the State House, 125 West State Street, Room L6 (1st floor),
Trenton, New Jersey**

TRENTON, NJ -- The New Jersey Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a community forum to gather information about two topics: Immigration and Education.

The immigration review convenes at 9:30 am. The Committee will hear from experts about what role, if any, state and local governments should have in enforcing immigration laws. Committee members will also learn about the challenges facing social service organizations that seek to help immigrants. Presenters include New Jersey Public Advocate Ronald K. Chen; Morristown Mayor Donald Cresitello; economics professor Frank Tinari of Seton Hall; speakers affiliated with the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Covenant House, Disability Rights NJ, the Lowenstein Center for the Public Interest, the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network, the Rutgers Occupational Training and Education Consortium, El Comite de Apoyo a Los Trabajadores Agrícolas, the Immigrants Rights Program at the American Friends Service Committee, the New Jersey Catholic Conference; and others.

The education review convenes at 2:00 pm. The Committee will consider the impact that teacher quality and performance have on student achievement. Presenters will include Jay Doolan, Ed.D, Assistant Commissioner for the New Jersey Department of Education's Division of Educational Standards and Programs; Clifford Janey, Ed.D, State District Superintendent for Newark Public Schools; Professor Richard Ingersoll of the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education; and speakers affiliated with the New Teacher Project, the Abbott Leadership Institute, NJ Teach for America, UKA Teacher U and Uncommon Schools, the Secondary Parent Council, the New Jersey Education Association; TEAM Academy Schools of Newark, and the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN).

The community forum is open to the public. At the conclusion of each review, the Committee will welcome brief statements from members of the public who wish to speak to these issues.

The New Jersey State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has established state advisory committees to advise the Commission about state civil rights issues that are within the Commission's jurisdiction. State committees receive reports, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals, public officials, and representatives of public and private organizations in response to committee inquiries. The committees forward advice and recommendations to the Commission; and assist the Commission in its public education and outreach efforts. The committees are comprised of state citizens who serve without compensation.

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