

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION TO HOLD BRIEFING ON CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO THE MORTGAGE CRISIS

Washington, DC – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a briefing on Friday, March 20, 2009 to examine civil rights issues with respect to the mortgage crisis. Three panels of experts will address topics including the Community Reinvestment Act, predatory lending, and HUD lending goals for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as they relate to civil rights.

The panelists include: Stan J. Liebowitz, Professor of Economics, University of Texas at Dallas and author of “Anatomy of a Train Wreck: Causes of the Mortgage Meltdown”; Howard Husock, Manhattan Institute and the author of “The Trillion Dollar Housing Mistake”; Marsha J. Courchane, Economist with CRA International and formerly Director of Financial Strategy in Housing Economics at Freddie Mac; John C. Weicher, Hudson Institute and former HUD Assistant Secretary; Brian Brooks, Managing Partner, Washington, D.C. Office, O'Melveny & Myers LLP, an attorney representing subprime lenders; and representatives from the Federal Reserve, the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, the Comptroller of the Currency, HUD, Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the National Fair Housing Alliance, and the Federal Trade Commission.

Persons with a disability requiring special services, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, should contact Pam Dunston at (202) 376-8105 at least seven days prior to the meeting.

When: Friday, March 20, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Where: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 624 9th St. NW, Room 540, Washington DC

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Members include Chairman Gerald A. Reynolds, Vice Chair Abigail Thernstrom, Commissioners Todd Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlan D. Melendez, Ashley L. Taylor, Jr., and Michael Yaki. Martin Dannenfelsler is the Staff Director. Commission meetings are open to the general public. The Commission's website is <http://www.usccr.gov>.