



**U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Public Briefing:
*Are Rights a Reality? Evaluating Federal Civil Rights Enforcement***

Friday, November 2, 2018, Washington, DC
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 1150
Washington, DC 20425. Also [live-streaming](#).

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public briefing to evaluate federal civil rights enforcement. With this assessment, the Commission asks: what are the key elements for effective civil rights enforcement? Do federal agencies have sufficient resources to fulfill their enforcement responsibilities? Most importantly, the Commission asks: is the federal government satisfying its obligation to the American people to protect and vindicate their civil rights across the justice system and other issue areas, such as immigration, healthcare, employment, education, and housing?

The Commission will hear from current and former federal officials, academic and legal experts, and advocates. The public will be able to address the Commission in an open comment session. In fall 2019, the Commission will issue a report from this investigation.

Members of the public who wish to address the Commission will have an opportunity to do so during an open public comment session that will take place between 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm ET. Each individual will have up to three (3) minutes to speak, with spots allotted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Individuals will be able to register for open comment session speaking slots, both online and at the briefing (in person). Please see options below.

Public Comment Registration:

On Friday, October 26, beginning at 9:00 am ET, individuals will be able to register to speak, online at [Eventbrite](#). This registration option will remain open until all slots are filled, and no later than 9:00 am ET on Friday, November 2. An individual who successfully registers online must be physically present at the briefing by 4:45 pm ET on November 2, or risk forfeiting his/her speaking slot.

Individuals will have the opportunity to sign up for a limited number of speaking slots, in person, at the briefing, beginning at 9:00 am ET on Friday, November 2. If the online registration spots are not filled, or individuals who signed up online do not appear to claim their spot, those spots will open up to any further interested participants.

Post-Briefing Written Comments:

The Commission will also accept written materials for consideration as we prepare our report. Please submit no later than December 17, 2018 to enforcement@usccr.gov or by mail to: OCRE/Public Comments, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 1150, Washington, DC 20425.

Agenda*

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Introductory Remarks by Chair Catherine E. Lhamon
9:10 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Panel One: Current and Former Federal Agency Officials

- Craig E. Leen, Acting Director and Deputy Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Arne Duncan, Former U.S. Secretary of Education, Current Managing Partner of Emerson Collective
- Leon Rodriguez, Former Director, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Current Partner, Seyfarth Shaw
- Bryan Greene, General Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

10:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. Panel Two: Current and Former Federal Agency Officials

- Lilian Dorka, Director, External Civil Rights Compliance Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Winona Lake Scott, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
- Harvey Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Resolution Management, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- Veronica Venture, Deputy Officer, Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security

1:10 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Panel Three: Advocate & Community Experts in Civil Rights Enforcement

- Fatima Goss Graves, President and CEO, National Women’s Law Center
- Janel George, Senior Policy Advisor, Learning Policy Institute
- Vanita Gupta, President and CEO, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- Joshua Thompson, Senior Attorney, Pacific Legal Foundation
- John Yang, President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice AAJC
- Burth Lopez, Staff Attorney, MALDEF

2:40 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Panel Four: Academic and Legal Experts in Civil Rights Enforcement

- Margo Schlanger, Wade H. and Dores M. McCree Collegiate Professor of Law, Michigan Law
- R. Shep Melnick, Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Professor of American Politics, Boston College
- Anthony Varona, Vice Dean, American University Washington College of Law
- Kim Kendrick, Partner, Leftwich LLC and former Asst. Secretary for Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
- Robert Driscoll, Member, McGlinchy Stafford and former Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, DOJ
- Curtis L. Decker, Executive Director, National Disability Rights Network

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Public Comment

*subject to change

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. For information about the Commission, please visit www.usccr.gov and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).