

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

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**WHAT:** A public briefing before the Kansas State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will be held to hear testimony concerning the topics, "Civil Rights Implications of the Kansas Caucus Process and Related Voting Rights Issues" and "Enforcement of Employment Civil Rights Laws in Kansas." The Committee will use information received in the briefing to plan future activities.

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 26, 2009  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Dillon House at the State Capitol  
404 Southwest North 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Topeka, Kansas

The Committee will gather information on how the Kansas caucus process works, whether the process has implications for the exercise of voting rights by minorities and women, and reports of voting irregularities in Kansas. Scheduled to speak include Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Elections and Legislature Matters representing the Kansas Secretary of State; Larry Gates, Chairman of the Kansas Democratic Party; Kris Kobach, Chairman of the Kansas Republican Party; Elizabeth Ensley, Election Commissioner for the Shawnee County Election Office; and Diane Kuhn, President of the Kansas League of Women Voters.

The Committee will also hear from James R. Neely, Jr., Director of the St. Louis District Office of the EEOC; William V. Minner, Director of the Kansas Human Rights Commission; Danielle Dempsey-Swopes, Director of the Kansas African-American Affairs Commission; Tina DeLarosa, Kansas Department of Labor; and Charles Jean Baptiste, President of the Kansas State Conference of the NAACP on enforcement of employment civil rights laws in the state.

Members of the Kansas Advisory Committee are Donald S. Prophete, Esq, Chairman, of Kansas City; Dr. Laurie M. Bagby and Dr. Marsha L. Frey of Manhattan; Susan A. Berson of Leawood; Chiquita C. Cogg, Michelle T. Johnson and Dr. Ewa R. Unoke of Kansas City, Kansas; Delia R. Garcia of Wichita; Brian R. Johnson, Esq., of Lawrence;

Jennifer M. Kassebaum of Burdick; Kirk P. Perucca of Prairie Village; Charles S. Scott, Esq., of Shawnee; Dr. Kimberly Shankman of Atchison; and Robert E. Shands of Olathe. Farella E. Robinson is the Regional Director.

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 Thornstrom, Commissioners Todd F. Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlan D. Melendez, Ashley L. Taylor, Jr., and Michael Yaki. Martin Dannenfelser is the Staff Director. Commission meetings are open to the general public and the media.