

# THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Appoints Pennsylvania State Advisory Committee Members**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has appointed 15 Pennsylvania citizens to its Pennsylvania State Advisory Committee.

Martin Dannenfelser, Staff Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, announced the appointment of Christopher Armstrong of Danville, Elisa Basnight of Philadelphia, Richard Bockol of Gladwyne, Alberto Cardelle of Stroudsburg, ImJa Choi of Blue Bell, James Frazier of Pittsburgh, Nancy Gippert of Susquehanna Township, Heather Heidelbaugh of Mt. Lebanon, Patricia Hopson-Shelton of Lancaster, Craig Hymowitz of Philadelphia, Steven Irwin of Pittsburgh, Fay Ritter of Pittsburgh, William Rothman of Mechanicsburg, Lawrence Tabas of Penn Valley, and Connie Tarr of Greensburg. The Commission appointed James Frazier as chairman. The appointments are for two years.

Congress has directed the Commission to establish advisory committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to study issues and forward advisory reports to the Commission on matters within the agency's jurisdiction that reflect the views of the majority of SAC members producing the report.

The SACs' reports to the Commission are wholly independent, and are reviewed by Commission staff only for legal and procedural compliance with Commission policies and procedures. SAC reports are not subject to Commission approval, fact-checking or policy changes.

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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 Dannenfelser is the staff director. Commission meetings are open to the general public. The Commission's website is <http://www.usccr.gov>.*