

**THE LOUISIANA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE  
U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

May 2, 2012

**Contact:**

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**Louisiana State Advisory Committee Announces a Planning/Briefing Meeting**

**WHAT:** Planning and Briefing Meeting of the Louisiana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 10, 2012  
2:00 p.m. (CST)

**WHERE:** Louisiana State University  
Hebert Law Center  
1 East Campus Drive  
Suite 400  
Baton Rouge, LA 70908

The meeting is also open to the public through the following toll-free call-in number 1 (866) 364-7584, conference call access code number 68145841.

The Louisiana State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a planning and briefing meeting to continue planning a future civil rights project. The Committee will meet with and receive a briefing from representatives of the Louisiana Public Defender Board, Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children and the New Orleans Vera Institute of Justice to provide preliminary information concerning potential racial disparities in the high incarceration of African-Americans in state-operated prisons.

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 agency's jurisdiction that reflect the views of the majority of SAC members producing the report.

The SACs' reports to the Commission may rely on studies and data generated by third parties, which are not subject to an independent review by Commission staff. The views expressed in reports are those of a majority of the State Advisory Committee members and do not necessarily represent the views of the Commission or its individual members, nor do they represent the policies of the U.S. government.

Gregory Grimsal, Esq., of New Orleans is Chairman of the Louisiana Advisory Committee. Other members of the Committee are Lorna Bourg of New Iberia; Robert A. Garda, Neely S. Griffith, Esq., Nolan V. Rollins and James E. Viator of New Orleans; Jason M. DeCuir, Esq., Michelle W. Ghatti, Esq., Gwendolyn P. Hamilton, Nadia E. Nedzel, Esq. and Dr. James R. Stoner of Baton Rouge.

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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 Martin Castro and Commissioners Roberta Achtenberg, Todd Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter Kirsanow, David Kladney, Abigail Thornstrom, and Michael Yaki. The Commission's website is <http://www.usccr.gov>*