

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS ANNOUNCES BRIEFING ON  
THE IMPACT OF REGULATORY, LICENSING, AND MARKET ENTRY  
BARRIERS ON EMERGING SMALL BUSINESSES**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - The United States Commission on Civil Rights announces that it will hold a briefing on the impact of regulatory, licensing, contracting, market entry and other barriers that negatively affect emerging business enterprises. The briefing will focus on the impact such barriers have on different racial/ethnic groups. The briefing will take place at the new headquarters offices of the Commission on Friday, February 8, 2013 at 9:30 AM ET, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 1150, Washington, DC 20425. The offices are accessed using the F Street NW entrance. Interested members of the public are invited to attend.

Of particular interest to the Commission is whether unnecessary regulations --federal, state, and/or local -- place an unnecessary hurdle in front of would-be entrepreneurs, many of whom have little start-up capital, are relatively inexperienced in dealing with complex regulatory regimes, and are far less able to persevere through a lengthy process. In some jurisdictions, local governments may use their regulatory powers to bar new business entries entirely if existing businesses in the same field object. The Commission is also interested in the difference between facially race-neutral barriers to entrepreneurship and barriers that have a racially disparate impact.

Experts scheduled to appear before the Commission include Alex Cristofaro, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Small Business Advocacy Chair and Director of the Office of Regulatory Policy and Management; Harry Alford, National Black Chamber of Commerce President and CEO; Marc Law, Assoc. Professor of Economics, Univ. of Vermont; Timothy Sandefur, Principal Attorney, Pacific Legal Foundation; Omar Duque, Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President and CEO; and George LaNoue, Professor of Political Science and Professor of Public Policy, Univ. of Maryland Baltimore County.

Deaf or hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact Pam Dunston at (202) 376-8105 at least seven business days prior to the briefing.

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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 R. Castro and Commissioners Roberta Achtenberg, Todd Gaziano, Gail Heriot, Peter Kirsanow, David Kladney, Abigail Thernstrom, and Michael Yaki. Commission meetings and briefings are open to the general public. The Commission's website is <http://www.usccr.gov>.