



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
November 21, 2014

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U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Appoints New Mexico State Advisory Committee Members

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announced today the appointment of 19 members to the New Mexico State Advisory Committee.

The Commission appointed:

- Dr. Sandra J. Rodriguez of Albuquerque, Chair
- Dr. John Agresto of Santa Fe
- Ms. Lillian G. Apodaca of Albuquerque
- Mr. George L. Bach, Jr. of Albuquerque
- Dr. Kenneth M. Brown of Albuquerque
- Mr. Paul J. Gessing of Albuquerque
- Ms. Valerie Webb Jaramillo of Albuquerque
- Dr. Robert Lee Martinez of Albuquerque
- Dr. Roger E. Michener of Placitas
- Dr. Janie M. Page-Reeves of Albuquerque
- Dr. Mary E. Caslin Ross of Santa Fe
- Mr. Harold D. Stratton, Jr. of Albuquerque
- Ms. Hwasoon (Sue) Thorson of Albuquerque
- Mr. Damon P. Tobias of Cedar Crest
- Ms. RONALDA K. Tome-Warito of Albuquerque
- Ms. Maria E. Varela of Albuquerque
- Mr. Charles J. Vigil of Albuquerque
- Ms. Laurie A. Weahkee of Albuquerque
- Ms. Frances F. Williams of Las Cruces

"New Mexico is a state rich in diversity, and I am sure this diverse and committed group of Committee members will do important work in the coming years," Commission Staff Director Marlene Sallo said.

State advisory committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning local civil rights issues, including justice, voting, discrimination, housing and education. Congress mandates that the federal Commission appoint volunteer members to advisory committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Appointees to the federal State Advisory Committees serve two-year terms.

"The protection and preservation of our Civil Rights is as important today as it was 50 years ago, and as pertinent in preparing for the 50 years that lie ahead. We members of the New Mexico State Advisory Committee are pleased to participate in this process of promoting these principles for all people in the State of New Mexico," Chair Sandra J. Rodriguez said.

Past New Mexico State Advisory Committee activity addressed discrimination in employment, law enforcement, and against Native Americans in border town communities. The committee will meet for the first time in January 2015 to consider its plans and priorities.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with studying and advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about Commission's reports and meetings, visit <http://www.usccr.gov>.

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