



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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### **U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Appoints Connecticut State Advisory Committee Members**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights recently announced the appointment of 15 members to its Connecticut State Advisory Committee, charging them to evaluate and report on civil rights concerns in the state.

The Commission appointed:

- David McGuire of West Hartford, Chairman
- Kashif Abdul Karim of Hamden
- Alok S. Bhatt of Hartford
- Christine W. Corgel of Westport
- Avery J. Gaddis, Waterbury
- Doug M. Glanville, Hartford
- John W. Herrington of South Windsor
- Leslie A. Navarrete of Ansonia
- Meghann E. LaFountain of Middletown
- Melanie Rausch of Bethany
- Stephanie L. Storms of Stratford
- John Tanski of Glastonbury
- Susan D. Toliver of Stamford
- Michael D. Werner of East Haddam
- Olivia S. White of Essex

“Connecticut founded the nation’s first official civil rights agency in 1943 with the Inter-Racial Commission, and has continued to contribute to the development of civil rights law in Connecticut and beyond,” Commission Staff Director Mauro A. Morales said.

State advisory committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning local civil rights issues, including justice, voting, discrimination, housing and education. The Commission, by Congressional mandate, establishes Advisory Committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Appointees to the Committees serve four-year terms and are unremunerated.

"I am honored to chair this passionate and talented civil rights committee at a critical time where our rights need to be defended and preserved. The Connecticut State Advisory Committee will actively promote civil rights for all people in the state," Chair David McGuire said.

Past Connecticut Advisory Committee reports addressed closing the achievement gap and racial profiling. The committee meets later this month to consider its plans and priorities.

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Founded in 1957, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the Commission and its State Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/usccrgov>