



## **HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITY**

### **July:**

At our July 14, 2017 business [meeting](#), the Commission heard **presentations by Ohio State Advisory Committee (SAC) Chair Diane Citrino on the Committee's [report](#) on human trafficking, and by Nevada SAC member Kara Jenkins on the Committee's [memorandum](#) on municipal fines and fees.** Please see the meeting [transcript](#) for details.

During the same meeting, **Rebecca Cokley, former Executive Director of the National Council on Disability, and John Wodatch, former Department of Justice official and disability rights attorney, [presented](#) on the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** You can view their captivating remarks on [C-SPAN](#) and [YouTube](#).



### **August:**

At our August 18, 2017 business [meeting](#), the Commission issued **four statements:**

- **Condemning** the racial, ethnic and religious animus, threats and violence culminating in deadly events and injuries in Charlottesville (by unanimous vote).
- **Condemning** the announced military ban on transgender individuals (majority vote).
- **Raising concern** about reversal of the Department of Justice’s position in key voting rights cases (majority vote).
- **Disapproving** the Department of Justice’s civil asset forfeiture policy (unanimous vote).

We also heard from **California SAC members Nancy Eisenhart & Rachel Sigman regarding the Committee’s report on voting integrity.** Please see the meeting on [C-SPAN](#) and [YouTube](#), and the [transcript](#) for details.

**Professors Mary Ellen Curtin and Alexander Keyssar offered an historical perspective on 52 years of the Voting Rights Act.** You can view their remarks on [C-SPAN](#) and [YouTube](#).



**September:**

On September 21, the Commission **issued its 2017 statutory enforcement report, “Targeted Fines and Fees against Low-Income People of Color: Civil Rights and Constitutional Implications.”** The report **calls attention to ways municipalities exploit their poorest citizens,** including using law enforcement as ticketing and collections agencies to increase revenues, rather than to improve public safety and civil compliance. The report **addresses the effectiveness of the U.S. Department of Justice in protecting civil rights in this area.**

At our business [meeting](#) on September 8, the Commission, by majority vote, [issued two statements](#):

- [Condemning](#) the ending of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.
- [Denouncing](#) the pardon of former Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

Video of the meeting can be found on [YouTube](#).

**We heard from Dawn Hammatt, Director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library, and presidential historian and author David A. Nichols, on “President Eisenhower’s Civil Rights Legacy and the Creation of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.”** We invite you to view their remarks on [C-SPAN](#) and [YouTube](#).

The full transcript of the meeting and presentations can be viewed [here](#).

## **STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) ACTIVITY**

Our State Advisory Committees (SACs) continue to be active in investigating and reporting on civil rights issues in their states. We thank the members of our SACs for determining important topics for investigation, hosting briefings, and issuing – or preparing to issue – reports on these important topics. In addition to remarks by SAC chairs and members at our July and August business meetings (see above), we invite you to **view our press releases regarding SAC activities in [July](#) and [August](#)**.

Here are some highlights:

On July 18, in Denver, our Colorado SAC held a public [briefing on the Blaine Amendment](#).

On July 24, in Nashville, our Tennessee SAC held a [briefing on civil asset forfeiture](#).

August 24, in Anchorage, our Alaska SAC held a [briefing on Alaska Native Voting Rights](#).



*Chair Lhamon met Michigan SAC Chair Agustin Arbulu and SAC member Emily Dievendorf when she keynoted the Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes conference in September.*



*Commissioner Debo Adegbile with Alaska Advisory Committee members at its briefing on Alaska Native voting rights.*



*Commissioner Adegbile met with the Alaska Native Heritage Center while in Anchorage.*

**SAC [appointments:](#)**

- **Hawaii:** Nalani Fujimori-Kaina, Chair, Honolulu; Amefil Agbayani, Honolulu; Robert Alm, Honolulu; Eva Andrade, Honolulu; Alphonso Braggs, Honolulu; Vernon Char, Honolulu; Jennifer Dotson, Honolulu; Moses Haia III, Honolulu; Luciano Minerbi, Honolulu; Kymberly Pine, Ewa Beach; Randall Roth, Honolulu; Wayne Tanna, Honolulu; Jacqueline Young, Honolulu.
- **Mississippi:** Susan Glisson, Chair, Oxford; Lea Campbell, Ocean Springs; Macey Edmondson, Oxford; Erik Fleming, Ridgeland; Christopher Green, Oxford; Caleb Herod, Abbeville; Derrick Johnson, Jackson; Nicholas Lott, Jackson; Kimberly Merchant, Greenville; Reilly Morse, Gulfport; Lisa Roy, Oxford; Ronald Rychlak, Oxford.
- **Missouri:** Elizabeth Moran, Chair, Kansas City; Mark Bremer, Chesterfield; Chad Flanders, St. Louis; Eddie Greim, Kansas City; Amany Ragab Hacking, St. Louis; Domingo Martinez, Columbia; Jeffrey Milyo, Columbia; S. David Mitchell, Columbia; David Rose, Creve Coeur; Eliza Straim, St. Louis; David Tyson Smith, Columbia; Alisa Warren, O'Fallon; Donna Wilson, Kansas City.
- **Utah:** Chyleen Arbon, Chair, Cottonwood Heights; Glenn Bailey, Salt Lake City; Virginius "Jinks" Dabney, St. George; Michael Homer, Salt Lake City; Robyn Kaelin, Alpine; Michael Melendez, Provo; Debra Nunez, Provo; Sachin Pavithran,

Providence; Anthony Peacock, Logan; Betty Sawyer, Ogden; Michelle Suzuki, Sandy; Filia "Phil" Ulpi, Salt Lake City; Jeanetta Williams, Salt Lake City.

Congratulations to our new appointees, and our continued thanks for their service to civil rights, to state communities, and to the Commission. Inquiries related to SAC activities can be directed to David Mussatt at [dmussatt@usccr.gov](mailto:dmussatt@usccr.gov).

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

On November 1, in Wilmington, our **Delaware SAC will hold a public [briefing](#), “Policing in Communities of Color and Implicit Bias.”**

**On November 13, in Washington, the Commission will hold its monthly business meeting.**

**On November 14, in Washington, the Commission will commemorate its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Library of Congress.** The commemoration will feature a panel of all living former Chairs of the Commission who, along with Chair Lhamon, will speak to the past, present, and future of the Commission.

In November and December, our **Louisiana Advisory Committee will be gathering testimony on voting rights issues in the state.**

**On December 8, in Washington, the Commission will hold a public briefing on school discipline and civil rights.**

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

In 1960, the Louisiana State Advisory Committee addressed the New Orleans school crisis, when families refused to send their children to desegregated schools following the landmark 1954 decision of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, which held that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. There was significant backlash from citizens of New Orleans, and the school board tried to postpone the process of desegregation. There were protests, riots, and boycotts in response to the mandatory desegregation. Due to death threats, students such as Ruby Bridges - the lone black student at an all-white elementary school - required the protection of three U.S. Marshals so she could safely attend. The Louisiana SAC called for clarification of civil rights statutes and protection of innocent and third parties. Louisiana ultimately implemented the Committee’s recommendations, resulting in a desegregated school system. Please see the SAC’s 1961 [report](#).

Thank you for your interest in the Commission’s work. For more information, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).