

# THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 12, 2006

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### **CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION TO EXAMINE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN LAW SCHOOLS**

*Commission to examine proposed ABA diversity standards and  
explore whether racial preferences harm black students*

**What: Meeting of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, an independent, bipartisan agency  
charged with monitoring and protecting civil rights**

WASHINGTON, DC – A panel of experts will advise the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights regarding the appropriateness of the American Bar Association's Equal Opportunity and Diversity Standard 211, and its accompanying interpretations. Standard 211 seems to require law schools seeking accreditation from the American Bar Association to practice racial preference in hiring or admissions irrespective of any federal or state laws limiting such policies. Speakers will also address whether the costs of racial preferences to African Americans outweighed the benefits.

The speakers are David Bernstein, George Mason University School of Law; Richard O. Lempert, University of Michigan Law School; Richard Sander, University of California at Los Angeles School of Law; and Steve Smith, chair, American Bar Association, Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. A briefing agenda follows:

- I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN GERALD A. REYNOLDS
- II. BRIEFING: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN LAW SCHOOLS
- III. QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF DIRECTOR

A meeting agenda follows:

- I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 4 AND MAY 5, 2006 MEETINGS
- III. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- IV. STAFF DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- V. PROGRAM PLANNING: 1) FY 2008 STATUTORY REPORT, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION AND PRISONER RIGHTS; 2) SCHEDULE FOR BRIEFING ON RACIALLY IDENTIFIABLE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA; 3) REPORT, BRIEFING ON CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM.
- VI. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS: 1) WEB SITE: POSTING OF ADDENDUM TO TRANSCRIPT OF NOVEMBER 2005 BRIEFING ON CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM; 2) PROPOSED INFORMATION QUALITY GUIDELINES; 3) WORKING GROUP ON BRIEFING REPORTS; 4) STRATEGIC PLANNING
- VII. STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ISSUES  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, RECHARTER
- VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**When: Friday, June 16, 2006, 9:30 a.m.**

**Where: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 624 Ninth Street NW, Room 540 Washington, D.C.**

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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 Gerald A. Reynolds, Vice Chairman Abigail Thernstrom, and Commissioners Jennifer C. Bracer, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlan Melendez, Ashley L. Taylor, and Michael Yaki. Kenneth L. Marcus is Staff Director. Commission meetings are open to the media and general public.

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