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United
States
Commission
on
Civil
Rights



The United States Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan, fact-finding agency of the executive branch first established under the Civil Rights Act of 1957. On November 30, 1983, a new Commission was established under the Civil Rights Act of 1983 (P.L. 98-183). Although the Commission's duties and powers are the same under the Act of 1983 as those of the previous Commission, its membership changed from six to eight Commissioners, four of whom are appointed by the President and four by the Congress.



duties are:

The Commission's To investigate complaints alleging that citizens are being deprived of their right to vote by reason of their race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or by reason of fraudulent practices.

> To study and collect information relating to discrimination or a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race. color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice.

To appraise Federal laws and policies with respect to discrimination or denial of equal protection of the laws because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice.

To serve as a national clearinghouse for information in respect to discrimination or denial of equal protection of the laws because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin.

To submit reports, findings, and recommendations to the President and Congress.

To issue public service announcements to discourage discrimination or denial of equal protection of the laws.



Powers

In furtherance of its factfinding duties, the Commission may hold hearings and issue subpoenas (within the State in which the hearing is being held and within a 100-mile radius of the site) for the production of documents and the attendance of witnesses at such hearings. It maintains State advisory committees, and consults with representatives of Federal, State, and local governments, and private organizations. Since it lacks enforcement powers that would enable it to apply specific remedies in individual cases, it refers the many complaints it receives to the appropriate Federal, State, or local government agency or private organization for action.

Organization

The United States Commission on Civil Rights is composed of eight Commissioners: four appointed by the President and four by Congress. Not more than four members shall at any one time be of the same political party.

The President also designates the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the Commission's members with the concurrence of a majority of the Commission's members.

The Commissioners serve 6-year terms. No Senate confirmation is required. The President may remove a member of the Commission only for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.

The Commissioners hold monthly meetings (except during August) and convene several times a year to conduct hearings, conferences, consultations, and briefings.



Staff

A full-time Staff Director oversees the dayto-day activities of the Commission. The Staff Director is appointed by the President with the concurrence of a majority of the Commission's members, and serves at the pleasure of the President.

Except for the Staff Director, all Commission personnel, including part-time consultants, must be selected and appointed in accordance with Federal civil service regulations and job classification standards.

State Advisory Committees

The Commission has 51 advisory committees—one for each State and the District of Columbia. Each is composed of citizens familiar with local and State civil rights issues. The members serve without compensation and assist the Commission with its factfinding, investigative, and information dissemination functions.

Individual members of these committees are nominated by the Commissioners or the regional director of their area and voted upon at a regular meeting of the Commissioners. Their term of office is 2 years, but they can be reappointed.



Library

The Commission's Robert S. Rankin Civil Rights Memorial Library is located at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. This clearinghouse of civil rights information contains 50,000 reference works, including 200 civil rights and minority issues journals, periodicals, legal journals, and newspapers, 4,000 reels of microfilm/fiche, and a comprehensive collection of reports, transcripts, and civil rights texts. The library also has two on-line data base systems: Ohio College Library Center (OCLC), and Lexis/Nexis.

These facilities are used extensively by members

These facilities are used extensively by members of Congress, government agencies, private groups, and individuals.

The Library is open to the public from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Publications

Since its inception in 1957, the Commission has published more than 70 statutory reports (those containing recommendations to Congress and the President) in addition to over 160 other public reports and studies on civil rights matters. Its State advisory committees have produced more than 240 published reports on issues of local and regional concern. These reports and studies are available to the public free of charge.

Most of the agency's publications are on file in designated regional depository libraries for government publications throughout the country. A Catalog of Publications published by the Commission is available to the public free of charge.





Information

Further information on the Commission may be obtained by contacting the Commission headquarters at 624 9th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20425, or the regional office in your area.

For information about publications, contact: Library, USCCR (202) 376-8128

For Congressional inquiries, contact: Congressional Affairs Unit, USCCR (202) 376-8317

For Press inquiries, contact: Public AffairsUnit, USCCR (202) 376-8312

SPECIAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:*

For complaints about discrimination, contact: Complaints Referral, USCCR 1-800-552-6843 or (202) 376-8513

*Deaf or hearing impaired persons can call: (202) 376-8116

REGIONAL OFFICES

The Commission's six regional offices are staffed by a director, civil rights analysts, and other administrative personnel. They coordinate the Commission's operations in their regions and assist the State Advisory Committees in their activities.

Eastern Regional Office 624 9th Street, N.W. Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20425 Edward Darden, Acting Director (202) 376-7533

Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont
Virginia
West Virginia



Southern Regional Office 101 Marietta Street Room 2821 Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Bobby D. Doctor, Director (404) 730-2476 Florida Georgia Kentucky North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee

Mid-Western Regional Office 55 West Monroe Street Suite 410 Chicago, Illinois 60603 Constance D. Davis, Director (312) 353-8311 Illinois Indiana Michigan Minnesota Ohio Wisconsin

Central Regional Office Fourth & State Avenue 9th Floor Kansas City, Kansas 66101 Melvin L. Jenkins, Director (913) 551-1400

Alabama Arkansas Iowa Kansas Louisiana Mississippi Missouri Nebraska Oklahoma



Rocky Mountain Regional Office Colorado
1700 Broadway Montana
Suite 710 North Dakota
Denver, Colorado 80290 South Dakota
Ki-Taek Chun, Acting Utah
Director Wyoming
(303) 866-1040

Western Regional Office 3660 Wilshire Boulevard Suite 810 Los Angeles, California 90010 Philip Montez, Director (213) 894-3437 Alaska
Arizona
California
Hawaii
Idaho
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Texas
Washington



The Commissioners are:

Congressional Appointees



Mary Frances Berry *(Chairperson)
Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American
Social Thought and Professor of History
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Independent
(Appointed by the Speaker of the House)
TERM OF OFFICE: February 3, 1993
to February 2, 1999



Cruz Reynoso *(Vice Chairperson)
Professor of Law
University of California
at Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California
POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Democrat
TERM OF OFFICE: April 19, 1993
to April 18, 1999

*President designated Berry Chairperson on September 17, 1993. Majority of Commissioners concurred on November 19, 1993.

*President designated Reynoso Vice Chairperson on September 27, 1993. Majority of Commissioners concurred on November 19, 1993.





Vice President for Public Policy,
Knights of Columbus
Dean, Vice President, and Professor
of Family Law
North American Campus, Pontifical John
Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage
and
Family Law
Washington, D.C.
POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Republican
(Appointed by the Speaker of the House)
TERM OF OFFICE: February 8, 1990
to December 15, 1995

Carl A. Anderson



Partner and Director, Cooke & Bieler, Inc.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Independent
(Appointed by the President pro tempore
of the Senate)
TERM OF OFFICE: February 8, 1990
to December 12, 1995

Russell G. Redenbaugh



Presidential Appointees



Arthur A. Fletcher
President and Chief Executive Officer
Fletcher's Learning Systems
Publisher,
USA Tomorrow/The Fletcher Letter
Washington, D.C.
POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Republican
TERM OF OFFICE: February 26, 1990
to November 29, 1995



Robert P. George Associate Professor of Politics Princeton University Princeton, New Jersey POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Independent TERM OF OFFICE: January 20, 1993 to December 5, 1998





Constance Horner
Guest Scholar
Brookings Institution
Washington, D.C.
POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Republican
TERM OF OFFICE: January 20, 1993
to December 5, 1998



Charles Pei Wang
Assistant Commissioner for
Downstate Operations
New York State Department of
Social Services
New York, New York
POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Democrat
TERM OF OFFICE: May 24, 1990
to December 5, 1995

