

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 25, 2006

CONTACT: MANUEL ALBA

202/376-7700

USCCR TO EXPLORE BENEFITS OF DIVERSITY IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Commission probes the educational and non-educational benefits of diversity from kindergarten through grade twelve

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

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has assembled a panel of experts to discuss the educational and non-educational benefits of diversity for students in elementary and secondary education. Among the issues to be examined is the strength of the academic literature supporting or opposing diversity in kindergarten through grade twelve. This briefing is especially timely in light of the Supreme Court's decision to take up two cases concerning race-based student enrolment in elementary and secondary education. Oral arguments for the two cases, *Parents Involved v. Seattle School District* (05-908) and *Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education* (05-915), are expected to take place in late 2006.

The speakers are David J. Armor, George Mason University; Arthur L. Coleman, partner, Holland and Knight, former Clinton Administration Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights; Michal Kurlaender, University of California, Davis; and Stephan Thernstrom, Winthrop Professor of History, Harvard University. A briefing agenda follows:

- I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN GERALD A. REYNOLDS
- II. BRIEFING: THE BENEFITS OF DIVERSITY IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
- III. QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF DIRECTOR

A meeting agenda follows:

- I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 5, 2006 MEETING
- III. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- IV. STAFF DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- V. PROGRAM PLANNING: 1) MOTION TO KEEP THE RECORD OPEN ON THE BRIEFING ON THE BENEFITS OF DIVERSITY IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION; 2) PROPOSED BRIEFING ON THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY'S USE OF RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL PREFERENCES IN PLACEMENT OF CADETS WITH LOCAL SPONSORS; 3) BRIEFING REPORT ON CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM; 4) PROPOSED POSTER FOR CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN
- VI. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS: 1) FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET; 2) STRATEGIC PLANNING; 3) PROPOSED POLICY FOR COMMISSIONER EVALUATION OF DRAFT REPORTS; 4) PROPOSED POLICY OF PEER REVIEW FOR DRAFT REPORTS; 5) PROPOSED REGULATION ON OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT
- VII. STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ISSUES: 1) RECHARTER PACKAGE FOR CONNECTICUT STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; 2) RECHARTER PACKAGE FOR CALIFORNIA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

When: Friday, July 28, 2006 9:30 a.m.

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

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. Braceras, Peter N. Kirsanow, Arlan D. Melendez, Ashley L. Taylor, and Michael Yaki. Kenneth L. Marcus is Staff Director. Commission meetings are open to the media and general public.

624 9th Street, N.W. • Suite 700 • Washington, DC 20425
Ph: (202) 376-7700 • Fx: (202) 376-7672