

# THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

---

## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 11, 2006

CONTACT: MARGARET BUTLER

202/376-7700

### **USCCR TO INVESTIGATE THE STATUS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL DESEGREGATION**

*Commission examines the state of government desegregation efforts*

**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 ongoing government desegregation efforts in elementary and secondary education. A half century after *Brown v. Board of Education* federal courts still supervise the desegregation efforts of an estimated 400 school districts nationwide and the U.S. Department of Justice is a party in many of those cases. Further, the U.S. Department of Education, through its Office for Civil Rights, is tasked with ensuring that school districts receiving federal funds comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, frequently through the use of 441 (b) desegregation plans. This briefing complements recent Commission work examining the benefits of diversity in elementary and secondary education presented in the report: *The Benefits of Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Elementary and Secondary Education*.

The speakers are Charles J. Boykin, Davis & Hawkins, LLC; Philip Burchfield, superintendent, Starkville School District, Starkville, Mississippi; Philip L. Hartley, Harben & Hartley; Joseph R. Pye, superintendent, Dorchester School District Two, Summerville, South Carolina; and Nelson Dan Taylor, Taylor & Associates. A briefing agenda follows:

- I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN GERALD A. REYNOLDS
- II. BRIEFING: ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL DESEGREGATION
- III. QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF DIRECTOR

**When: Thursday, December 14, 2006, 1:00 p.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**