

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 7, 2008

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CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION DIRECTOR TO STEP DOWN

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights announces that its director, Kenneth L. Marcus, is resigning effective January 19, 2008 to assume another position outside of government. He has served as staff director for more than three years. Chairman Gerald A. Reynolds commented that, “Kenneth Marcus is the best staff director that this Commission has had in several years. He has been instrumental in implementing the extraordinary reforms that we have undertaken at this agency since 2004.”

A few years ago, the Government Accountability Office had described the Commission as “an agency in disarray” which lacked “basic management controls.” By contrast, the *Wall Street Journal* observed last month that the Commission now “has earned an unprecedented second consecutive clean financial audit” and “deserves a medal for good governance.”

At the same time, the Commission has issued strong, fact-driven reports. For example, the Commission has issued reports that analyze school desegregation, voting rights, campus anti-Semitism, and the economic stagnation of the black middle class.

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