

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION RECEIVES CLEAN AUDIT

WASHINGTON, DC - The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights has received an unprecedented second consecutive clean financial audit less than three years after congressional hearings examined the agency's prior financial irregularities. Moreover, for the first time, the Commission announces that its auditors have identified no material weaknesses in the Commission's internal controls over financial reporting and compliance with federal laws and regulations governing financial management – a remarkable accomplishment at an agency which some recently considered to be unauditible.

In earlier investigations of previous management, the GAO had found the agency lacked “basic management controls” which rendered it “an agency in disarray” with “limited awareness of how its resources are used.” As recently as March 2005, the GAO had found that the Commission had “serious deficiencies” in its maintenance of financial records. The Commission's new report demonstrates that current management, by applying good management practices and procedures, is helping to create a financially sound Commission.

Staff Director Kenneth L. Marcus commented, “Here is tangible evidence of the extraordinary results which the Commission has accomplished in less than three years. In a very real sense, we have turned the Commission's operations around and placed them on much sounder footing.”

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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. Braceras, 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.