



The Civil Rights Division

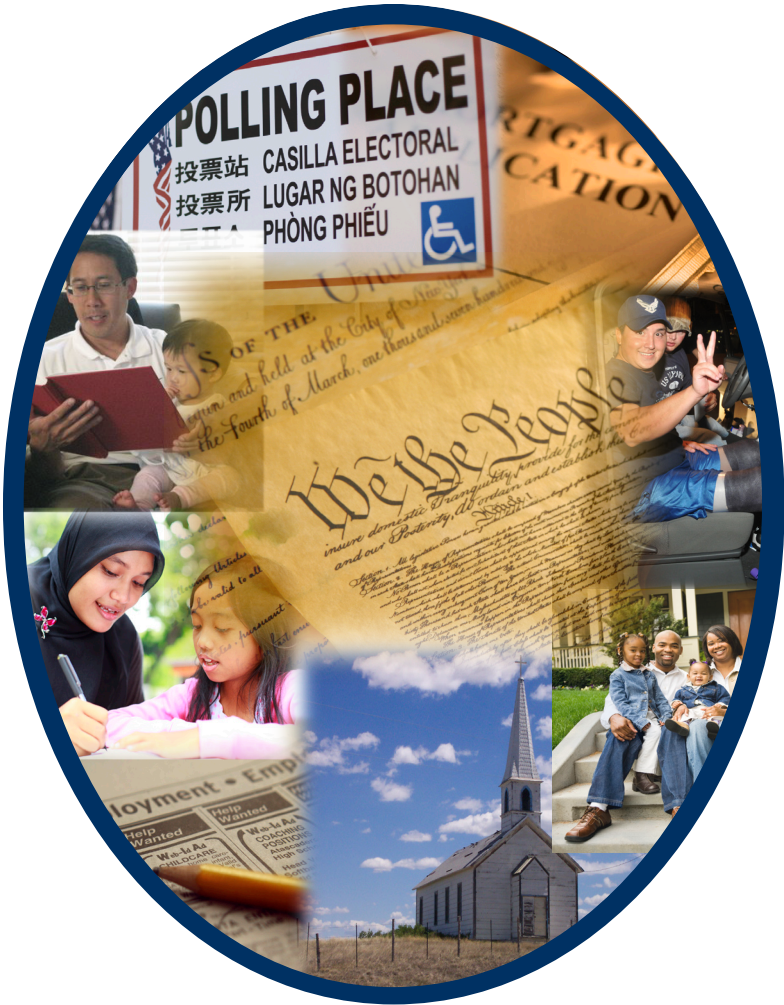




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A Message from the Assistant Attorney General

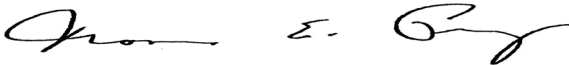


From the time of our nation’s founding, Americans have cherished above all else the promise of equal opportunity and equal justice under the law. The Civil Rights Division is the conscience of our country, enforcing laws designed to give meaning to that enduring promise.

President Barack Obama has made clear that he considers civil rights enforcement a critical priority for his Administration, and Attorney General Eric Holder has called the Civil Rights Division the “crown jewel” of the Department of Justice. Indeed, the Division has a long and distinguished history of combating discrimination in all its shapes and forms. The Division’s dedicated career attorneys, professionals and support staff work tirelessly to ensure that the Division can carry out its critical mission of protecting and defending the civil rights of all individuals.

America has come a long way in the battle against bigotry, but we are all too frequently reminded that, in the words of the late Senator Edward Kennedy, civil rights remains the unfinished business of America. The Civil Rights Division has a critical role to play in addressing this unfinished business.

Many civil rights challenges have regrettably endured for decades, while new challenges continue to emerge. The Civil Rights Division must address both. Our nation's vivid, storied and sometimes heartbreaking past has led to much progress. We should allow that progress to inspire us to continue the journey toward equal justice that was started centuries ago, and to continue to pursue America's promise of equal opportunity for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas E. Perez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Thomas E. Perez
Assistant Attorney General



Civil Rights Division

The Civil Rights Division is the conscience of the federal government. Through the enforcement of a wide range of anti-discrimination laws, the Division gives meaning to our nation's promise of equal opportunity. The Division works to uphold and defend the civil and constitutional rights of all individuals, particularly some of the most vulnerable members of our society. The Division enforces federal statutes that prohibit discrimination and provide a remedy for constitutional violations.

Established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the Civil Rights Division has grown in size and scope over the decades. The landmark civil rights laws of the 1960s greatly expanded civil rights protections, as well as the jurisdiction of the Division. Our statutes aim to protect against discrimination and other civil rights violations on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status or disability. They also protect the civil rights of servicemembers and individuals housed in public institutions.

Over the decades, the Division has been instrumental in many of our nation's battles to advance civil rights, from the desegregation of our nation's schools to the prosecution of



hate crimes, from ensuring girls and women have equal opportunities in schools and the workplace to guaranteeing that individuals with disabilities can access civic services to which we all have a right. Today, the Division continues to combat traditional civil rights violations, while also addressing new, emerging challenges to equal justice and equal rights. While litigation is a key tool for the Division, we have a wide array of tools at our disposal -- litigation, mediation, regulation and policy development, training and prevention. Our focus is problem solving.

The Division's work is carried out by 11 sections, as well as an Administrative Management section. The Sections include Appellate, Federal Coordination and Compliance, Criminal, Disability Rights, Educational Opportunities, Employment Litigation, Housing and Civil Enforcement, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, Policy and Strategy, Special Litigation, and Voting.

The brochure is intended to provide an informational snapshot of the exciting and important work of the Civil Rights Division.



Fair Housing and Fair Lending

Housing is a basic need, and the ability to access housing without discrimination is a right to which all people should have access. In 1968, recognizing the great damage that housing discrimination can do to individuals, families and communities, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex. The Act was later amended to include disability and family status, and continues today to be a critical tool in combating discrimination.

The Division's Housing and Civil Enforcement Section is responsible for the Department's enforcement of the Fair Housing Act. The Section also enforces the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, which prohibits creditors, such as banks, finance companies, retail and department stores, credit card companies, and credit unions, from discriminating against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, or because an applicant receives income from a public assistance program or exercises rights protected under the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

The Division uses these valuable tools to investigate and combat all types of housing discrimination, including discrimination in rental housing. The Division operates a testing



program to uncover discrimination. Our testers have frequently uncovered blatant discrimination, such as entities that refuse to rent to people of certain races or ethnicities.

The Housing and Civil Enforcement Section also has a dedicated Fair Lending Unit. The unit works to ensure that all individuals have equal access to credit whether for a home, car or other kind of consumer loan. For more information, visit www.justice.gov/crt/housing.

Voting Rights

Voting is one of our nation's most sacred rights, and a hallmark of our democracy. On February 3, 1870, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, prohibiting the federal or state governments from denying or abridging the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude. But because of discriminatory state laws and practices, the promise of the 15th Amendment would not be fully



realized until nearly a century later, when Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Civil Rights Division enforces the Act, which prohibits any voting practices that discriminate on the basis of race, color or membership in a language minority group. Under the Act, certain states and counties are required to have any changes to voting practices or procedures approved by the Attorney General or the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. The Act also requires certain jurisdictions with significant populations of language minority citizens to provide bilingual written materials and other assistance. Other provisions of the Act prohibit practices that prevent individuals from exercising their right to vote, such as voter intimidation, or denial of assistance to voters who have disabilities or are illiterate.

Other laws enforced by the Division aim to make registration and voting in federal elections easier and more accessible for more people. The National Voter Registration Act, sometimes known as the “Motor Voter” law, requires states to allow citizens to register to vote when they apply for or renew a driver’s license, when they visit offices that provide public assistance or services for individuals with disabilities, and through a mail-in application. The Help America Vote Act requires states to have statewide voter registration databases, provisional voting, voting system standards (including acces-



sibility for voters with disabilities and language minority voters), standards for identifying first time registrants by mail, and voter information postings in polling places. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act requires that states allow military personnel stationed away from home and their families, as well as civilians residing abroad, to register and vote absentee. Under amendments to that law by the 2009 Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, or the MOVE Act, servicemembers and other overseas voters may receive their ballots electronically, and ballots must be sent to them at least 45 days before an election, to make sure their ballots are received in time to be counted.

For more information on the Division's voting rights work, visit www.justice.gov/crt/voting.

Equal Employment Opportunity

At the heart of the American Dream is the ability to earn a living to support oneself and one's family. Discrimination in the workplace can have far-reaching ramifications for victims. The Civil Rights Division enforces, against state and local government employers, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits employment discrimination and retaliation based on race, color, sex, religion and national



origin. In addition to suits on behalf of individuals who experience discrimination, the Division investigates and brings cases challenging patterns or practices of discrimination. These cases allow the Division to seek broad relief for many victims, and to help change discriminatory policies in the workplace. To learn more, visit www.justice.gov/crt/emp.

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits employers from using genetic information in making employment decisions, restricts the acquisition of genetic information by employers and other entities covered by Title II, and strictly limits the disclosure of genetic information. The Disability Rights Section enforces Title II of GINA against state and local government employers.

Additionally, through its Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices (OSC), the Division enforces the anti-discrimination provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act. This statute prohibits discrimination on the basis of citizenship or immigration status in hiring, firing, and recruitment or referral for a fee, by employers with four or more employees. Employers may not treat individuals differently because they are (or are not) U.S. citizens. U.S. citizens and nationals, recent permanent residents, asylees and refugees are protected from citizenship

status discrimination. The statute also prohibits national origin discrimination and unfair documentary practices related to verifying the employment eligibility of employees. The OSC conducts a nationwide public education campaign to teach workers, employers and concerned organizations about



the statute, and about their rights and responsibilities. An essential component of the Section’s outreach includes its grant program. Each year, OSC awards grants to organizations to assist it in educating workers and employers in areas with sizable and/or emerging immigrant populations about their rights and responsibilities under the anti-discrimination provision. For more information, visit www.justice.gov/crt/osc.

Public Accommodations

Prior to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, many businesses and facilities that held themselves out as open to the public were actually closed to African Americans due to



segregation. Lunch counters, movie theaters, hotels and other places were often off limits to African American customers. Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 made discrimination because of race, color, religion, or national origin illegal in certain places of public accommodation, such as hotels, restaurants, and places of entertainment. The Division's Housing and Civil Enforcement Section can enforce this provision when there has been a pattern or practice of discrimination at a place of public accommodation. Individuals can also file suit if they believe their rights under this law have been violated. For more information, visit www.justice.gov/crt/housing.

Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons

Individuals confined in institutions are often among the most vulnerable in our society. The Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act of 1980 (CRIPA), gives the Attorney General the authority to investigate conditions at certain institutions operated by state and local governments, including facilities for individuals with psychiatric or developmental disabilities, nursing homes, juvenile correctional facilities, and adult jails and prisons.

In its enforcement of CRIPA, the Division investigates conditions in public residential facilities. In institutions for people with disabilities, the Division also examines whether

the residents are properly confined to the institution in the first place. If a pattern or practice of unlawful conditions deprives individuals confined in the facilities of their constitutional or federal statutory rights, the Division can negotiate a settlement and provide technical assistance to help jurisdictions correct deficient conditions. If conditions cannot be addressed through negotiations and technical assistance, the Division may file a lawsuit to challenge them.

For more information about the Division's work to protect the rights of individuals confined in institutions, visit www.justice.gov/crt/split.

Law Enforcement Misconduct and Discriminatory Policing

Law enforcement officials in our states, counties, cities and towns put their lives on the line every day to protect public safety. But when officers abuse their power and deprive, or conspire to deprive an individual of rights granted under the Constitution or federal law, or when systemic civil rights or constitutional problems emerge in a police department, the Civil Rights Division has a number of statutory tools at its disposal.

The Criminal Section uses an array of criminal statutes to prosecute law enforcement officials who knowingly abuse their authority and deprive individuals of their constitu-



tional rights. Such acts of misconduct, known as acts committed under “color of law,” can include excessive force, sexual assault, intentional false arrests, or the intentional fabrication of evidence. For more information, visit www.justice.gov/crt/crim.

The Division also has the authority to investigate and file a civil suit if a law enforcement agency has engaged in a pattern or practice of misconduct that deprives individuals of their rights. This could include a pattern or practice of, among other things, excessive force, discriminatory harassment, false arrests, coercive sexual conduct, and unlawful stops or searches. The Division’s Special Litigation Section has the authority to initiate civil litigation to remedy a pattern or practice of discrimination based on race, color, national origin, gender or religion involving services by law enforcement agencies receiving federal financial assistance. A landmark consent decree with the Los Angeles Police Department provided a critical blueprint for reform, and is a prime example of how the Division’s pattern and practice authority can be used to improve public safety and increase public confidence in law enforcement. To learn more, visit www.justice.gov/crt/split.

The Division’s Federal Coordination and Compliance Section enforces a number of provisions of federal law, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which require recipients of

federal financial assistance, which often include law enforcement agencies, to ensure that they do not discriminate in the administration of their programs. Using this authority, the Section has worked with a number of law enforcement agencies to ensure, for instance, that their services are accessible to people with limited English proficiency, and that they do not discriminate in the performance of their duties on the basis of race, color or national origin.

Educational Opportunities

More than 55 years ago, in its landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court held that the intentional segregation of students on the basis of race in public schools violates the Fourteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. Subsequent federal legislation and court decisions also mandate that school officials not discriminate against students on the basis of race, national origin, sex, language barrier, religion, or disabilities. The Civil Rights Division, through its Educational Opportunities Section, enforces these statutes and court decisions in a diverse array of cases involving elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.



To ensure equal educational opportunities for all students, the Division monitors and continues to seek further relief in approximately 200 school districts that had a history of



segregation and remain under court supervision. The Division also carries out investigations to ensure that school districts are providing limited English proficient students with appropriate services to overcome their language barriers, as well as monitors existing court orders and settlement agreements with school districts concerning their language acquisition obliga-



tions. Moreover, each year, in both elementary and secondary schools, as well as public colleges and universities, the Division investigates allegations of discrimination and harassment based on race, national origin, sex, religion, and disability. The Division also may bring new cases and may intervene in private suits alleging violations of education-related anti-discrimination statutes and the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. For more information, visit www.justice.gov/crt/edo.

Hate Crimes

Hate crimes enforcement has been a core component of the Division's mission since its inception. The Division's Criminal Section, working in concert with U.S. Attorneys' offices across the nation, prosecutes hate crimes. Today, despite great progress for civil rights, these crimes continue in communities nationwide, and the Division remains vigilant in its efforts to bring those who practice hate-fueled violence to justice.

Historically, the prosecutions have involved a number of statutes and have focused on violent acts committed because of someone's race, color, religion or ethnicity. Recently, Congress recognized the need to adjust the hate crime laws to protect additional classes of people, and passed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, which extended protections to victims of crimes committed based on a person's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

In 2007, Congress passed the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act, which instructed the Division and the FBI to investigate unsolved, racially-motivated crimes from the Civil Rights Era. These crimes are a great blemish on our nation's history, and the Division is committed to actively investigating these incidents in a continuing effort to bring perpetrators to justice, and to bring closure to families and communities.



Meanwhile, in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Arab, Muslim, Sikh, and South-Asian Americans, and those perceived to be members of these groups, have been the victims of increased numbers of bias-related assaults, threats, vandalism and arson. Reducing the incidence of such attacks, and ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to justice, remains a Civil Rights Division priority. The Church Arson Prevention Act, passed in 1996, made it a crime to deface, damage, or destroy religious property, or to interfere with a person's religious practice, in situations affecting interstate commerce. The Act also bars defacing, damaging, or destroying religious property because of the race, color, or ethnicity of persons associated with the property.

To learn more about hate crimes and the Division's prosecutions, visit www.justice.gov/crt/crim.

Human Trafficking

Most Americans can't imagine that modern-day slavery exists in their own communities. But human trafficking is a very real and growing problem, and the Civil Rights Division works to prosecute trafficking using a combination of statutes passed during Reconstruction and statutes passed during the modern era. The Reconstruction-Era statutes criminalize

slavery, involuntary servitude, and peonage. These statutes apply whenever labor is compelled through physical force, restraint, threats of physical force, or threats of incarceration. The modern statutes criminalize obtaining labor, services, or commercial sex acts through a broader range of coercive practices such as starvation, coercive threats of deportation, or threats of physical harm to a relative or friend.

Together, the human trafficking statutes forbid compelling or coercing labor, services, or commercial sex acts from a victim or attempting to do so. The coercion can be subtle or overt, physical or psychological. In addition to prosecutions, Division attorneys participate in training and outreach programs both in the United States and overseas to provide expertise and assistance to law enforcement personnel, community groups, victim service providers, immigrants' rights organizations and others to combat human trafficking. To learn more, visit www.justice.gov/crt/crim.

Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Clinics

The Division enforces the criminal and civil provisions of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act. This critical law protects the rights of people to use the services of reproductive health clinics free from interference. The Division's Criminal Section enforces the criminal provisions of the FACE Act, and has been involved in the investigation of some of the most heinous acts of violence directed at clinics.



The Special Litigation Section enforces the law's civil provisions, which often involve efforts to interfere with a victim's ability to enter the facility. For more information, visit the Division's Web site, www.justice.gov/crt.

Disability Rights

Individuals with disabilities have long faced great barriers to full participation in civic life. The Civil Rights Division works to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in a wide variety of ways, and a majority of the Division's sections have a role in protecting Americans with disabilities.

The Division's Disability Rights Section protects the rights of individuals with disabilities by enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in more than seven million places of public accommodation nationwide, including all hotels, restaurants, retail stores, theaters, health care facilities, convention centers, parks and places of recreation, as well as in all operations of state and local governments and in employment decisions made by employers with 15 or more employees. The Section also enforces Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which requires that individuals with disabilities cannot be excluded from any program or service that receives federal funding.

In addition to the Disability Rights Section, other sections protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in the following ways:

- The Housing and Civil Enforcement Section enforces provisions of the Fair Housing Act requiring that certain dwellings be accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- The Educational Opportunities Section ensures that students with disabilities have access to equal educational opportunities.
- The Voting Section protects access to the ballot for persons with disabilities.
- The Criminal Section prosecutes hate crimes targeted at people with disabilities.
- The Special Litigation Section works to protect the rights of persons with disabilities who reside in institutions, and to enforce the landmark *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision, which determined that individuals with disabilities have the right to be provided services in the most integrated community setting possible.



For more information about disability rights, visit www.justice.gov/crt or www.ada.gov.



Servicemembers' Rights

Several of the statutes under the Division's jurisdiction apply specifically to the rights of members of the military or veterans. The Division has the authority to protect the civil-



ian employment rights of servicemembers and veterans under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994.

Known as USERRA, the law prohibits discrimination and retaliation based on military service and requires, among other things, that employers put individuals back to work

in their civilian jobs following military service under specified conditions. For more information about enforcement of employment rights, visit www.justice.gov/crt/emp or www.justice.gov/crt/military.

The Division also enforces the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, which protects military personnel from judicial and administrative proceedings, and provides additional protections

in areas such as housing, credit and taxes, while they are on active duty. It covers issues such as rental agreements, security deposits, prepaid rent, eviction, installment contracts, credit card interest rates, mortgage interest rates, mortgage foreclosure, civil judicial proceedings, automobile leases, life insurance, health insurance and income tax payments.

Meanwhile, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) requires states to allow members of the armed forces serving overseas, as well as other United States Citizens living abroad, to vote by absentee ballot in federal elections. The Civil Rights Division has the authority to bring an enforcement action if a state does not satisfy its responsibility under the law. For more information, visit www.justice.gov/crt/voting/misc/activ_uoc.php.

Religious Discrimination

While many of the Division's civil rights statutes protect individuals from discrimination based on religion, in addition to race, national origin and other factors, there are certain efforts that apply specifically to religious freedom. The land-use provisions of Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA) protect the religious exercise of religious assemblies and institutions in the context of local zoning and landmarking laws. These provisions prohibit local governments from taking actions, such as denying permits to build or expand places of worship, that substantially burden religious exercise without sufficient justification.



RLUIPA's land use provisions also prohibit discrimination against particular religions, discrimination against religious assemblies and institutions where comparable secular assemblies and institutions are permitted, as well as government actions that

totally or unreasonably exclude religious assemblies and institutions from a jurisdiction. For more information, visit www.justice.gov/crt/housing/rлуipaexplain.php.



RLUIPA also protects the right of individuals confined in institutions, including facilities for individuals who are mentally ill and developmentally disabled, nursing homes, juvenile correctional facilities, and adult jails and prisons, to practice their religion. State and local governments are prohibited from substantially burdening the religious exercise of an institutionalized person without sufficient justification. The Department of Justice is authorized to investigate violations of RLUIPA and to file civil lawsuits. This provision of RLUIPA is enforced by the Special Litigation Section, which can be found online at www.justice.gov/crt/split.

Civil Rights of LGBT Individuals

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, passed in 2009, for the first time allows for federal prosecution of violence undertaken because of the actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, or disability of any person. Statistics gathered by the FBI over the past decade confirm that we have a significant hate crimes problem in this country and that lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) individuals constitute a substantial proportion of the victims of such crimes. The Civil Rights Division is committed to aggressive enforcement of this landmark law, and actively engages in outreach to federal, state and local law enforcement, and community stakeholders, to educate them about the new law.

In addition, the Division has a working group of career attorneys to advise the Division's leadership on legal and policy issues relating to the rights of LGBT individuals, to determine ways in which discrimination experienced by LGBT individuals might be addressed under existing civil rights laws, and to identify appropriate cases in which the Division could participate as a party or amicus curiae to address these matters. For example, the Division, using Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, sought to intervene in a lawsuit brought on behalf of a gay teenager who did not conform to gender stereotypes and was verbally and physically harassed by his peers. The school district's alleged failure to act to stop the harassment violates Title IX's prohibition against



discrimination on the basis of sex or sex stereotyping as well as the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The case resulted in a settlement that provides for the development and dissemination of district discrimination and harassment policies and procedures, as well as appropriate training of school personnel and students to ensure that every student can go to school without fear of being harassed because of who they are.



Civil Rights as Human Rights

It is important to remember that the United States is part of a global community, and that we must be a leader in advancing human rights so that we can set an example for other nations. In addition to its role as the entity that enforces many

of our nation’s civil rights laws, the Division also has a role to play in ensuring the domestic implementation of international human rights treaties that have been ratified by the U.S. Government. While the State Department takes the lead in working with other nations, that Department relies on the Civil Rights Division to provide expertise on how those human rights obligations are protected at home.

Coordinating Civil Rights Law Enforcement across the Federal Government

The Division’s Federal Coordination and Compliance Section has the critical mission of ensuring that Federal agencies and all programs that receive federal funding comply with civil rights laws. The Section is responsible for coordinating the enforcement by federal agencies of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs that receive federal financial assistance; as well as Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sex discrimination in federally-assisted educational programs. The Division works closely with other federal agencies to ensure compliance with these and other non-discrimination obligations, and also provides technical assistance and training. The Section’s mission includes ensuring individuals who are limited English proficient can access all federal and federally-funded programs. For more information, visit www.justice.gov/crt/fcs.



Friend of the Court: Amicus Practice

In addition to handling a robust docket of criminal and civil appeals in cases litigated by our trial sections, the Division's Appellate Section spearheads an amicus, or friend of the court, practice that allows the Division to weigh in on a variety of critical civil rights-related legal issues by filing legal briefs in relevant cases. For instance, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Division works to enforce the landmark *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision, which requires that individuals with disabilities be provided services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. In this context, the Division brings cases where public entities are not fulfilling their obligations to provide community-based services, but the Division also has made a concerted effort to participate in private cases by filing amicus briefs when the Division's expertise might help inform a court's decision. Participating in this way allows the Division to share with the courts its expertise on civil rights issues in cases where that expertise might be helpful. More information about the Appellate Section's work can be found at www.justice.gov/crt/app.

Policy Development

The Division also plays an important role in a wide array of Department-wide and government-wide policy discussions. The Policy and Strategy Section supports and coordinates the policy work of the Division, providing a focal point for proactive policy development and legislative proposals. These include the development and analysis of policy matters relating to the Division's enforcement authority, the pursuit of legislative and regulatory priorities, and the development of a sustained relationship with the Civil Rights and Program Offices in other federal agencies. For instance, the Division continues to play an active role in securing passage of the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, which would ban discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The new Section also reports on the policy and enforcement initiatives of the Division through ongoing analyses and assessments that are memorialized and disseminated through reports, strategy documents and outreach.



Contact Us or File a Complaint:

The Division offers e-mail updates on our work in a variety of areas. If you are interested in signing up to receive updates, visit our website, at www.justice.gov/crt.

Employment

For information about filing a charge of employment discrimination, visit the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission online at www.eeoc.gov, or call the EEOC at (800) 669-4000.

For discrimination because of citizenship or national origin status, the Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices operates a hotline for workers, at (800) 255-7688 [Voice] or (800) 237-2515 [TTY], and one for employers at (800) 255-8155 [Voice] or (800) 362-2735 [TTY].

Housing and Lending

If you believe you have been the victim of housing discrimination, you can file a complaint with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Call (800) 669-9777 or visit www.HUD.gov.

If you have information about a pattern or practice of housing discrimination, you can call the Housing Discrimination tip line at (800) 896-7743, or e-mail fairhousing@usdoj.gov.

If you believe you have been the victim of discrimination in a credit transaction, visit www.justice.gov/crt/housing/file.php for information about how to file a complaint with the appropriate agency.

Voting

For more information about the Civil Rights Division's voting rights work, call (800) 253-3931.

Education

If you believe you have been discriminated against in the educational context, please contact the Educational Opportunities Section at (202) 514-4092 or (877) 292-3804

Hate Crimes

To report a hate crime, visit the FBI online at www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm to find your local field office. If you are unable to locate your local office, a complaint can be submitted in writing directly to the Criminal Section at the following address:

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Criminal Section, PHB
Washington, D.C. 20530



Human Trafficking

The Division's Criminal Section oversees a national, toll-free telephone complaint line to enable victims and others to report possible trafficking and worker exploitation abuses: (888) 428-7581.

Disability Rights

For more information about the Civil Rights Division's Disability Rights work and the Americans with Disabilities Act call (800) 514-0301 [Voice] or (800) 514-0383 [TTY].

Servicemembers

To file a complaint under USERRA, contact your nearest Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) office, which you can locate by visiting www.dol.gov/vets/aboutvets/contacts/main.htm.

For concerns related to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, servicemembers can find the nearest Armed Forces Legal Assistance Program Office at legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php.

Religious Land Use

If you know of a violation of RLUIPA, you can contact the Division's Housing and Civil Enforcement Section at (800) 896-7743.

Amicus Practice and Appeals

The Division's Appellate Section can be reached at (202) 514-2195.

Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons

For more information about the Division's work under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, contact the Special Litigation Section at (202) 514-6255, or toll free at (877) 218-5228.

Police Misconduct

For more information about the Division's work to investigate patterns or practices of law enforcement misconduct, contact the Special Litigation Section at (202) 514-6255, or toll free at (877) 218-5228.

Access to Reproductive Health Clinics

For more information about the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act and the Division's work to enforce the Act, contact the Division at (202) 514-6255, or toll free at (877) 218-5228.

Religious Discrimination in Institutions

For more information about the Division's work to protect against religious discrimination in institutions, contact the Special Litigation Section at (202) 514-6255, or toll free at (877) 218-5228.



Photo on page 24 courtesy of Disability Rights Advocates for Technology (DRAFT), taken at a DRAFT-sponsored event for wounded warriors in San Antonio, Texas, November 2008.

For persons with disabilities, this publication is available in large print, Braille, and on computer disk.

Reproduction of this publication is encouraged.

September 2010

Notes