THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 12, 2006

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION TO EXAMINE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN LAW SCHOOLS

Commission to examine proposed ABA diversity standards and explore whether racial preferences harm black students

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

WASHINGTON, DC – A panel of experts will advise the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights regarding the appropriateness of the American Bar Association’s Equal Opportunity and Diversity Standard 211, and its accompanying interpretations. Standard 211 seems to require law schools seeking accreditation from the American Bar Association to practice racial preference in hiring or admissions irrespective of any federal or state laws limiting such policies. Speakers will also address whether the costs of racial preferences to African Americans outweighed the benefits.

The speakers are David Bernstein, George Mason University School of Law; Richard O. Lempert, University of Michigan Law School; Richard Sander, University of California at Los Angeles School of Law; and Steve Smith, chair, American Bar Association, Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

A briefing agenda follows:

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN GERALD A. REYNOLDS
II. BRIEFING: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN LAW SCHOOLS
III. QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF DIRECTOR

A meeting agenda follows:

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 4 AND MAY 5, 2006 MEETINGS
III. ANNOUNCEMENTS
IV. STAFF DIRECTOR’S REPORT
V. PROGRAM PLANNING: 1) FY 2008 STATUTORY REPORT, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION AND PRISONER RIGHTS; 2) SCHEDULE FOR BRIEFING ON RACIALLY IDENTIFIABLE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA; 3) REPORT, BRIEFING ON CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM.
VI. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS: 1) WEB SITE: POSTING OF ADDENDUM TO TRANSCRIPT OF NOVEMBER 2005 BRIEFING ON CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM; 2) PROPOSED INFORMATION QUALITY GUIDELINES; 3) WORKING GROUP ON BRIEFING REPORTS; 4) STRATEGIC PLANNING
VII. STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ISSUES
   NORTH CAROLINA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, RECHARTER
VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

When: Friday, June 16, 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 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