INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES

77TH ANNUAL IAOHRA CONFERENCE

From Statute to Street: CIVIL RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, *and the* RULE OF LAW



AUGUST 16-20, 2026

WESTIN NEW ORLEANS, NEW ORLEANS, LA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from IAOHRA President 3

Letter from IAOHRA Conference Chair 4

Letter from Louisiana Commission on Human Rights 5

Letter from Louisiana Lieutenant Governor 6

IAOHRA Board of Directors' Biographies 7

2026 IAOHRA Planning Committee 15

Conference Agenda 16

Presenters, Speakers & Moderators' Biographies 26

Ads 36

Sponsors & Supporters 42

Evaluation 43

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES

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Dr. Love Jones, South
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Los Angeles, CA

Members at-Large

Robert Corbisier
Anchorage, AK

Anthony Lewis
Detroit, MI

Dr. Leah Raby
Baton Rouge, LA

August 16, 2026

Dear IAOHRA Members, Partners, and Conference Attendees:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 77th Annual Training Conference of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) in historic New Orleans, Louisiana.

Our theme, "From Statute to Street: Civil Rights, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law," reflects the urgency of turning legal protections into meaningful progress in the lives of the people we serve. Representing agencies whose jurisdictions encompass nearly 250 million people, IAOHRA remains a powerful voice for justice, dignity, and opportunity for all.

This year's conference features respected experts addressing fair employment, fair housing, hate prevention, and global human rights issues. Our signature Human Rights Tour will highlight New Orleans' rich history and culture, while the IAOHRA Awards Dinner will honor individuals and agencies whose service exemplifies our values and helps bring human rights home.

We sincerely thank the National Association of REALTORS®, our sponsors, presenters, volunteers, and local host, the Louisiana Human Rights Commission. We also recognize Conference Planning Committee Chair Diane Clements-Boyd and the many member-agency representatives whose dedication made this conference possible.

I encourage you to exchange ideas, build meaningful connections, and leave New Orleans renewed and inspired to advance our shared mission.

Welcome to New Orleans and IAOHRA's 77th Annual Training Conference!

Sincerely,

Alisa Warren, Ph.D.
President
International Association of
Official Human Rights Agencies



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August 16, 2026

Greetings, IAOHRA Members and Friends,

Welcome to the 2026 IAOHRA Annual Training Conference! We're so excited to gather with you in beautiful New Orleans, Louisiana.

If this is your first time here or even your tenth, you're in for a treat. New Orleans is a city full of music, flavor, and history. From jazz drifting through the streets to unforgettable Creole and Cajun dishes, the city's blend of French, Spanish, African, and Caribbean cultures creates an atmosphere unlike anywhere else. We hope you take some time to explore, enjoy great food, and soak in the sights as we come together for this year's theme: "From Statute to Street: Civil Rights, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law."

Over the next few days, you'll hear from inspiring speakers and take part in sessions designed to motivate, challenge, and support the important work you do. Even in times of uncertainty, our community remains strong, and being here together reminds us of the power we have when we join forces, share ideas, and lift each other up.

We're honored to welcome a distinguished group of speakers, including:
- Marc H. Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League
- Kristen Clarke, General Counsel, NAACP
- Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré (Ret.), U.S. Army
- Colette Massengale, Senior Policy Representative, National Association of REALTORS®

A heartfelt thank you go out to the members of the Conference Planning Committee for their dedication and countless hours of work. Your passion for advancing human and civil rights shines through in every detail of this event.

And to our colleagues and partners, thank you for showing up, for staying committed to IAOHRA's mission, and for continuing to push forward even when the path is challenging. Your presence here speaks volumes about your dedication to justice, equity, and community.

We hope this conference leaves you refreshed, inspired, and ready to carry the work of human rights forward with renewed energy. Here's to meaningful conversations, new connections, and a memorable week together.

Sincerely,

Diane Clements-Boyd

Diane Clements-Boyd
Conference Chairperson



Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana
LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR

DR. LEAH RABY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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August 2026

Dear IAOHRA Members and Friends,

On behalf of the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights and the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA), we are delighted to welcome you to Louisiana and to the incomparable city of New Orleans for IAOHRA 2026. From the moment you arrive, we hope you feel what makes this place extraordinary: a deep sense of history, a generous spirit, a living culture, and a people who know how to turn gathering into community.

This conference brings us together under a powerful charge: From Statute to Street: Civil Rights, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law. That theme speaks directly to the work before us. Laws matter, but their true measure is found in whether people can live, work, worship, learn, and participate in public life with dignity and equal opportunity. The Louisiana Commission on Human Rights carries that responsibility every day through enforcement, education, partnership, and service. IAOHRA strengthens that work by connecting agencies and leaders across jurisdictions, sharing tested practices, and ensuring that the promise of civil and human rights is not merely written, but lived.

There is no more fitting place for this conversation than New Orleans. This city has endured, resisted, rebuilt, celebrated, and welcomed generations of people from across the world. Its neighborhoods tell stories of courage. Its music gives voice to struggle and joy. Its food reflects the meeting of cultures. Its history reminds us that progress is never automatic and that justice requires steady hands, clear purpose, and leaders willing to act.

Across Louisiana, you will also find a state rich in tradition, natural beauty, faith, family, and resilience. We invite you to fully experience our hospitality, enjoy our cuisine, explore our landmarks, listen to the rhythms of this place, and build relationships that continue long after the conference ends.

Come ready to learn, to challenge one another, to exchange practical solutions, and to leave renewed for the work ahead. We are honored to host you, proud to welcome you, and excited about what we will accomplish together. Welcome to Louisiana. Welcome to New Orleans. Welcome to IAOHRA 2026.

With Louisiana hospitality and shared purpose,

Dr. Leah Raby
Executive Director,
Louisiana Commission on Human Rights
Local Host Chair, IAOHRA 2026

Tamara K. Jacobson
Chairwoman
Louisiana Commission on Human Rights

Office of the Lieutenant Governor
State of Louisiana

BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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Greetings!

Welcome to Louisiana and the 2026 Annual International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies Training Conference. It is my pleasure to welcome you to New Orleans, and we are honored that you have chosen our state to host this important gathering. Thank you for the vital work you do each day to advance and protect human rights in communities across the country.

While in town, I encourage you to take time to experience all that New Orleans has to offer. Influenced by French, Spanish, African, Caribbean, and Native American cultures, our city is unlike any other in the world. From its eclectic cuisine and vibrant music to its rich history, distinctive architecture, and welcoming spirit, New Orleans and all of Louisiana offer an unforgettable experience.

New Orleans is proud to be a world-class destination for meetings and conventions. We hope you'll enjoy our renowned hospitality and dining experiences, exceptional hotels, and state-of-the-art convention facilities while you're here. Whether you're visiting for business or planning a future vacation, we hope this trip inspires you to return and discover even more of the beauty and culture found throughout our great state.

To learn more about attractions, restaurants, festivals, and adventures across Louisiana, visit ExploreLouisiana.com.

Thank you for joining us, and best wishes for a productive and successful conference. We hope to welcome you back to Louisiana again soon.

Sincerely,

Billy Nungesser
Lieutenant Governor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES



DR. ALISA WARREN

President

Dr. Alisa Warren serves as the Chief Administrative Officer and Commissioner of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission (SCHAC), appointed in January 2026 to lead the state's efforts to advance anti-discrimination protections and prevention. Established by the General Assembly in 1972, SCHAC works to ensure fair treatment for all South Carolinians by eliminating and preventing unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations, while fostering stronger community relations and mutual respect across the state.

Dr. Warren brings more than three decades of proven leadership in anti-discrimination enforcement and prevention. Prior to joining SCHAC, she spent 18 years as Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, where she directed statewide enforcement of Equal Employment Opportunity, Fair Housing, and Public Accommodations laws. Under her leadership, the agency managed and mediated thousands of cases, strengthened compliance systems and maximized efficiencies through modernized technology, and advanced strategic initiatives that improved outcomes and customer service and training for individuals, businesses, and communities across the state.

Recognized nationally as a leading voice in civil and human rights, Dr. Warren has built powerful networks across government, business, advocacy organizations, and community groups. Her commitment to education and outreach has extended across the country and internationally, where she has served as a sought after lecturer, keynote speaker, and industry expert.

Dr. Warren was elected to two terms as President of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, representing state and local human rights agencies serving nearly 250 million people. In this role, she championed the importance of global human rights standards and advocated before the United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva, Switzerland.

Her leadership extends across numerous national and state bodies, including service on the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Joint Standing Committee; the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Missouri State Advisory Council; the Missouri Supreme Court Commission on Fairness in the Courts, where she chaired Public Engagement; the Governing Board for Central Missouri United Way; the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis Fair Housing Task Force; the FOCUS/Leadership St. Louis Board of Directors; and the Duke University Strategic Leadership for State Executives program.

Dr. Warren's contributions have been recognized with several distinguished honors, including the St. Louis Business Journal's "Most Influential Businesswomen" Award, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. "Women Who Dare to Dream" Distinguished Humanitarian Award.

Dr. Warren earned a B.S. in Human Environmental Sciences, a Master of Public Administration, and a Ph.D. in Applied Social Sciences with a focus on Community Development, all from the University of Missouri. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES



DIANE CLEMENTS-BOYD

1st Vice President

Diane Clements-Boyd was appointed Executive Director of the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission in January of 2004. Prior to joining the Human Relations Commission, she served as a Program Manager at the Evansville Black Coalition, Inc., from 1995 to 2004. Diane completed the 2025 Bloomberg/Harvard City Leadership Initiative Innovation Track and was appointed to serve on the Evansville Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors. Diane served as Chairperson of the Indiana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (2014-2025); Currently serves as 1st Vice President of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies; Past President of the Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies; and serves as a member of the Evansville Commission on Homelessness. Diane received the Freedom Award from the State of Indiana Martin Luther King Commission, the Black Women's Task Force Community Service Award, and the Evansville Chapter of the NAACP Lifetime Community Advocate Award. Diane also serves as the Evansville Branch Co-Chair of the Women in the NAACP (WIN) Committee. Diane is a member of the Evansville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where she serves as Chapter President. Diane is a graduate of the University of California Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology.



TAMIE DIXON-TATUM

2nd Vice President

Tamie Dixon-Tatum has extensive experience in the fields of Office Management, Office Policies, Procedures, Payroll, Marketing, Human Resources, Public Relations, Radio & Television Broadcasting, Teaching, and Municipal/Community Partnerships. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Telecommunications and a master's degree in Public Affairs. Ms. Dixon-Tatum is a former employee of both DRA and Guide Lamp, as well as a former Union Member of Local 662 and Local 663. Her experience, expertise, and education make her a well-rounded individual and professional. Tamie is currently involved in numerous community programs such as the Strengthening Families Program through Intersect, and she is a youth, community, education, and equal opportunity advocate. Currently, she works for the City of Anderson as the Human Relations director, and a guest radio personality for Vision for Success and the Bill Jackson Show for WHBU 1240AM/103.7FM. Previously, Tamie worked in Madison County Superior Court 2's Juvenile Division as the Juvenile Case Manager for the Reclaiming Futures Program and the Madison County Prosecutor's Office as Office Manager under Thomas Broderick Jr. She has also worked for The Crossing Education Center as the Community & Business Development Coordinator which helped to match youth with job training and community service opportunities. In addition to her extensive employment and educational background, she has spearheaded the Ollie H. Dixon Back-To-School Picnic and Parade for nearly 25 years. This program has provided school supplies for thousands of disadvantaged children throughout Madison County for over two decades. Tamie Dixon-Tatum works tirelessly to serve the community as a youth, education, community, and equal opportunity advocate as well as a multi-media professional.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES



KENNETH GUNN

Secretary

For more than 30 years, Ken Gunn has dedicated his career to public service, specifically civil rights law. He previously served as the First Deputy Commissioner of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations for more than 25 years. The Commission serves as the City of Chicago's civil rights agency responsible for investigating and adjudicating complaints of discrimination, aiding hate crime victims, mediating racial and ethnic tensions, and providing anti-bias training. As the Commissioner, Ken is responsible for overseeing the enforcement of the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance. He is involved in all aspects of the Commission's work including directing the Adjudication Division to handle complaints of discrimination, strategizing to address hate crimes and community tensions, and directing personnel and fiscal operations. He also provides legal counsel to the staff and Board of Commissioners and works with the Mayor and City Council to draft and review legislation. Before coming to the Commission, Ken worked for the Office of the Cook County Public Guardian where he represented abused and neglected children. While in law school, he served as an intern with the Illinois Attorney General's Office where he assisted in the investigation and resolution of consumer fraud complaints. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana where he received his Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree in History, and his Law degree (JD). Ken devotes much of his time to several volunteer activities. He serves on several boards and committees including the Center for Conflict Resolution Board of Directors (President), Durban Social Service Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International (Co-Chair), Housing Choice Partners of Illinois Inc. (Co-Chair), Chicago Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Committee, Emmanuel Baptist Church Board of Trustees (Chair). He is also the past Chair of the Cook County Commission on Human Rights where he served for ten years. He is a certified court mediator and serves as a volunteer mediator for the Center for Conflict Resolution.



JAMES E. DAVIS, JR.

Treasurer

James E. Davis, Jr. is currently the Assistant Director of Neighborhood Improvement Services, City of Durham. He has over 20 years of experience in human rights/relations-related work. Mr. Davis has experience in the health, legal, and community outreach fields, combining law school education, public health administration experience, and public speaking skills to encourage and empower others. Since 2001, he has also worked to promote fair and equal opportunities in housing and has worked with youth, both individually and in groups, including through volunteering and coaching.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES



TARNYA WHITMIRE

Assistant Treasurer

Tarnya Whitmire is currently the EEO Enforcement Director for the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission. Tarnya Whitmire is a distinguished Veteran of the United States Army, where she served in key roles within Human Resources and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). During her military career, she also held the position of Assistant Inspector General, where her responsibilities included conducting regulatory compliance inspections and leading formal investigations into allegations of misconduct and abuse of authority. Upon her retirement from the Army, Ms. Whitmire joined the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission. She currently serves as the EEO Enforcement Director, where she is responsible for managing a team of EEO investigators, overseeing investigations into employment discrimination complaints, and developing and implementing policies and procedures to ensure adherence to EEO and South Carolina employment laws. Ms. Whitmire is widely respected for her leadership and unwavering commitment to civil rights enforcement. In February 2024, she was a featured speaker at the South Carolina Bankers Association Human Resources Conference, sponsored by Travelers, where she provided valuable insights on workplace fairness and compliance with equal employment opportunity regulations. She holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in Criminal Justice Administration (CJA) and is a graduate of the South Carolina Certified Public Manager® (CPM) program—a nationally accredited professional development program for managers and supervisors in South Carolina state government.



ROBIN S. TOMA

Immediate Past President

Robin S. Toma is Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, appointed in 2000. He also serves as the head of the Human Relations Branch, holding the position of Assistant Director of the Department of Community and Senior Services, County of Los Angeles. Under his leadership, the agency is working to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace. By building community capacity and focus in key areas, racialized gang violence has been lessened. Through demonstration projects in high schools, the power of integrating human relations strategies into school campuses has brought about greater inclusion, harmony, reduced fighting and conflict, and improved academic performance. The Commission's signature annual report on hate crime in the county has shown a long-term trend downward in hate crime until recent years, while the Commission has invested in hate violence prevention community partnerships and training peacemakers through the countywide dispute resolution program. His published writings include A Primer on Managing Intergroup Conflict in a Multicultural Workplace, Day Laborers Hiring Sites: Constructive Approaches to Community Conflict (co-author with Jill Esbenshade), and he contributed a piece on racialized gang violence in the book Uncommon Common Ground: Race and America's Future. Robin serves as Immediate Past President on the board of directors of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA), and was President of and is on the Board of the California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO). He's been a Senior Fellow at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs since 2009 and had the privilege to be part of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government's Executive Session on Human Rights Commissions and Criminal Justice (2006-2008), and the Kellogg National Fellowship/Leadership Program (1994-97).

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He was appointed by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to serve on the California State Advisory Committee (2012 to present) and helped create and serve on the L.A. Unified School District's Commission on Human Relations, Diversity, and Educational Equity. He served three years on the national interim leadership team of the Within Our Lifetime Network for Racial Equity and Healing. In August 2014, Robin spoke in Geneva on the review of the U.S. Government's compliance with the treaty to eliminate racial discrimination (CERD) and was an invited adviser to the Obama Administration's delegation to the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva, for the U.S. first-ever presentation on its human rights record as part of the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review process in November 2010. He was also invited to serve on the official U.S. Delegation to the U.N. World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. IAOHRA President Alisa Warren, Robin Toma (Executive Director, Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations), Joann Kamuf-Ward, Deputy Commissioner, NYC Commission on Human Rights), and Jamil Dakwar (International Human Rights Lawyer) participated in an outstanding panel at the UN Human Rights Council meeting in Switzerland in October 2025. Robin is the son of Americans of Japanese and Okinawan ancestry; his mother and her family spent World War II imprisoned in the U.S. internment camps solely because of their Japanese ancestry. Robin's paternal grandfather was an immigrant Okinawan sugar cane plantation worker in Maui. Robin grew up in the Echo Park/Silver Lake neighborhoods of L.A., attending LAUSD public schools. He received a B.A. with highest honors in Sociology and honors in Economics from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and a J.D. degree and M.A. degree in Urban Planning from UCLA. Robin is fluent in Spanish, having studied and worked in Barcelona for two years, and was a teacher in L.A.'s public schools. Prior to working at the Commission, Robin was a staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California for almost 7 years and litigated a wide range of human rights and civil liberties cases in federal and state courts.



ROB CORBISIER

Member-At-Large

Rob Corbisier is the Executive Director for the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights (ASCHR). A graduate of MIT and Vermont Law School, Rob started his career in the U.S. Senate working for Frank Murkowski. After graduating from law school and passing the bar, Rob returned to his home state of Alaska as the Special Assistant to the Attorney General and then was tapped to be one of Governor Murkowski's policy advisors. He went on to serve 5.5 years as an Assistant District Attorney in Anchorage before transitioning to private civil practice at Reeves Amodio, LLC. In 2018, the incoming administration of Governor Dunleavy recruited Rob to come back to the Governor's Office to assist with a significant crime bill. With that accomplished, the following year the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights asked him to apply to serve as the Executive Director to rebuild the agency after a period of significant turmoil. There, Rob oversees all day-to-day operations of the agency and serves as litigation director enforcing the Alaska Human Rights Act with a dedicated team of investigators and attorneys. Under his leadership, the agency accomplished a 40-year goal to bring average investigation times to under one year and significantly expanded outreach.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES



ANTHONY LEWIS

Member-At-Large

Anthony Lewis is Director of the Community Engagement and Education Division for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR). He serves as part of the senior leadership team and has held previous roles as Community Relations Specialist and an Investigator with the department. Anthony leads the department's community engagement programming and initiatives throughout the State of Michigan. Under his leadership, the division has built statewide coalitions through creative initiatives like Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT), which includes the acquisition and distribution of $500,000 in grant funds to support local communities. Other impactful initiatives under Anthony's division include the Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes (MIAAHC) and the MI Response to Hate, Hate Crimes and Bias Awareness Campaign. As a passionate advocate for the next generation, Anthony also leads the Department's Education and Youth Initiatives, working with school districts on cultural awareness programming and policy development, and he was instrumental in developing the Michigan Civil Rights Youth Leadership Academy. Additionally, Anthony serves as a commissioner for the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, and he is a highly requested trainer, facilitating numerous town halls, community forums, presentations, and administering programs on cultural competency and civil rights law. He began his career and ascended to management with FedEx Express Corp, serving in leadership roles at multiple locations across Michigan, New Jersey, and Ohio. Anthony Lewis is a proud graduate of Florida A&M University with a bachelor's degree in business economics/labor relations and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.



DR. LEAH RABY

Member-At-Large

Dr. Leah Raby is a dynamic leader with a fervent commitment to justice and equality. As the Executive Director at the Office of the Governor/Louisiana Commission on Human Rights (LCHR), she leads the charge in combating discrimination across the state, overseeing investigations and resolutions in employment, banking, lending, and public accommodations. With over two decades of experience, Dr. Raby's expertise is rooted in her 17-year tenure as an investigator at LCHR, followed by her ascension to Executive Director in 2016. Her profound impact extends beyond her role at LCHR, as she is a certified mediator, trained by the Justice Center of Atlanta, with 22 years of experience in resolving disputes and fostering dialogue. Dr. Raby's passion for human rights and education is evident in her 22-year career as an adjunct professor, where she has imparted knowledge in human rights, public policy, healthcare, and business across four universities, both online and on-ground. Her academic prowess is bolstered by a Ph.D. in Public Policy with a concentration in Healthcare Policy from Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A sought-after speaker and trainer, Dr. Raby has presented at conferences nationwide, sharing her insights on Louisiana's Equal Employment Opportunity laws. Her leadership extends to her role as the former Diversity Director of the Louisiana Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management. She is also an active member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women of Metropolitan Baton Rouge and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Recently, Dr. Raby was elected as the Member-at-Large Representative for the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, further solidifying her influence in the human rights arena. Her career is a testament to her unwavering dedication to fostering equality, empowerment, and positive change.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHIES



TEJASH SANCHALA

Atlantic Region Representative

For more than two decades, Tejash Sanchala has dedicated his career to advancing human rights and protecting marginalized communities through both public service and private practice. An award-winning civil rights attorney, Mr. Sanchala has served as the Executive Director of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission since 2019, where he leads the Commission's efforts to prevent and combat discrimination. Prior to joining the Human Rights Commission, Mr. Sanchala built a distinguished career as a sought-after civil rights attorney in private practice. He successfully represented clients in challenging discriminatory policies and practices. His longstanding commitment to justice and equal opportunity has earned him numerous accolades, including the IAOHRA Bill Hale Award.



ANGELA PHELPS-WHITE

Midwestern Region Representative

Angela Phelps-White assumed duties as Executive Director of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission on March 16, 2020. Director Phelps-White's professional and personal achievements demonstrate a commitment to public service and upholding the rule of law. She has broad experience in the public sector, including nearly seven years with the State Employment Relations Board, seven years at the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and thirteen years as a magistrate with the Franklin County Common Pleas Court. Director Phelps-White also served as a Judge for the Franklin County Common Pleas Court. Director Phelps-White earned both her Bachelor of Science in Political Science and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Dayton. She has served on many boards and commissions, including Women Lawyers of Franklin County, Jack and Jill of America - Columbus Chapter, Amethyst, Inc., Kids Voting, and the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus. She has received numerous accolades and awards, including the Editor's Choice Award from the National Library of Poetry, Member of the Year Award from the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus, and Black Women of Courage honors.



DR. LOVE JONES

Southern Region Representative

Dr. Love Jones, Director, City of Greensboro, Greensboro, North Carolina. Dr. Jones currently serves as the Executive Director of the Human Rights Department with the City of Greensboro. Her role is dedicated to leading the arm of government focused on promoting community harmony, meeting the needs of marginalized populations, and directly addressing acts of discrimination. Specifically, the departmental focus includes discrimination investigation for Fair Housing and Public Accommodations, Landlord-Tenant mediation, Justice Served Support, International Support, and administrative support for five human rights focused boards/commissions. Additionally, she serves as the project manager for the City of Greensboro's Five-year Strategic Framework. Dr. Love Jones has dedicated her entire professional journey to understanding the personal and professional needs of people.

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She is a social science expert with a particular focus in the relationship between individual sati sfaction and the establishment of healthy cultures. As a professionally trained systems thinker, with over 20 years of experience in seminar curriculum design and facilitation, she maintains a genuine interest in the way that people establish identity and build community. In addition to her experience as an executive leader, she continues to serve as a professor of social sciences for 15 years. While not practicing at present, Dr. Jones is also a provisionally licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Dr. Jones earned a BA, as a double major in Psychology and Communication Studies, at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She then earned an MS from East Carolina University in Marriage and Family Therapy from the School of Human Ecology. She returned to UNCG to earn a Doctorate in Cultural Studies with a concentration in Communication Studies. Her research focus includes political economy, most specifically, in the context of race, class, and gender.



PIERRE ARREOLA

Western Region Representative

Pierre Ivan Arreola (aka Pierre Boogie) is an artist, community advocate, and human rights leader of Mexican, Salvadoran, and Mesoamerican Indigenous heritage from Pacoima, California. Inspired by his parents' journeys as migrants and their connection to music and storytelling, Pierre began organizing in high school, co-founding The GR818ERS, a grassroots, youth-led collective that uses Hip Hop culture to uplift the San Fernando Valley. A first-generation college student, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Brown University, where he received the Royce Sport & Society Fellowship and C.V. Starr Social Entrepreneurship Fellowship to strengthen The GR818ERS as a force for social change. After college, he continued organizing young people while working as a legal advocate with Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County. In 2016, he was recognized as a City of Los Angeles Impact Maker to Watch and named an ACTIVATE arts advocacy fellow. He later co-founded AWOKE, a nonprofit focused on youth and community development, and in 2019, AWOKE and The GR818ERS opened the UNITE Cultural Center, a San Fernando Valley hub for creative transformation, civic engagement, and collective healing. Pierre currently serves as Program Manager of the Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team at the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, where he leads the County's Human Rights Strategy for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and its Election Protection Initiative. He previously led the Commission's Transformative Justice Team, advancing equity and community safety across the county. In 2023, Mayor Karen Bass appointed Pierre to the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission, where he serves as President. He also serves as West Coast Representative and Board Member of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA), Ex Officio Board Member of the California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO), and Advisory Board Member of CSUN's Valley Nonprofit Resources. Recognized for his mentorship, advocacy, and community leadership, Pierre has presented at universities and cultural institutions across the United States and internationally. He has been honored with mentorship awards and featured in Alta / A Human Atlas of a City of Angels as one of 100 Angelenos recognized as changemakers. Across his work, Pierre continues to champion youth development, human rights, community healing, and Hip Hop culture through organizing, education, and creative action.

2026 IAOHRA CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thank you

DIANE CLEMENTS-BOYD
Conference Chairperson Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission

JENNIFER BOOZ
Anchorage Equal Rights Commission

DANA BRIDGEWATER
City of Alexandria (VA), Office of Human Rights

JAMES DAVIS
City of Durham, Community Partnerships & Engagement

KENNETH GUNN
Chicago Commission on Human Relations

LAUREN HARRIS
City of Charlottesville, Office of Human Rights

LASANDRA HUTCHINSON
Cook County Department of Human Rights & Ethics

ROBIN TOMA
Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission

ANTHONY LEWIS
Michigan Department of Civil Rights

SHADRACH MENSAH
Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission

LEAH RABY
Louisiana Commission on Human Rights

TEJASH SANCHALA
Westchester County Human Rights Commission

ALISA WARREN
South Carolina Commission on Human Affairs

TARNYA WHITMIRE
South Carolina Commission on Human Affairs

International Association of
Official Human Rights Agencies

2026 IAOHRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

From Statute to Street: CIVIL RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, *and the* RULE OF LAW

August 16-20, 2026

Westin New Orleans | New Orleans, LA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

12:00pm - 2:00pm	▶ **IAOHRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING** | Cotton Room
4:00pm - 6:00pm	▶ **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION** | Living Wall
6:00pm - 7:30pm	▶ **OPENING WELCOME & RECEPTION** | Riverbend Ballroom **Dr. Alisa Warren, IAOHRA President** Commissioner, South Carolina Human Affairs Commission ▶ **FIRESIDE CHAT: VOICES OF NEW ORLEANS** **Speakers:** **Cynthia Butler-McIntyre** Renowned educational consultant, education advocate and served as the 24th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. **Rodney C. Braxton, Esq.** Owner, Managing Partner of Southern Strategy Group, LLC **Suchitra J. Satpathi** Partner, Pelican State Partners **Moderator:** Dr. Leah Raby, Louisiana Commission on Human Rights

2026 IAOHRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026

7:30am - 5:00pm	▶ **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION** | Living Wall
7:00am - 8:00am	▶ **BREAKFAST (OWN YOUR OWN)**
8:00am - 9:00am	▶ **OPENING CEREMONY** | Grand Ballroom **Dr. Alisa Warren,** IAOHRA President Commissioner, South Carolina Human Affairs Commission **Dr. Leah Raby,** Executive Director Louisiana Human Rights Commission (Local Host) ▶ **CONFERENCE OVERVIEW** **Diane Clements-Boyd,** Executive Director Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission IAOHRA Conference Planning Committee Chairperson
9:00am - 10:15am	▶ **OPENING PLENARY** | Grand Ballroom **Keynote Speaker: Marc H. Morial** President and CEO, National Urban League "Understanding the Moment" **Facilitator: Diane Clements-Boyd** Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission

2026 IAOHRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

10:30am - 11:45am	▶ **PLENARY SESSION II |** Grand Ballroom **International Human Rights Framework** **Presenters:** **Desirée Cormier Smith** Co-Founder and Co-President | The Alliance for Diplomacy and Justice Senior Fellow | Harvard Kennedy School Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights Fellow | Howard University Bunche Center Global Futures Collaborative **Robin Toma** Executive Director, Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission **Facilitator: Ken Gunn,** Chicago Commission on Human Relations
12:00pm - 1:15pm	▶ **PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON |** Grand Ballroom **Dr. Alisa Warren,** IAOHRA President (Presiding) **Keynote Speaker:** **Kristen Clarke,** General Counsel, NAACP Former Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice (2021-2024)
1:30pm - 2:45pm	▶ **REGIONAL MEETINGS** **Atlantic Region, Tejash Sanchala,** Regional Representative **| Salon Room** **Midwest Region, Angela Phelps-White,** Regional Representative **| River Room** **Southern Region, Dr. Love Jones,** Regional Representative **| Terrace Room** **Western Region, Pierre I. Arreola,** Regional Representative **| Chairman's Room**
3:00pm - 4:30pm	▶ **PLENARY SESSION III |** Grand Ballroom **Fair Housing Forward** **Keynote Speaker: Colette Massengale, Esq.** Senior Policy Representative, Fair Housing Policy NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® **Facilitator: James Davis,** City of Durham, Community Partnerships & Engagement

2026 IAOHRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026

7:30am - 8:30am	▶ **BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**
9:00am - 11:30am	▶ **IAOHRA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING | TERRACE ROOM** Resolutions, Elections, and Other Organizational Actions
12:30pm 2:00pm 3:30pm	▶ **"IAOHRA Hits-the-Streets" LOCAL CIVIL RIGHTS TOUR** **Chartered Bus shuttle from Westin Hotel to Flood Wall Mural Group A** • Tchoupitoulas Art Corridor Flood Wall Mural Tour • Chartered Bus shuttle from Flood Wall Mural to LA Civil Rights Exhibit Group A • Leon "Duce" Brown II Quintet starts performing at the LA Civil Rights Exhibit,Panel Discussion, Reception: New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center to Welcome Group A • Chartered Bus shuttle from LA Civil Rights Exhibit to Hotel Group A and pick up Group B/C **Chartered Bus shuttle from Westin Hotel to Flood Wall Mural Group B (REPEATED)** **Chartered Bus shuttle from Westin Hotel to Flood Wall Mural Group C (REPEATED)** *Note: Chartered Bus maximum capacity is 56-passengers)*
12:30pm - 6:00pm	▶ **Self-Guided Tours (Create Your Own Experience)** • French Quarter (0.5 miles) • Jackson Square (0.4 miles) • Garden District (1.9 miles) • Riverfront Streetcar (0.1 mile to the nearest stop) • Canal Street Streetcar (0.1 mile to the nearest stop) • Lower Ninth Ward/Hurricane Katrina sites (4.5 miles) • Supreme Court Museum—Plessy v. Ferguson exhibit (0.4 miles) • Tate, Etienne and Prevost Center (4 miles) • William Frantz Elementary School (3 miles) • The National WWII Museum (0.7 miles) • Louisiana Civil Rights Museum (0.2 miles) • Whitney Plantation (45 miles) *Note: Distances are approximate and measured from The Westin New Orleans, 100 Iberville Street. Transportation, admission fees, and reservations for self-guided tours are the responsibility of participants.*

2026 IAOHRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

8:00am - 9:00am	▶ BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN
9:00am - 10:15am	**BREAKOUT SESSIONS I**
Salon Room	▶ LEADERSHIP & AGENCY MANAGEMENT **From Policy to Practice: Embedding Human Rights Principles into Organizational Culture** How do civil and human rights principles move from policy to practice? This session explores how leaders embed rights-based principles into organizational culture, accountability systems, and workforce practices. Participants will gain practical strategies for translating legal and policy commitments into measurable outcomes that strengthen equity, public trust, and organizational effectiveness. **Presenter: Tawana Bhagwat,** Founder and CEO of Organization At Its Best, Inc. **Facilitator: Tarnya Whitmire,** South Carolina Human Affairs Commission
Terrace Room	▶ CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT **Civil Rights in a Digital Society: State Innovations to Address AI Bias** This session will offer a clear and practical overview of the evolving landscape of algorithmic discrimination and responsible AI within government agencies. We will examine how civil rights offices can proactively interpret, enforce, and modernize protections to ensure new technologies do not reproduce or exacerbate existing inequities. Additionally, we will explore actionable strategies for identifying, assessing, and responding to algorithmic discrimination at the state and local level, including approaches to enforcement, public sector procurement, community engagement, regulatory design, and cross sector collaboration. **Presenter: Yolanda N. Melville,** Director NJ Division on Civil Rights **Presenter: Oneshia Herring,** Sr. Vice President & Counsel National Fair Housing Alliance **Facilitator: Shadrach Mensah,** Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission
River Room	▶ POLICY & LEGISLATION **So, You Want to Add New Protected Classes?** In 2025, The City of Minneapolis added four new protected classes to our Civil Rights Ordinance. In this session, attendees will learn about the meaningful process staff engage in to turn ideas into actionable protections. Presenters will share details about the new protected classes, engagement strategies, and lessons learned. **Presenter: Manire T. Vaughn, Esq.,** Complaint Investigations Director , Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights **Presenter: Kaela McConnon Diarra, Esq.,** Interim Director, Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights **Facilitator: Anthony Lewis,** Michigan Department of Civil Rights

Executive Room	▸ SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT **The Soul of Resilience: Cultivating Trust and Measurable Community Impact** This session explores how understanding structural inequities allows us to build deep community trust and drive measurable empowerment. Participants will learn to engage diverse populations respectfully, foster collaborative problem-solving, and design initiatives rooted in lived experience that challenge systemic barriers and deliver tangible social justice. **Presenter: Jolan H. Jolivette,** Political Strategy, Organizing and Creative Consultant Power Coalition for Equity & Justice **Facilitator: LaSandra Hutchinson,** Cook County Department of Human Rights and Ethics

10:30am - 11:45am BREAKOUT SESSIONS II

Salon Room	▸ LEADERSHIP & AGENCY MANAGEMENT **Language Access Testing: A New Tool for Evaluating Government Agencies and Improving Services for LEP Residents** This workshop will demonstrate how the Equal Rights Center's language access testing program (sometimes called "secret shopping" or "field auditing") allows the DC Office of Human Rights to effectively enforce the DC Language Access Act, ensuring that residents with Limited English proficiency can access crucial services. Through this program, the ERC and DCOHR have helped move away from a human rights compliance structure that depends on residents to file complaints once services have failed, to systematic, cost- effective data gathering, proactively helping agencies comply with civil rights laws. **Presenter: Elias Cohn,** Strategic Initiatives Specialist, Equal Rights Center **Facilitator: Lauren Harris,** City of Charlottesville, Office of Human Rights
Terrace Room	▸ CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT **Fair Housing in a Climate of Fear: National Origin Discrimination and the Rights of Immigrant Communities** This workshop addresses national origin discrimination in the current climate of heightened attacks on immigrant communities. The session will cover fair housing protections for immigrant communities under the Fair Housing Act, relevant fact patterns, practical investigation techniques, and best practices for navigating these cases while protecting impacted communities. **Presenter: Azadeh Hosseinian,** Associate Chief Counsel, California Civil Rights Department **Presenter: Nassim Moallem,** Attorney, California Civil Rights Department **Facilitator: Tarnya Whitmire,** South Carolina Human Affairs Commission

2026 IAOHRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

River Room	▸ **POLICY & LEGISLATION** **Safeguarding the Mission: How Human Rights Commissions Navigate Legislative Challenges** This panel brings together representatives from Human Rights Commissions across the country to discuss their experiences navigating legislative challenges that threaten the scope and effectiveness of their work. Panelists will share strategies for responding to restrictive policy proposals, drawing on recent success stories—including Kentucky's successful pushback during the most recent legislative session. **Presenter: Ray Sexton,** Executive Director, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission **Facilitator: Jennifer Booz,** Anchorage Equal Rights Commission
Imperial Room	▸ **SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT** **From Statute to Street: Advancing Civil Rights for Survivors of Violence Through Outreach and Education** Using California's outreach and education efforts related to workplace civil rights protections for survivors of violence as a case study, this interactive workshop explores how civil rights agencies can increase awareness of rights and responsibilities of civil rights protections through plain language publications, language access, community partnerships, and strategic outreach. **Presenter: Ana Mendoza,** Senior Counsel, California Civil Rights Department, Outreach and Education Unit **Facilitator: Dana Bridgewater,** City of Alexandra(VA), Office of Human Rights
12:00pm - 1:15pm	▸ **LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON** | Grand Ballroom **Keynote Speaker: Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré** (Retired) **"Leadership for a More Just and Inclusive Future"** A decorated U.S. Army leader with 37 years of distinguished service, Lt. Gen. Honoré is best known for leading the military's response to Hurricane Katrina. His calm, decisive leadership during one of our nation's greatest natural disasters earned him the respect of millions. Today, he continues to inspire leaders across the country through his work in emergency preparedness, environmental resilience, public policy, and servant leadership. **Facilitator: Dr. Leah Raby,** Executive Director Louisiana Human Rights Commission

1:30am - 2:45pm	BREAKOUT SESSIONS III
Salon Room	▶ LEADERSHIP & AGENCY MANAGEMENT **Leading with Purpose: Strengthening, Safeguarding and Antidiscrimination Through Strategic Agency Management** This session will explore the process in developing a comprehensive safety plan to combat hate, racism, and discrimination for the FIFA World Cup and discuss lessons learned to show how HRCs can play active roles in addressing discrimination, hate, and extremism during mega-events in their own jurisdiction. We will also look at this as a case study of how the human rights role and purpose of your agency could be strategically expanded **Presenters:** **Randy Duque,** Deputy Director, Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations **Robin Toma,** Executive Director, Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission **Deysy Donis-Santos,** Program Manager, Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission **Facilitator: Dr. Alisa Warren,** South Carolina Human Affairs Commission
Terrace Room	▶ CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT **Disaster Civil Rights Investigation & Resolution Model** DCIRM Foundations Workshop introduces participants to the Disaster Civil Rights Investigation & Resolution Model (DCIRM), a structured framework for equitable, trauma-informed, and legally defensible civil rights investigations within disaster recovery systems. **Presenter: Stella Adams,** SJ Adams Consulting **Facilitator: James Davis,** City of Durham, Community Partnerships & Engagement
River Room	▶ POLICY & LEGISLATION **Taking Legislation and Policy Ideas to the Finish Line** Having a policy or legislative idea can be easy. Taking that idea into implementation can be a challenge. This presentation will discuss legislative and policy mechanics and real-world scenarios of creation and implementation through an equity lens. Participants will explore ways to utilize these tips in their own jurisdictions. **Presenter: Jamie Reyes,** Director, Lincoln Commission on Human Rights **Facilitator: Anthony Lewis,** Michigan Department of Civil Rights

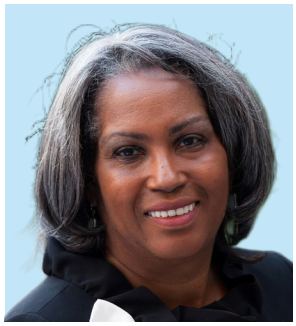
Executive Room	▶ **SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT** **Beyond the Surface: A Simulation for Equity and Structural Change** Participants will learn about historical and current barriers that perpetuate inequities, then engage in a simulation as investigators, complainants, and respondents with different lived experiences and gain understanding of structural barriers. Participants will leave with increased empathy and renewed ideas to improve their structures for equitable and just community impact. **Presenters:** **Karina Sanchez,** Senior Investigator, City of Des Moines **Manisha Paudel,** Director and Chief Equity Officer, City of Des Moines **Facilitator: Lauren Harris,** City of Charlottesville, Office of Human Rights
3:00pm - 4:15pm	▶ **LEGAL UPDATE PLENARY SESSION** | Grand Ballroom **Civil Rights, Human Rights & the Rule of Law** **Presenters:** **Samuel T. Brandao,** Director, Civil Rights & Federal Practice Clinic, Tulane University Law School **Christopher Brancart,** Partner, Brancart & Brancart **Facilitator: Tejash Sanchala,** Westchester County Human Rights Commission
6:00pm - 8:00pm	▶ **HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS DINNER** | Grand Ballroom **ARTHUR L. GREEN AWARD** *Presented to an IAOHRA member for their lifelong advocacy of civil and human rights for the advancement of racial and/or social justice.* **Recipient: Marvin Caldwell,** Chief of Staff, South Carolina Human Affairs Commission **BILL HALE AWARD** *Presented to an organization or individual who promoted civil and human rights in their official capacity and has provided leadership in the development of programs to safeguard the human and civil rights of all people in their corporation and beyond.* **Recipient: Denise Miranda,** Commissioner, New York State Division of Human Rights **INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** *Presented to an IAOHRA member for their continuing commitment to equal opportunity and civil rights, demonstrated through efforts to create and implement high-caliber programs for civil rights enforcement professionals and their communities.* **Recipient: Randy Duque,** Deputy Director, Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations **INTERNATIONAL AWARD** *Presented to an individual or organization for outstanding international efforts to advance civil and human rights.* **Recipient: Robin Toma,** Executive Director, Los Angeles Human Relations Commission

6:00pm - 8:00pm	**HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION AWARD** *Presented to a local non-IAOHRA member advocate or organization for outstanding efforts to advance "Human Rights At-Home."* **Recipient: Loyce Pierce-Wright,** Board President of the New Orleans YWCA, and retired Executive Director of the Louisiana Human Rights Commission **PRESIDENT'S AWARD** *Distinguished award presented to notable national human and/or civil rights leaders and the out-going IAOHRA President.* **Recipients:** **Kristen Clarke,** General Counsel, NAACP **Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré,** Retired- U.S. Army **Marc H. Morial, President and CEO,** National Urban League **Dr. Alisa Warren,** IAOHRA President (2022-2026)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026

8:30am - 8:50am	▶ **INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**
9:00am - 10:00am	▶ **CLOSING PLENARY SESSION** | Grand Ballroom (BREAKFAST PROVIDED) **Keynote Speaker: Michael Li,** Senior Counsel, Brennan Center Democracy Program **"The Battle for Fair Maps: Law, Power, and the People"** **Facilitator: Diane Clements-Boyd,** Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission
10:15am-11:15am	▶ **WRAP-UP** **From Statute To "My" Street: Civil Rights, Human Rights, And The Rule Of Law** **Presenter: Tarnya Whitmire,** South Carolina Human Affairs Commission **Facilitator: Dr. Alisa Warren,** South Carolina Human Affairs Commission
11:15am-11:30am	▶ **CLOSING REMARKS AND CONFERENCE ADJOURNMENT**

SPEAKERS', PRESENTERS' & MODERATORS' BIOGRAPHIES



Stella Adams is a distinguished civil rights advocate, consultant, and media personality based in Durham, North Carolina. She serves as the Owner and CEO of S J Adams Consulting, a comprehensive civil rights research and consulting firm that collaborates with non-profit organizations, government agencies, and industry stakeholders to advance fair housing, fair lending, diversity, and environmental justice initiatives. Ms. Adams is widely recognized for her expertise in the Fair Housing Act and its regulations, as well as her authoritative knowledge of predatory lending and small business lending investigative techniques. Her insights and research have made her a sought-after speaker at numerous national and regional conferences sponsored by prominent organizations such as HUD, the Federal Reserve Banks, and the NAACP. In addition to her consulting work, Ms. Adams is the host of the popular podcast "Doing Justice Brings Joy!" which airs weekly on PodTv.tv, YouTube, and other streaming platforms. Her media presence complements her advocacy efforts, allowing her to reach a broad audience with messages promoting justice and equity. Ms. Adams has received numerous accolades for her contributions to civil rights and advocacy, including the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.



Tawana Bhagwat is Founder and CEO of Organization At Its Best, Inc., and a trusted executive advisor with more than 25 years of experience helping organizations translate values, policies, and strategic priorities into measurable results. She has led organizational transformation across corporate, nonprofit, and international development sectors. A former Chief People Officer and senior HR executive with organizations including Procter & Gamble, Coty, Mercy Corps, and Global Communities, she specializes in executive coaching, leadership accountability, organizational transformation, culture change, talent strategy, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and change management. Tawana partners with leaders, boards, and organizations to navigate complex workforce, equity, and culture challenges and build high-performing, equitable, and mission-driven cultures. She is the Past Board Chair of Associated Black Charities.



Christopher Brancart is a partner in Brancart & Brancart, a law firm located in Pescadero, California specializing in fair housing investigation and litigation. Chris graduated with honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 1985. Following law school, he clerked for the Honorable Vincent McKusick, Chief Justice of Maine, and then taught appellate advocacy and administrative law at Western State University College of Law. From 1987 to 1989, Chris worked as a staff and then supervising attorney at the Legal Services Program in Pomona, California. Since entering private practice in 1989, Chris has focused his practice on litigating cases that expand fair housing rights, devising methods that improve fair housing investigations, and supporting fair housing attorneys and advocates through trainings and co-counseling. He has also represented discrimination victims in several leading federal fair housing cases.



Sam Brandao is a law professor and federal civil rights litigator whose research examines how civil rights law intersects with artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. He directs Tulane Law School's Civil Rights and Federal Practice Clinic, where full-time faculty supervise third-year law students in the direct representation of people who have experienced civil rights violations and cannot afford an attorney. The clinic's docket spans the full range of federal civil rights litigation, with substantial focus in recent years on police violence and on housing and employment discrimination. His scholarship also extends to neuroscience and end-of-life medical care.

Before joining Tulane's faculty, Sam clerked for U.S. District Judge Eldon E. Fallon of the Eastern District of Louisiana and for Judge Jacques L. Wiener, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He then completed a two-year Skadden Fellowship at Southeast Louisiana Legal Services in New Orleans, where as a staff attorney he litigated housing discrimination cases on behalf of individuals with disabilities. Sam is a New Orleans native, a musician, and a former high school English teacher.



Rodney Braxton, as President of SSG, brings the highest levels of public service to the firm. He is experienced in policy development, governmental and local affairs, legislative relations, budgetary issues, capital improvement projects and enjoys a reputation for "persuasive negotiation skills." During his career, Rodney has been in positions of administrative and budgetary oversight over agencies with budgets exceeding several million dollars.



Dr. Cynthia Butler McIntyre is a renowned educational consultant, advocate, and activist, and the 24th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. A lifelong educator, she retired as human resources director for the Jefferson Parish School System, where for more than 20 years she supervised over 3,500 employees and shaped policies that strengthened the district's workforce. A former kindergarten teacher, assistant principal, summer school principal, and personnel administrator, Butler McIntyre has influenced generations of students and educators. Her experience also includes serving as Executive Director of the Tech Prep Summer Program at Delgado Community College and as Assistant Coordinator of Field Experiences at the University of New Orleans, supervising early childhood student teachers. New Orleans native, she earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Dillard University, a Master of Education from the University of New Orleans, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Dillard University and an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Christian Bible College of Louisiana. Her distinguished service includes leadership roles with the National Alliance of Black School Educators, the Louisiana Association of School Personnel Administrators, and the Algiers Gretna NAACP, where she served as founding president. In 2011, President Barack Obama appointed her to the Board of Trustees of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation. During her presidency of Delta Sigma Theta (2008–2013), the sorority named an elementary school in Cherette, Haiti in her honor. She also serves on the National Board of the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women, and is a member of The Links, Inc. and the National Association of University Women. She was also named best female alumna of an Historically Black College or University (HBCU) by HBCU Digest.



Kristen Clarke is the General Counsel of the NAACP. She previously served as the 19th Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice between 2021 and 2025. In this role, she led enforcement of federal civil rights laws across the country.

Under her leadership, the Division established new enforcement records for prosecutions of hate crimes, and law enforcement misconduct cases, and achieved groundbreaking results in areas including redlining, environmental justice, jail and prison reform, education, fair housing, voting rights and more. Clarke's tenure brought renewed focus on victims and survivors of violence. She supervised successful prosecutions of defendants tied to the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tyre Nichols and many others. Clarke is a frequent public speaker who has helped to shape the national dialogue around issues of civil and constitutional rights, and race and democracy. She has testified about these issues before the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. She also works to train the next generation of civil rights lawyers and advocates. Clarke leads the Civil Rights Clinic at Howard University School of Law, a clinic that was started by Charles Hamilton Houston. Clarke is a lifelong civil rights lawyer, and a graduate of Harvard University and Columbia Law School.



Elias Cohn joined the ERC in July 2017. In his role as Strategic Initiatives Specialist, he has worked to expand the ERC's civil rights testing investigations into spaces outside the organization's traditional areas of fair housing and accessibility. Elias has led multiple testing investigations focused on language access, fair employment, LGBTQ rights, and housing conditions. Elias previously worked as the Fair Housing Coordinator at Housing Counseling Services, Inc., where he worked with service providers, as well as consumers and landlords, to identify and respond to discriminatory housing practices.



Desirée Cormier Smith is co-president and co-founder of The Alliance for Diplomacy and Justice, a nonprofit founded to advocate for human rights as a core pillar of U.S. foreign policy through Congressional education, public engagement, and global partnerships. She is also a Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights and a Fellow at the Bunche Center for International Affairs at Howard University. She serves on the Advisory Board of Foreign Policy for America and the Board of the National Capitol Area Chapter of the UN Association.

From 2022 until 2025, she served as the inaugural U.S. Special Representative for Racial Equity and Justice at the Department of State, where she worked to promote the human rights of people marginalized because of their race or ethnicity through U.S. foreign policy. She has held roles across civil society, the private sector, and the public sector all with the focus on building a more equitable and just world and an unyielding commitment to racial justice. She earned undergraduate degrees from Stanford University in political science and psychology and a master's degree in public policy from Harvard Kennedy School.



Deysy Donis-Santos, a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, brings nearly 15 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, specializing in social services, community engagement, and program development. She has led the design and implementation of comprehensive services across 73 affordable housing communities throughout Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties, including overseeing 17 after-school programs. Her work includes managing cross-sector partnerships, ensuring compliance with government regulations, and overseeing grant-funded programs. In her current role as Program Manager for LA vs Hate at the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, Deysy leads a countywide initiative focused on hate prevention, response, and community healing. She oversees strategic partnerships and a network of community-based organizations to support survivors of hate, coordinates rapid response efforts, and helps drive public awareness and systems-level solutions to combat hate and discrimination across Los Angeles County.



Randy Duque is the Deputy Director of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR)'s Community Relations Division - the "peacemaking" unit of the agency. He served as Acting Executive Director in 2025 and 2021 as the first Asian American to lead the department. Randy's responsibilities cover several areas including: civil rights, intercultural relations, hate and extremism prevention and response, victim services, immigrant and refugee issues; and conflict intervention, mediation, and de-escalation. He has presented at national and international forums and consulted for agencies in the US and Europe on strategies to combat hate and create strong community-government-law enforcement partnerships.

Randy's background covers the full spectrum of conflict management. He received his master's degree in communication and conflict; and bachelor's degree in anthropology at Temple University where he was also an adjunct instructor. He is a skilled martial arts practitioner and instructor; and served ten years in the infantry with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. In his spare time, Randy plays bass and guitar in several groups of different genres of music including a Filipino folk string ensemble and a Ukrainian folk rock band.



Oneshia Herring serves as Senior Vice President and Counsel for Consulting and Compliance at the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA). She leads NFHA's efforts to provide high-impact consulting and compliance services to financial institutions, housing providers, government agencies, insurance companies, and other entities. Her work focuses on helping organizations identify, assess, and mitigate fair housing and fair lending risks. She uses data-driven analytics to guide legal reviews, strategic recommendations, and program development aimed at expanding homeownership and credit access for historically marginalized communities.

Oneshia brings deep expertise in fair lending, fair housing, civil rights enforcement, and regulatory compliance. She spent nearly a decade at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in the Civil Rights Division, serving as a Senior Trial Attorney in the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section and later as Senior Counsel in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General. In these roles, she led Division-wide initiatives and litigated major fair housing and fair lending cases that secured several million dollars in relief for harmed individuals. She also served as Deputy Director in the Office for Civil Rights at the DOJ's Office of Justice Programs, where she helped ensure that federal funds promoted equity and did not support discriminatory practices.

continued on next page

Oneshia is the Immediate Past Chair of the DOJ Association of Black Attorneys (DOJABA). She currently serves on the board of the Civil Rights Division Alumni Association and is an Advisory Committee member for The Justice Connection. Earlier in her career, Oneshia was Senior Policy Counsel at the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), a nonprofit research and policy organization affiliated with Self-Help Credit Union, the nation's largest community development financial institution. At CRL, she helped craft key legislative solutions to address the foreclosure crisis and advocated for stronger federal protections against predatory lending and mortgage servicing abuses. Oneshia began her legal and policy career on Capitol Hill as a Congressional Fellow with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. She later served as Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, where she contributed to several major housing reform bills.
A recipient of the National Bar Association's 40 Under 40 Award, Oneshia is active in numerous civic and professional organizations, including the National Bar Association, Washington Bar Association, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Oneshia earned a B.S. from Florida State University, where she was a Florida Bright Futures Scholar; an M.A. from the University of Central Florida; and a J.D. from North Carolina Central University School of Law. She is a member of the North Carolina State Bar and a professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law.



Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré (Ret.) is a highly respected retired U.S. Army officer who served for 37 years, culminating as the 33rd Commanding General of the First Army. A native of Louisiana, he is widely recognized for leading the military's response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 as Commander of Joint Task Force Katrina. His decisive leadership, straightforward communication style, and commitment to serving those affected by the disaster earned him national recognition and widespread acclaim. Since retiring from the Army in 2008, Lt. Gen. Honoré has remained an influential voice on emergency preparedness, leadership, and environmental resilience. He is the founder of the GreenARMY, an organization dedicated to protecting Louisiana's environment and strengthening community preparedness for natural disasters. He has also served as a trusted advisor on disaster response and public policy, continuing his lifelong commitment to public service. Lt. Gen. Honoré is a sought-after speaker who inspires audiences with his insights on leadership, crisis management, resilience, and service.



Azadeh Hosseinian is an Associate Chief Counsel at the California Civil Rights Department (CRD) where she investigates and enforces individual and systemic complaints of housing discrimination. Azadeh joined the Department in 2020 as Staff Counsel. Azadeh has a strong background in enforcing civil rights laws. Prior to CRD, Azadeh was a Staff Attorney at the Southern California Housing Rights Center in Los Angeles, where she represented tenants in challenging discriminatory housing practices.



Jolan Herbert Jolivette operates at the intersection of national security, public policy, and community advocacy. He serves as a Captain and Intelligence Officer with the 159th Fighter Wing, having led his Intel flight in Japan, participated in NATO exercises in Germany, and served as the unit's CGOC Communications Chair.

On the civilian side, Jolan is a seasoned independent strategist providing expert guidance in federal, military, and state affairs. His eight-year tenure in the Louisiana Governor's Office included serving as Assistant Director of Disability Affairs, spearheading the state's 2020 Census efforts, establishing "Black Chamber Day" at the State Capitol, and leading the statewide expansion of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. A Lafayette native and UL Lafayette alumnus, Jolan remains deeply connected to his community. In 2025, he was appointed to the inaugural College of Liberal Arts Advisory Board. His civic commitment is further reflected in his past leadership as Chairman of the Lafayette Parish Democratic Executive Committee and his board service for the Greater Southwest Louisiana Black Chamber of Commerce. Driven by a steadfast commitment to service, Jolan excels whether briefing aircrews on global tactics or advising on complex governmental strategy.



Michael Li serves as Senior Counsel for the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, where his work focuses on redistricting, voting rights, and elections. Prior to joining the Brennan Center, Mr. Li practiced law at Baker Botts L.L.P. in Dallas for ten years and was author of a widely cited blog on redistricting and election law issues that The New York Times called "indispensable." He is a regular writer and commentator on election law issues, appearing on PBS Newshour, MSNBC, and NPR, and in print in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, Roll Call, Vox, National Journal, Texas Tribune, Dallas Morning News, and San Antonio Express-News, among others.

Mr. Li received his J.D., with honors, from Tulane Law School and his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Texas at Austin.



Chhaya Malik serves as the Deputy Director of Dispute Resolution at the California Civil Rights Department (CRD), where she leads a team of highly skilled neutrals dedicated exclusively to mediating and resolving civil rights disputes brought by Californians. In April 2025, she completed her tenure as Chair of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation (JNE) after having been appointed by the California State Bar Board of Trustees.

Prior to joining CRD, Chhaya practiced as a mediator and as an attorney focused on complex litigation, government service, and public interest advocacy. Chhaya served as Special Counsel at Ramsey & Ehrlich spearheading investigations into misconduct, as well as defending individuals in enforcement actions brought by governmental authorities. Chhaya also served at the United States Department of State working on human trafficking and as civil litigator at Hogan Lovells LLP. She was the Thurgood Marshall Fellow at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area and served as counsel at the Advancement Project working on a wide range of matters related to voting rights, race discrimination, and poverty law.

Chhaya holds both her J.D. and am undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley.



Colette Massengale, Esq., AHWD, GSI, joined NAR's Advocacy Team on September 1st, 2022, where she serves as Senior Policy Representative for Fair Housing. Prior to joining NAR, Colette was Director of Professional Development & Member Engagement at Maryland REALTORS®. In that role, she served as staff liaison to the DEI Advisory Group, the REALTOR® Institute GRI Advisory Group, the Leadership Academy Advisory Group, the Professional Standards Committee, and the Grievance Committee. She also spent over ten years serving as Senior Attorney in the Legal Affairs Department at Maryland REALTORS® where she enjoyed staffing the Statewide Forms Committee, engaging with members on the Legal Hotline, training on the NAR Code of Ethics, and teaching legal courses. Colette is a native Washingtonian. She attended Oberlin College in Oberlin, OH and received her Juris Doctorate Degree from the Washington College of Law at American University.



Kaela McConnon Diarra leads the City of Minneapolis' Civil Rights Department. The Department's mission is to protect and advance human rights through enforcing civil rights protections with accountability and impartial investigations to empower community. The Department's day-to-day work includes investigating allegations of discrimination, police misconduct, and labor standards violations, as well as doing contract compliance work to ensure equity in City contracting. Kaela has worked for the Department for more than ten years, serving previously as the Department's Deputy Director, the Division Director over the Complaint Investigations and Labor Standards divisions, and as an investigator on discrimination cases. She regularly teaches as an adjunct instructor at the University of Minnesota Law School, having previously taught Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Moot Court and Law in Practice. Kaela holds a Juris Doctor from Mitchell Hamline School of Law and previously clerked at the Minnesota Court of Appeals.



Yolanda N. Melville is the Director of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights. As Director of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, Melville oversees the agency's forward looking work at the intersection of civil rights and emerging technology. Under her leadership, DCR has advanced its Civil Rights and Technology Initiative, including the Civil Rights Innovation Lab and Algorithmic Fairness Project, to address discrimination risks associated with artificial intelligence and automated decision making tools. Melville previously served as Senior Counsel to the New Jersey Attorney General and Director of Community Engagement, a liaison to stakeholders across the state tasked with connecting them with the Office of the Attorney General's initiatives. Melville has served as both a moderator and nationally recognized speaker on leadership and professional development, voting rights and housing issues. She has collaborated with some of the country's greatest social justice leaders and has served in various leadership roles within state and national civil rights organizations.

Before joining the Office of the Attorney General, Melville was a partner at Cooper Levenson, P.A., in Atlantic City, NJ, where she represented public and corporate clients in various stages of civil litigation in federal and state courts. Melville clerked for the Honorable Susan F. Maven in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division. She received her B.A. in English and Government from the College of William and Mary, M.S. in Criminal Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University, and J.D. from Howard University Law School, where she was the managing editor of the Human Rights and Globalization Law Review.



Ana Mendoza (she/her) serves as Senior Counsel in the Outreach and Education Unit at the California Civil Rights Department, where she develops and delivers trainings that help Californians understand their rights and responsibilities under state civil rights laws. Her current work focuses on public education and outreach, including on workplace protections for survivors of violence.
Ana brings more than a decade of experience advancing civil rights and civil liberties through legal advocacy, public policy advocacy, community engagement, and public education. Throughout her career, she has worked to address issues involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, equal access, privacy, and other civil rights and civil liberties protections in employment and education.
Her work has earned her two California Lawyer of the Year (CLAY) awards as well as recognition from UCLA School of Law's Public Interest Program for advancing civil rights and educational equity. Ana is a graduate of Macalester College and UCLA School of Law, where she specialized in Critical Race Studies.



Nassim Moallem serves as an Attorney with the California Civil Rights Department's Legal Division. In her role, Moallem enforces California civil rights laws, including protections against unlawful discrimination in areas such as housing and employment. She strives to obtain meaningful relief that advances equity and addresses systemic injustices. Most recently, she has helped obtain substantive settlements in cases involving source of income discrimination against a Section 8 tenant, and violations of California's Fair Chance Act which prevented the hiring of individuals with criminal history. Prior to joining the Civil Rights Department, Moallem was an acting supervising attorney with the Housing Program at the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, where she advocated for tenants' rights and defended tenants facing eviction proceedings. Nassim received her J.D. from USC Gould School of Law and her B.A. in Women's Studies and Political Science from San Diego State University.



Marc Morial, one of the few national leaders to possess "street smarts," and "boardroom savvy," is the transformative President and CEO of the National Urban League, the nation's largest historic civil rights and urban advocacy organization.
He served as the highly successful and popular Mayor of New Orleans as well as the President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Marc previously was a Louisiana State Senator and was a lawyer in New Orleans with an active, high-profile practice.
He is a leading voice on the national stage in the battle for jobs, education, housing, health, voting rights, equity, and entrepreneurship.
Marc is a published author; his leadership book, Gumbo Coalition: 10 Leadership Lessons That Help You Inspire, United, and Achieve has been widely acclaimed, and his column entitled To Be Equal, reaches hundreds of thousands.
He is the host of the weekly syndicated television show, America's Black Forum.
A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, and the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Economics and African American Studies, he has been recognized as one of the 100 most influential Black Americans by Ebony Magazine, one of the top 50 Non-Profit Leaders by the Non-Profit Times, one of the 100 Most Influential Black Lawyers in America and he has also been inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta, GA.
Marc and his father, the late Ernest "Dutch" Morial, are history makers as the first African American father/son mayors in the U.S. and were the subject of a Double Jeopardy question on the legendary Jeopardy television game show in the 1990s.



Manisha Paudel currently serves as the Director of Community Impact & Relations Department and was also the Chief Equity Officer for the City of Des Moines. She is a certified intercultural development inventory qualified administrator and an organizational equity facilitator.



Jamie Reyes currently serves as the Director of the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights for the City of Lincoln. An Omaha, Nebraska native, Jamie received her B.A. in Sociology and J.D. from the University of Nebraska. Her time at Nebraska spurred her interest of working in public service, spending 20 years with the State of Nebraska at two agencies- Nebraska Commission on Industrial Relations and Nebraska Public Service Commission. She is a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association and the American Bar Association and serves her community as an active member of the Xi Omicron Zeta graduate chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.



Karina Sanchez has been serving as a Human Rights Investigator for the City of Des Moines for nearly five years, and previously managed a satellite office of an immigration law firm. She currently emphasizes in providing training to housing providers, employers and businesses as well as leads compliance enforcement efforts. She is a certified mediator.



Suchitra J. Satpathi has practiced law in Louisiana since 2000. She holds a B.A. in English from Xavier University of Louisiana, an M.A. in African American Studies from Temple University, and a J.D. from Temple University School of Law. Since 2000, she has been deeply involved in Louisiana governmental affairs at the federal, state, and municipal levels, serving in roles including Executive Director of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and facilitating the establishment of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus (LLBC) PAC. She also served as an Associate Professor of English at Baton Rouge Community College, where she was recognized as a Who's Who in American Colleges honoree and received a 2004 NISOD Award for Excellence in Teaching from the University of Texas at Austin. In 2010, she transitioned to local government, serving as Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu's Director for State, Federal and International Affairs, Boards and Commissions, and Executive Counsel for the City of New Orleans. She is currently a Partner and Principal at Pelican State Partners & The Advocacy Partners, a Louisiana governmental affairs firm addressing issues affecting communities across the state. Her extensive experience includes capital projects and planning, tax and finance, education, criminal justice, tourism and hospitality, economic development, healthcare, and governmental affairs. Throughout her career, she has successfully worked on constitutional amendments, municipal campaigns, large-scale procurements, and a wide range of legislation.



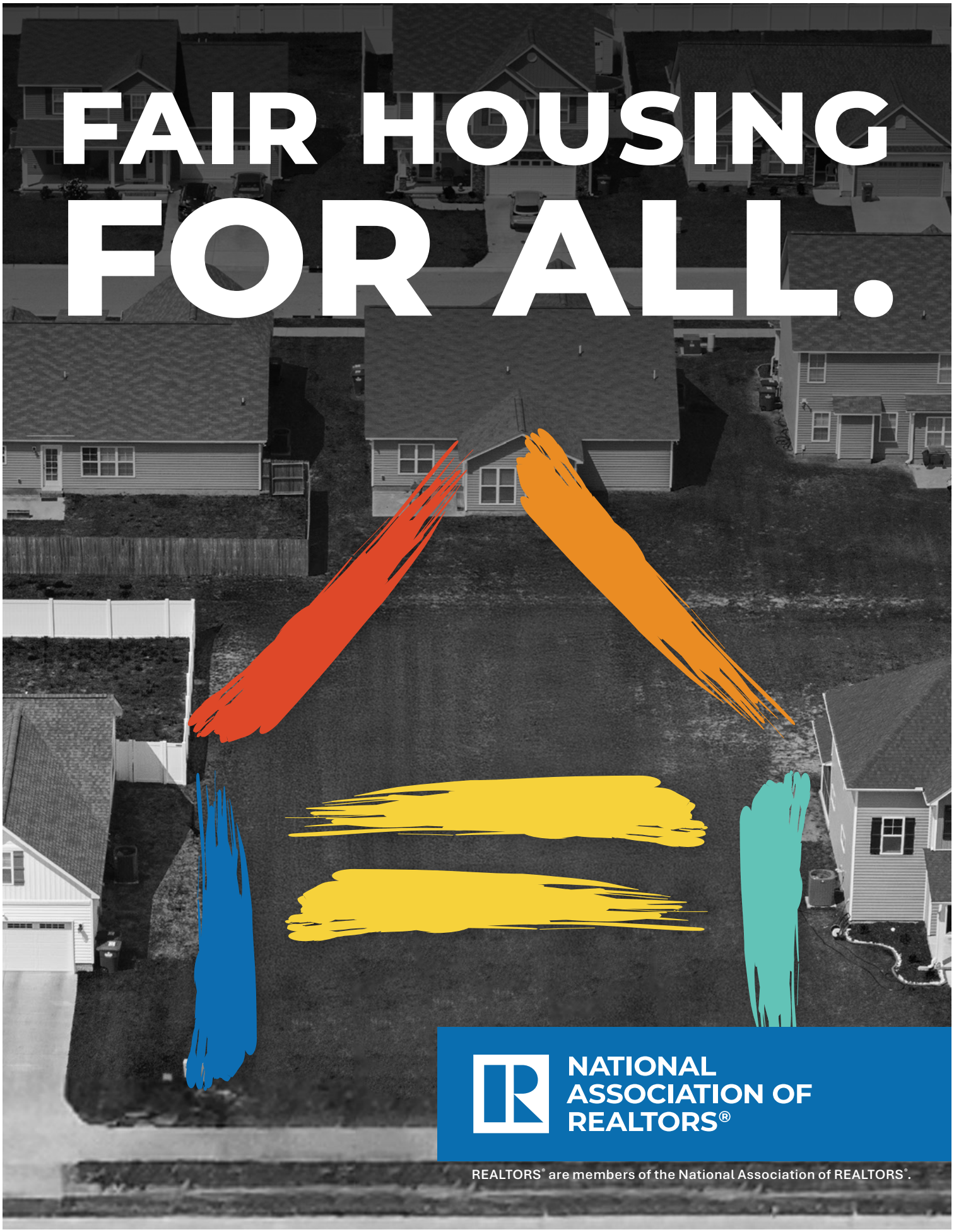
Raymond Sexton serves as the Executive Director of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission, serving the citizens of Fayette County as the leader of the city's civil rights enforcement agency. As the Executive Director, Raymond is responsible for oversight of the Commission's operation, the supervision and training of staff, establishing and monitoring of the agency's budget, conducting workshops on discrimination issues, supervising of the case management system and liaison with federal agencies regarding contract compliance. Raymond began his employment with the Commission in 1997 as Investigator and has served as Executive Director since December of 2009.

Throughout his many years of experience in civil rights enforcement, Raymond has received extensive training in the field of discrimination regarding fair housing enforcement and complaint investigations. Raymond is a 2007 graduate of the National Fair Housing Training Academy in Washington, DC. Raymond often serves as presenter on the topic of civil rights and has served as a guest lecturer for several elementary and high schools in central Kentucky, Georgetown College and the University of Kentucky College of Law. In addition, Raymond has appeared on several local, state and national media outlets on a variety of topics pertaining to civil rights enforcement.



Manire Vaughn (MV) serves as the Director of the Complaint Investigations Division for the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights. As Director, MV leads the team responsible for investigating all alleged acts of discrimination that occur within Minneapolis. Prior to joining the city, MV served as Senior Associate General Counsel at Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Within this role, MV supported the agency on a broad range of legal matters including, federal compliance, fair housing, affordable housing financing , grants, and supportive housing initiatives. MV values centering community voices and is dedicated to using his legal expertise to protect those most vulnerable to systems of oppression. Beyond traditional legal practice, MV has worked nationally to strengthen protections for those living in affordable housing, and to advance sound public policy that prioritizes the health and well-being of those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. MV is also an adjunct professor at University of St. Thomas College of Law.

MV earned his Juris Doctorate at Michigan State University College of Law and was the 2023 recipient of the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Social Justice Award.


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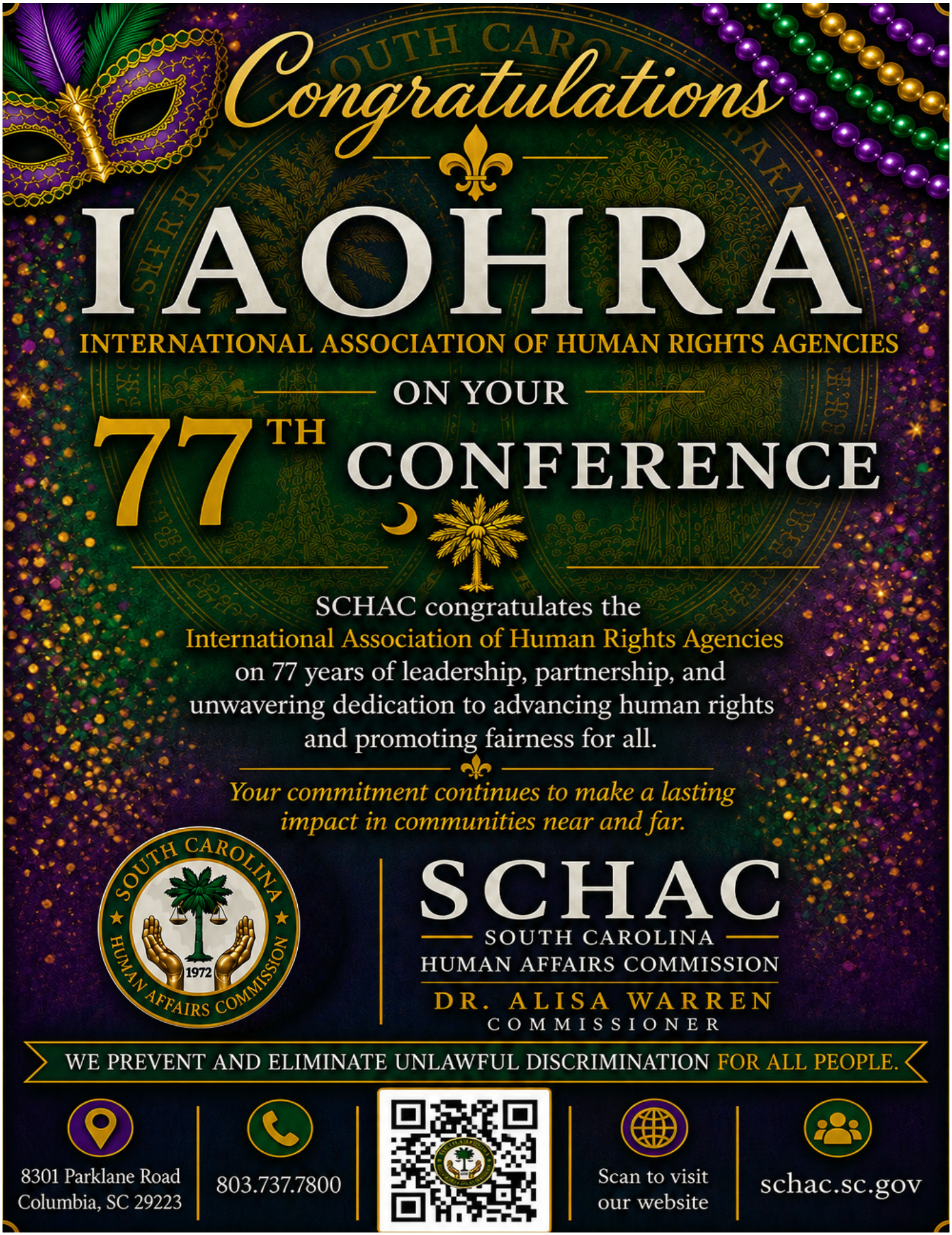


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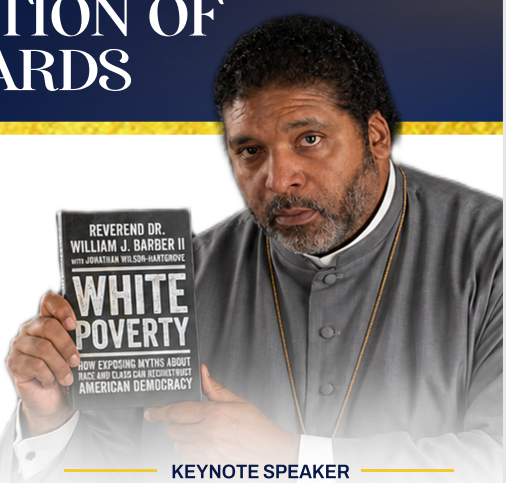
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SPECIAL INVITATION

2026 ANNUAL DINNER
AND MAYOR'S CELEBRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission — Promoting Equality — 1948

The **Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II** is a nationally recognized faith leader, public theologian, author, and social justice advocate. He serves as President and Senior Lecturer of Repairers of the Breach, Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, and Professor in the Practice of Public Theology and Public Policy and Founding Director of the Center for Public Theology and Public Policy at Yale Divinity School. A leading voice for economic justice, voting rights, and moral public policy, Rev. Barber gained national prominence through the Moral Mondays movement in North Carolina and has spent decades organizing communities to address poverty, systemic racism, and inequality. He previously served as President of the North Carolina NAACP and as a member of the National NAACP Board of Directors. Rev. Barber is the author of several influential books, including his most recent, ***White Poverty: How Exposing Myths About Race and Class Can Reconstruct American Democracy***. He is a recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, the North Carolina Award, the state's highest civilian honor, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award, and numerous honorary doctorates. He earned a bachelor's degree from North Carolina Central University, a Master of Divinity from Duke University, and a doctorate from Drew University with a concentration in Public Policy and Pastoral Care. Widely regarded as one of the nation's most influential moral leaders, Rev. Barber continues to inspire audiences across the country through his advocacy, scholarship, and commitment to justice.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

FAITH LEADER • AUTHOR • HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026 | 6:30 PM

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