

Oregon Council on Civil Rights (OCCR)

Co-Chair James Mason



Co-Chair Connie Ashbrook

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Overview of the Oregon Council on Civil Rights

Background

The Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) is Oregon's chief law enforcement agency for protecting Oregonians' civil rights in employment, housing, public accommodation, and career schools. BOLI's Civil Rights Division enforces laws that protect workers from unlawful discrimination, including retaliation when workers report safety violations, use family leave provisions or file for workers' compensation. The division also protects those who suffer unlawful discrimination when seeking housing or using public facilities such as restaurants, theaters and stores. Each year, the division fields an average of 30,000 inquiries and investigates over 2,200 cases.

The Oregon Council on Civil Rights, appointed by Commissioner Brad Avakian under ORS 659A.815, will advise the commissioner, BOLI and the state generally on matters related to education about and enforcement of civil rights in Oregon.

Purpose

The Oregon Council on Civil Rights is established for the following purposes:

1. To study and monitor the causes, effects and solutions of unlawful discrimination in Oregon;
2. To consider legislative and agency proposals and actions;
3. To foster communication, goodwill, cooperation and conciliation among groups interested in civil rights across the state, and between these groups and the state; and
4. To advise the commissioner, and other interested state agencies or officials, on policies and procedures related to the education and enforcement of civil rights.

Mission

The mission of the Oregon Council on Civil Rights is to keep productive relationships among community civil rights organizations and between the state and these organizations and to advise the State Labor Commissioner on matters related to the education and enforcement of civil rights in Oregon.

Council on Civil Rights Structure

Membership

The council is comprised of 25 individuals with an interest in ensuring the civil rights of Oregonians. See full membership list and biographies by [clicking here](#).

The mission of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is to protect employment rights, advance employment opportunities, and protect access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination.

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Appointment

Members are appointed for two year terms by the commissioner. Members may be appointed to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The commissioner shall consider factors which include geography, race, culture, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, labor and business affiliation in making appointments in order to ensure a diverse membership.

Leadership

The council will be led by two co-chairs appointed by the Commissioner for one-year terms. Co-chairs may serve a maximum of two consecutive one year terms and may appoint other officers and subcommittee chairs as necessary to conduct the business of the council.

Agenda

The council shall address issues at its discretion or as assigned by the Commissioner. The council shall publish a summary of its yearly work and recommendations by July of each year.

Staffing

The council shall be staffed by the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

Compensation

Council members shall serve without pay but with reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses pursuant to ORS 659A.815(2).

Meetings

The council shall meet at least quarterly, beginning July 16, 2009, and as deemed necessary by the co-chairs at a place determined by the co-chairs. Quarterly council meetings will be held in July, October, January, and April.

Meeting dates, agendas, and supplemental information will be posted on the Oregon Council on Civil Right website: <http://www.oregon.gov/BOLI/CRD/OCCR.shtml>

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