

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
April 9, 2025
9:00 a.m.

Michael A. Bilandic Building
160 North LaSalle Street, Suite N-1000
Chicago, Illinois 60601

and

Jefferson Terrace
300 West Jefferson Street, Suite 108
Springfield, Illinois 62702

MINUTES

PRESENT

Commissioners:

Selma C. D'Souza, Chair
Demoya R. Gordon, Vice Chair
Jacqueline Y. Collins
Janice M. Glenn
Stephen A. Kouri II
Howard A. Rosenblum

Staff:

Tracey B. Fleming, Executive Director
Claudia P. Ortega, Chief Financial and Human Resources Officer
Brian Weinthal, Chief Administrative Law Judge
David R. Larson, General Counsel
Adrian J. Atwater, Assistant General Counsel
Emily Curosh, Assistant General Counsel
Jaz Park, Assistant General Counsel
Bricia Herrera, Administrative Assistant I
Christine Welinski, Administrative Assistant I
Michelle Crayton, Private Secretary

Members of the Public:

Oral Bennett
Ingolf Karst
Deanne Medina
Armando Mojica
Tomas Ramirez
David Rothal
Deena Sanceda
Michael Vernon
Gregory Vaci

I. Call to Order

A meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission was called to order on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. by Chair D'Souza.

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II. Roll Call

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 *et seq.*, it was determined that:

Chair D'Souza, Vice Chair Gordon, and Commissioners Collins, Glenn, Kouri, and Rosenblum were physically present at the meeting.

III. Minutes – February 5, 2025

The Commissioners adopted the minutes of the February 5, 2025 meeting as submitted by staff. Motion made by Commissioner Glenn; seconded by Vice Chair Gordon. Motion carried 6-0-0.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair D'Souza discussed recent outreach events at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law and North Park University's Pre-Law Society. Chair D'Souza also mentioned that the Commission testified in support of its proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget before both the House and Senate Appropriations-Health and Human Services Committees.

V. Staff Reports

A. Tracey B. Fleming, Executive Director

Executive Director Fleming submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Executive Director Fleming stated that the Commission's legislative initiative to amend the Judicial Privacy Act unanimously passed the House. Executive Director Fleming also responded to a question about a meeting with the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund to discuss proposed legislation and a question about the Commission's working relationship with the Department of Innovation & Technology.

B. Claudia P. Ortega, Chief Financial and Human Resources Officer

Chief Financial and Human Resources Officer Ortega submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Chief Financial and Human Resources Officer Ortega discussed the current headcount and the number of remaining vacancies and provided an update on the total spend to date for Fiscal Year 2025.

C. Brian Weinthal, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief Administrative Law Judge Weinthal submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Chief Administrative Law Judge Weinthal reported an increase in pending cases and announced that eleven cases were scheduled for hearing in the upcoming months. Chief Administrative Law Judge Weinthal also advised that the Commission anticipated hiring a new Administrative Law Judge soon.

D. David R. Larson, General Counsel

General Counsel Larson submitted a written report prior to the meeting. General Counsel Larson gave an update on the number of cases pending before the Commissioners, noted the schedule

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for future “Lunch and Learn” continuing legal education presentations, and reminded the Commissioners of the deadline for filing their 2025 Statement of Economic Interest and Supplemental Statement of Economic Interest.

VI. Unfinished Business

None.

VII. New Business

None.

VIII. Public Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m. Motion made by Vice Chair Gordon; seconded by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Larson
General Counsel
Illinois Human Rights Commission