

ILLINOIS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 30, 2020

JANUARY–MARCH 2020

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

A Note from the Executive Director Philip Dalmage

Over the last few weeks, due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak, Governor Pritzker declared a Disaster Proclamation and the President declared a National Emergency. As the global effect of COVID-19 continues to evolve, the Illinois Human Rights Commission (Commission) is committed to the health and safety of the residents of Illinois and the Commission employees working tirelessly to serve our communities. The extent of COVID-19 in our state and across the country has become clearer, and more sobering. As with many public health issues, this one is both highly complicated and rapidly evolving. The Commission is closely monitoring the ever-changing protocols and complying with the Illinois Department of Public Health guidance.

However, to ensure the uninterrupted administration of justice to the residents of Illinois afforded by the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Commission will remain open to continue to service the residents of the State of Illinois. To do our part at the Commission, we have instituted intensified sanitation measures for all Commission staff. Where possible, we are allowing administrative and supervisory staff to work from home to reduce the concentration of people in our locations. We have eliminated community outings that involve gatherings with the public in keeping with social distancing. We are strongly encouraging parties filing with the Commission to file by first-class mail. If you have to file personally at the Commission Office please use our new filing procedures identified on the Commission website (www.illinois.gov/ihrc.)

Please also take note of the following:

- ◇ **Filing by U.S. Mail:** An item properly received by mail shall be deemed to have been filed on the date specified in the applicable proof of mailing. Proof of mailing shall be made by filing with the Commission a certificate of the attorney, or the affidavit of a person who is not an attorney, stating the date and place of mailing and the fact that proper postage was prepaid. The certificate or affidavit shall be filed with the Commission at the same time the item to which it refers is filed. If the certificate or affidavit does not accompany an item filed by mail, an item received by mail shall be deemed to have been filed when postmarked, properly addressed and posted for delivery. [Commission Procedural Rule Section 5300.40\(a\).](#) Service by mail shall be deemed complete four days after mailing of the document, properly addressed and posted for delivery, to the Person to be served. Commission Procedural Rule Section 5300.40(c).
- ◇ **Weekly Request for Review Commissioner Panel Meetings:** Weekly Request for Review Commissioner Panel Meetings have been cancelled through April 17, 2020. Please check the HRC website (www.illinois.gov/ihrc) for details regarding panel meetings beginning the week of April 20, 2020.
- ◇ **Administrative Law Section (ALS) Hearings:** Until further notice all ALS public hearings scheduled through April 17, 2020 have been rescheduled. [If you have questions regarding your appearance at a hearing, please contact the Judges' clerk by calling 312-814-6269.](#)
- ◇ **ALS Motion Call, Settlement Conferences and Status Hearings:** Until further notice ALS Motion Calls, Settlement Conferences and Status Hearings will be conducted telephonically. If you have questions, please contact the Judges' clerk by calling 312-814-6269.
- ◇ **Questions:** For any questions please contact the Commission by calling 312-814-6269 or by email at HRC.NEWS@illinois.gov.

I am asking each of you to be vigilant and exercise caution, so that together we can minimize the possibility of anyone spreading the virus. In these unprecedented times, I ask that we remember to treat each other with respect and dignity.

To that end, I leave you with this famous quote:

How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

~George Washington Carver~

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The Health and Wellness of our Guests and Staff is our First Priority!

Pursuant to Sections 5300.30 (Service of Pleadings) and 5300.40 (Filing) of the Commission's Procedural Rules:

5300.30

- a) Manner of Service. Unless otherwise provided, all motions, orders, notices and other pleadings required to be served under the Act or this Part **shall be served either personally or by first-class mail.**
- b) Proof of Service. Proof of Service shall be filed when service is required. Proof of service shall consist of the statement of the individual making service, specifying the manner and date of such service. If the Person making service is not an attorney, the statement shall be verified.
- c) Effective Date of Service by Mail. Service by mail shall be deemed complete four days after mailing of the document, properly addressed and posted for delivery, to the Person to be served.

5300.40

- a) All documents and pleadings required by the Act or this Part to be filed with the Commission shall be deemed filed when received in the Commission's Chicago or Springfield office. **An item properly received by mail shall be deemed to have been filed on the date specified in the applicable proof of mailing.** Proof of mailing shall be made by filing with the Commission a certificate of the attorney, or the affidavit of a person who is not an attorney, stating the date and place of mailing and the fact that proper postage was prepaid. The certificate or affidavit shall be filed with the Commission at the same time the item to which it refers is filed. **If the certificate or affidavit does not accompany an item filed by mail, an item received by mail shall be deemed to have been filed when post-marked, properly addressed and posted for delivery.**

During the COVID-19 outbreak, in an effort to keep everyone healthy, we strongly encourage parties filing with the Commission to file by first-class mail. If you have to file personally at the Commission Office please use the hand sanitizer provided by the Commission upon arrival, submit all originals, and copies, in the basket clearly marked "Filings," and ensure all documents are date-stamped accordingly. Hand sanitizer and a date-stamp will be provided alongside the basket marked "Filings."

If you have questions regarding your appearance at a hearing, please contact the Judges' Clerk by calling 312-814-6269.

CLE Review:

JANUARY—MARCH 2020

As part of our outreach efforts, in 2020 we offered a series of free Continuing Legal Education seminars for attorneys in Chicago and Springfield. These seminars were incredibly successful and well-attended!

Date	Topic	Presenter
January 13, 2020	“On Account of Sex” An Update on the Equal Rights Amendment, possible passage and its impact on Human Rights in Illinois	Steven A. Andersson, Commissioner Illinois Human Rights Commission
February 4, 2020	Providing Culturally Responsive Legal Services for LGBT Elders	Elisabeth Hieber, Center for Disability & Elder Law

Due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, the Illinois Human Rights Commission is postponing its Lunch & Learn continuing legal education series until further notice. Please visit this website periodically for further updates regarding the Lunch & Learn program.

www.illinois.gov/ihr
click About Us
and click Events



Commissioner Outreach

On January 18, 2020, Commissioner Barbara Barreno-Paschall joined State Representative Joyce Mason at a Coffee and Conversation event in Lake County, Illinois and shared information regarding the Commission with attendees.



Commissioner Barbara Barreno-Paschall speaks with attendees at the Coffee and Conversation event on January 18, 2020.



Commissioner Barbara Barreno-Paschall with State Representative Joyce Mason.

In February, Commissioners welcomed nine law students from four Chicago-area law schools (DePaul University College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent College of Law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, and UIC John Marshall Law School) to visit the Commission as part of the Chicago Bar Association's inaugural Shadow-A-Lawyer Month. Students attended Commission En Banc, Panel, and Committee meetings and met with Commissioners, attorneys with the Office of General Counsel, Administrative Law Judges, and staff regarding their career paths.



From left to right: Vice Chair LeDeidre Turner, law student Brandon Metcalf, ALJ Bill Borah, Deputy General Counsel Les Bovia, law student Donya Pirayeshakbari, General Counsel Kelleye Chube, Commissioner Bob Cantone, Commissioner Barbara Barreno-Paschall.



From left to right: Commissioner Steve Andersson, Vice Chair LeDeidre Turner, law student Alex Raynor, Chief ALJ Mike Evans, law student Reagan Airey, ALJ Bill Borah.



Commissioner Outreach continued...



From left to right: Chair Jim Ferg-Cadima, Assistant General Counsel Evelio Mora, General Counsel Kelleve Chube, Deputy General Counsel Les Bovia, Vice Chair LeDeidre Turner, law student Ashley Mastro, Commissioner Steve Andersson, Commissioner Bob Cantone.



From left to right: Commissioner Steve Andersson, law student Michael Halpin, Commissioner Barbara Barreno-Paschall, law student Oliva Ness, Commissioner Bob Cantone.



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