

Federal Civil Rights Issue Spotting & Enforcement



United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Washington
U.S. Attorney Vanessa R. Waldref
April 22, 2022

U.S. Attorney Expands Civil Rights Efforts in Eastern Washington



THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT *of* JUSTICE

United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Washington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: David M. Herzog

Public Affairs Officer

David.Herzog@usdoj.gov

U.S. Attorney Announces Anti-Hate Crime Initiatives

U.S. Attorney Commits Additional Resources to Civil Rights Cases and Outreach

Launches Web Page for Civil Rights Information and Complaints

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Waldref. “We are increasing our focus on civil rights, including hate crimes, hate incidents, and illegal discrimination, by committing additional Assistant U.S. Attorney and staff resources. We are deploying these increased resources in the area of civil rights - such as vigorously enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Fair Housing Act, as well as veterans and active service members rights, to name just a few,” said U.S. Attorney Waldref.

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“We cannot bring the full force of the people’s power against hate crimes, hate incidents, and other civil rights violations without individuals being given opportunities to come forward. Our office now has a dedicated civil rights email account (USAWAE.CivilRights@usdoj.gov) and phone number ((509) 835-6306), for the public’s use. I want to thank the Gonzaga University Department of Modern Languages and Literature who donated their expertise to this effort and provided Spanish translation services to allow us to reach a wider audience and facilitate access to these accounts for Spanish speakers. These accounts are monitored frequently and will allow members of my civil rights team to quickly review and promptly respond to submissions and inquiries. We will utilize the information provided by the public regarding suspected civil rights violations in our overall efforts to track and analyze any larger trends that need to be addressed and to determine on a case-by-case basis whether we can investigate the matter, refer it to other appropriate entities, or otherwise assist,” said U.S. Attorney Waldref.

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U.S. Attorney's Office Eastern District of Washington
Civil Rights Team

Email: USAWAE.CivilRights@usdoj.gov

Phone: (509) 835-6306

Webpage: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edwa/edwa-civil-rights-webpage>

Goal for Today

- Provide substantive information regarding Federal Civil Rights law, as well as the practical enforcement mechanisms used by the Department Justice, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and relevant federal agencies, in order to empower local attorneys to bring potential civil rights violations to the attention of the federal government in the most effective manner possible thereby better assisting their clients, who may have suffered from a civil rights violation, and generally benefiting the public.

Agenda for April 22, 2022

- 9:00 to 9:30 - **Introduction and Overview of Expanded USAO Civil Rights Enforcement Presence in Eastern Washington**
U.S. Attorney Vanessa R. Waldref
- 9:30 to 10:30 – **Fair Housing Act and Equal Credit Opportunity Act Issue Spotting and Enforcement-** *Asst. U.S. Attorney Tyler Tornabene*
- 10:30 to 10:45 – **Mid-Morning Break**
- 10:45 to 11:45 – **The False Claims Act and Housing-** *Deputy Criminal Chief Dan Fruchter*
- 11:45 to 1:00 – **Lunch** (on your own)

Agenda for April 22, 2022

- 1:00 to 2:00 - **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
Issue Spotting and Enforcement- *Asst. U.S. Attorney Molly Smith*
- 2:00 to 2:15 – **Mid-Afternoon Break**
- 2:15 to 3:15 – **Civil Rights Act Title VII (Employment)**
Issue Spotting and Enforcement - *Special Asst. U.S. Attorney Frieda Zimmerman*
- 3:15 to 3:45 – **Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and Servicemembers Civil Relief Act** - *Asst. U.S. Attorney Joseph Derrig*
- 3:45 to 4:15 – **Civil Rights Act Title II (Public Accommodations) Issue Spotting and Enforcement-** *Asst. U.S. Attorney Tyler Tornabene*
- 4:15 to 4:45 – **Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents-** *Asst. U.S. Attorney Tyler Tornabene*
- 4:45 – **Closing Remarks**