

ARIZONA CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Public Meeting (held via Zoom)

February 13, 2025

Board Members Present

Dr. Heather M. Ross (Chair)
Dr. Enrique Davis Mazlum (Vice Chair)
Vice Mayor Holli I. Ploog
Lydia A. Peirce Linsmeier
Justin Weinstein-Tull

Staff Members Present

Leslie Ross (Executive Director)
Julie Blumenreich (Legal Counsel)
Nate Anbar (Liaison)

Also Present

Joe Branco, Division Chief, Civil Litigation
Division

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Ross called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. The meeting took place via Zoom.

II. Approval of the December 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Ross asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. No corrections were presented. The December 5, 2024 minutes stand approved.

III. Election of Officers

- a. Vice Chairperson Davis Mazlum nominated Chairperson Ross to serve a second year as Chairperson. Holli Ploog seconded the nomination. Chairperson Ross accepted the nomination. Chairperson Ross called for further nominations. No other nominations were made. A vote was held. Chairperson Ross was unanimously elected to serve as ACRAB Chairperson for 2025.
- b. Vice Chairperson Davis Mazlum nominated himself to serve a second year as Vice Chairperson. Chairperson Ross seconded the nomination. Chairperson Ross called for further nominations. No other nominations were made. A vote was held. Vice Chairperson Davis Mazlum was unanimously elected to serve as ACRAB Vice Chairperson for 2025.

IV. Appointment or Reappointment of Committee Members

Chairperson Ross explained that, per the ACRAB Bylaws, committee and subcommittee appointments expire at the Annual Meeting, the first meeting of the calendar year. Chairperson Ross called for any recommended changes to the 2024 appointments. The 2024 subcommittee chairs each approved for all 2024 appointments to their subcommittees to be renewed for 2025. Without objection, Chairperson Ross

reappointed the 2024 subcommittee chairs, vice chairs, and members, of the Hate-Based Crimes and Antisemitic Incidents Subcommittee, Disability Rights Subcommittee, and Housing Subcommittee, to serve in their same roles for 2025.

V. Topics for Discussion and Possible Action

a. Subcommittee updates and changes

1. Legality and Accessibility of Drug Testing Equipment Subcommittee

Chairperson Ross, also serving as Subcommittee Chair, recommended dissolving this Subcommittee. Holli Ploog moved to dissolve the Subcommittee. Vice Chairperson Davis Mazlum seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to dissolve the Legality and Accessibility of Drug Testing Equipment Subcommittee.

2. Hate-based Crimes and Antisemitic Incidents Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Holli Ploog reported that the subcommittee met on February 10, 2025. A second call was made to the Board and to the public to submit names of Jewish organizations and law enforcement agencies or organizations, to participate in the research survey created by the Subcommittee.

3. Housing Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Heather Ross reported that the Subcommittee will look to include a range of potential external members to this Subcommittee. CVs and statements of interest will be obtained and applicants will be reviewed before potential appointment to the Subcommittee. Holli Ploog asked whether the subcommittee will address availability of housing and noted that the City of Sedona issued an emergency declaration on housing.

4. Disability Discrimination in Arizona Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Justin Weinstein-Tull reported that a draft mission for this Subcommittee is being formulated. He and Subcommittee Vice Chair Lydia Linsmeier will be submitting four nominees for review and consideration for appointment as external members to this Subcommittee. The Subcommittee discussed potential deliverables and has not determined a deadline for its report.

b. Discussion of deliverables from the Disability Discrimination in Arizona Subcommittee

Discussion of deliverables was included in the Subcommittee update given under subsection V(a)(4).

c. ACRA meeting and subcommittee meeting schedule

The Board scheduled a Zoom meeting on March 6, 2025 at 11:00 am to address potential appointments to subcommittees and to discuss possible ACRAB response to current federal Executive Orders or administrative changes with relation to civil rights in Arizona.

The Board confirmed its previously scheduled regular meeting to be held April 3, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. at the Office of the Attorney General, with a hybrid Zoom option.

VI. Division Report

Executive Director and Section Chief, Leslie Ross, delivered a Division report. She gave an overview of the Division's handling of cases in investigation and cases currently in litigation.

Civil Litigation Division Chief Joe Branco addressed the Board and highlighted activities of the Arizona Attorneys General's Office, referencing recent press releases.

Vice Chairperson Davis Mazlum shared that individuals, businesses, and families would like guidance on their rights regarding immigration issues and immigration law enforcement.

The Board discussed a future agenda item regarding federal Executive Orders or administrative changes with relation to civil rights in Arizona.

VII. Call to the Public

No comments were made.

VIII. Call to the Board/Current Events

No announcements were given. The next ACRAAB meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom, followed by an in-person ACRAAB meeting on April 3, 2025 at 12:30 p.m., with a Zoom option.

IX. Adjournment

Holli Ploog moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairperson Davis-Mazlum seconded the motion. The members unanimously passed the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.