

CIVIL RIGHTS OF STUDENTS AND LGBT INDIVIDUALS

Several federal statutes protect students in elementary and secondary schools as well as public



colleges and universities. The U.S. Attorney may investigate allegations of discrimination and harassment of students based on race, sex, religion, and disability. The protection can extend to gender or sex stereotypes. The Department of Justice has intervened in lawsuits brought on behalf of gay students who do not conform to gender stereotypes and have been subject to verbal or physical harassment.

***“A right is not what someone gives you;
it’s what no one can take from you.”***

-Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark

SERVICE MEMBERS’ RIGHTS



The U.S. Attorney’s Office enforces several statutes that protect the civilian employment rights of servicemembers, as well as provisions that protect military personnel from judicial and administrative proceedings. These statutes provide protection in areas such as housing, credit, and taxes while military personnel are on active duty.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



As to civil rights, the mission of DOJ is to enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

- Assistant Attorney General
for Civil Rights Tom Perez

FILING A COMPLAINT

If you believe you have been discriminated against, or that your civil rights have been violated, you may—



- File a written complaint with the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Letters may be sent to the address below, Attn: Civil Rights Unit
- Find helpful information on our website, www.usdoj.gov/usao/mn

The United States Attorney’s Office
District of Minnesota
600 United States Courthouse
300 South Fourth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Phone: (612) 664-5600
Fax: (612) 664-5787

Civil Rights Enforcement



United States Attorney’s Office
District of Minnesota

CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT



The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota has established a Civil Rights Unit to enforce civilly the Civil Rights Act as well as federal statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, disability, and other protected characteristics. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Minnesota has successfully litigated and resolved cases in a variety of contexts, including fair housing, access to public accommodations, and law enforcement misconduct.

STATUTES ENFORCED

The Civil Rights Unit, along with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, has jurisdiction to bring cases under a number of federal statutes, including—

- The Fair Housing Act
- The Americans with Disabilities Act
- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- The Equal Credit Opportunity Act
- The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act
- The Uniformed Servicemembers Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

CIVIL RIGHTS CLINIC

Each semester, University of Minnesota law students receive academic credit for working on civil rights enforcement cases in the U.S. Attorney's Office. Students enrolled in the Civil Rights Enforcement Clinic work closely with Assistant U.S. Attorneys on investigation tactics, evidence gathering, pleading drafting, deposition preparation, document review, legal research, litigation strategy, and settlement negotiations.



"We must not rest until the day when justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

FAIR HOUSING



The Federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discriminatory housing practices based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, and familial status. The U.S. Attorney and Department of Justice ("DOJ") are authorized to bring a lawsuit if they find a pattern or practice of unlawful conduct, or if the matter raises an issue of public importance. DOJ may also litigate cases on behalf of private citizens who elect such action upon a finding of reasonable cause by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Complaints may be filed by going to www.hud.gov.

DISABILITY RIGHTS

The Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in many contexts, including state and local government activities, places of public accommodation, transportation, and telecommunications. DOJ is authorized to investigate certain complaints, conduct compliance reviews to ensure accessibility, initiate and intervene in litigation, and provide technical assistance to businesses, governments, and the general public to promote compliance with the ADA.



President Barack Obama signed an executive order to increase Federal employment of individuals with disabilities on the 20th anniversary of enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act ("RLUIPA") protects the religious exercise of religious assemblies and institutions in the context of local zoning and land use laws. It also protects the religious exercise of inmates and other persons confined to certain institutions. The U.S. Attorney's Office, in conjunction with DOJ, investigates violations of RLUIPA.