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News from the Southern University Law Center

July 14, 2010
For immediate release

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Two SULC Professors Appointed to Civil Rights Advisory Committee

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has appointed SULC law faculty members Michelle Ghetti and Nadia Nedzel among the 11-member Louisiana State Advisory Committee (SAC) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, effective June 3.

The Commission is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Congress directed the Commission to establish advisory committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to study issues and forward advisory reports to the commission on matters within the agency's jurisdiction that reflect the views of the majority of SAC members producing the report.

The Louisiana SAC serves to advise the commission on civil rights concerning legal developments in Louisiana constituting a denial of equal protection of the laws under the U.S. Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap, or in the administration of justice. Major activities of the advisory committee include fact-finding meetings, information conferences, and investigative studies on both local and national civil rights issues.

“The commission recently investigated the case of the Louisiana justice of the

peace who refused to perform mixed race marriages and is currently investigating the alleged Black Panther Voting Rights Act violations,” Ghetti noted.

Ghetti, who is the Louisiana Outside Counsel Endowed Professor of Law, has focused her 20 year career in academia in four main areas: criminal practice, freedom of religion, legal ethics, and domestic violence. In addition to teaching and writing, she has served on numerous policy making committees, boards, and task forces, is a frequent speaker at local and national conferences, and has written and testified about numerous pieces of legislation.

Professor Nedzel’s scholarly interests include international and comparative commercial law, policy, and jurisprudence, specifically the interrelationship among market economy, technology, the rule of law, and personal autonomy. She is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge in England. She is the author of a book on legal writing for international graduate students and a chapter in a book on immigration legal issues.

Individual members of the advisory committee are recommended by the regional director of their area for a two-year term, approved by the staff director, and voted upon at a regular meeting of the commissioners.