Table of Contents

History
Mission
New York State Human Rights Law: The Process
Amendments to the Law
Operations
Technology
Statistics
Finance
Federal Programs
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Jurisdictions
  Employment
  Housing
  Public Accommodation
  Education
  Credit
Bases of Discrimination
  Race & Color
  Creed
  National Origin
  Sexual Orientation
  Military Status
  Age
  Sex
  Marital Status
  Disability
  Familial Status
  Retaliation
  Arrest or Conviction Record
  Genetic Predisposition or Carrier Status
Training
Prevention and Outreach
Internships
Councils & Commissions
Specialized Units
  Office of Sexual Harassment Issues
  Office of AIDS Discrimination Issues
Selected Orders
Court Decisions
DHR’s 60th Anniversary Celebration
Staff

www.dhr.state.ny.us
HISTORY

Upon the recommendations of the State Temporary Committee Against Discrimination, Governor Thomas E. Dewey signed the Ives-Quinn Anti-Discrimination Bill, making New York the first state to enact legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment. In doing so, New York became the first state to establish a permanent commission to enforce such legislation with the inception of the State Commission Against Discrimination (SCAD).

In 1968, the Ives-Quinn Anti-Discrimination Law was renamed the Human Rights Law and the State Commission Against Discrimination was renamed the New York State Division of Human Rights. The law was expanded over the years to include new jurisdictions and protections. Today, it remains one of the most comprehensive laws in the nation.

MISSION

The Division of Human Rights ensures equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodation, education and credit. The Division enforces the Human Rights Law, seeking to:

- Promote human rights awareness
- Prevent and eliminate discrimination
- Investigate and resolve complaints of illegal discrimination fairly; and
- Develop human rights legislation and policy for the state

NEW YORK STATE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

The Process

If an individual feels he or she has been the victim of an illegal act of discrimination he or she may file a complaint within one year of the date of the alleged violation with the Division. The complainant communicates with the investigator to give a summary of the alleged unlawful discrimination including:
• the dates on which the alleged discriminatory act occurred;
• a list of the names, titles, business addresses, and telephone numbers;
• of persons charged with committing unlawful discrimination;
• names of witnesses, if any;
• any supporting documentation such as memos, notices, leases, and comparative data; and
• details of any financial and/or emotional losses suffered as a result of the alleged unlawful discrimination.

If the complaint falls within the Division's jurisdiction, the investigator assists an individual in filing a formal complaint with the help of the Case Tracking System. The complaint is then mailed to the individual or organization charged with committing the discriminatory act and an investigation is conducted to determine whether discrimination has occurred.

**Conciliation**

The Division emphasizes conciliation whenever possible, since it offers all parties the possibility of a speedy and mutually beneficial resolution. The conciliation process is negotiated by the investigator, who identifies the main issues of the complaint, determines where the complainant and respondent agree and disagree, identifies what may be offered and what may be accepted, and develops an appropriate strategy for resolving the dispute.

If the complaint is not resolved at the conciliation level, or if one or both of the parties are not interested in attempting conciliation, the investigator begins a further investigation of the facts, which may include, but is not limited to: two party conferences, witness interviews, site visits, interrogatories and document requests. As the investigation proceeds, the investigator continues to attempt to settle the case through conciliation efforts. The complainant is free to withdraw the complaint or proceed to court during this process.

**Determination**

Depending upon the information gathered during the investigation, the Regional Director reviews the investigator's work and a determination of Probable Cause (PC), or No Probable Cause (NPC), to believe that illegal discrimination has taken place is issued. If the determination is no probable cause, the complaint is dismissed, but the complainant has the right to appeal the determination to the State Supreme Court within 60 days.
Pre-hearing Conference

If a probable cause determination is issued, the complainant and respondent meet with an Administrative Law Judge in a pre-hearing conference to once again attempt to conciliate the complaint. If this effort fails, the complaint is scheduled for a formal public hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, other than the one with whom the pre-hearing conference was held.

Public Hearing

If further attempts at conciliation fail, the Division convene a public hearing presided over by an Administrative Law Judge. The Complainant and the Respondent, or their representatives present their respective cases at the hearing. When appropriate, witnesses are called upon to give testimony. Often a conciliation agreement is reached during the course of a hearing, and an Order After Stipulation is issued by the Commissioner, effectively concluding the proceeding.

Recommended Order

If a conciliation agreement is not reached before a hearing concludes, the Administrative Law Judge will prepare a recommended order either supporting the allegations of illegal discrimination or dismissing them. The order will identify what remedy is required for the complainant to be "made whole", as if the act of discrimination had not occurred. This may include employment, promotion, raise, back pay, letter of reference, housing credit, formal apology, a change in the Respondent’s policies and/or cash award in compensation for humiliation, suffering and mental anguish. Under the Human Rights Law punitive damages can be awarded in all cases with the exception of housing. The complainant and respondent may review and comment on the recommended order.

Commissioner's Order after Hearing

The Commissioner reviews the recommended order. If the Commissioner finds that the allegations are not supported by the evidence, the Commissioner dismisses the case. If the Commissioner finds that the allegations are supported by the evidence, the respondent is ordered to cease and desist from the discriminatory practice and to take appropriate action to redress the act of discrimination. Both the complainant and respondent can appeal the Commissioner's Order within 60 days to the State Supreme Court which will transfer the case to its Appellate Division for review.
Compliance Investigation

When the respondent is not in compliance with the Commissioner's Order, the Division takes appropriate action to ensure compliance.

Recommended Order

If a conciliation agreement is not reached before a hearing concludes, the Administrative Law Judge will prepare a recommended order either supporting the allegations of illegal discrimination or dismissing them. The order will identify what remedy is required for the complainant to be "made

MOST RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Sexual Orientation

On December 17, 2002, the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act ("SONDA") became law. SONDA amended the Human Rights Law to include sexual orientation as a protected class in the areas covered by the Law, including employment, housing, public accommodation, credit and education. SONDA became effective on January 16, 2003.

Sexual orientation is defined by SONDA as "heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality or asexuality, whether actual or perceived." The definition further provides that "nothing contained herein shall be construed to protect conduct otherwise proscribed by law." Human Rights Law section 292.27.

SONDA does not amend section 296.11 of the Human Rights Law, which provides that “nothing in this section shall be construed to bar any religious or denominational institution or organization, or any organization organized for charitable or educational purposes, which is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization, from limiting employment or sales or rental of housing accommodations or admission or giving preference to persons of the same religion or denomination or from taking such action as is calculated by such organization to promote the religious principles for which it is established or maintained."
Religious Observance

Section 296.10 of the Human Rights Law has been amended to provide that religious practices, as well as religious observances, are covered under the section. The amendment was effective November 16, 2002.

The statute now provides that it is an unlawful discriminatory practice for an employer "to impose upon a person as a condition of obtaining or retaining employment, including opportunities for promotion, advancement or transfers, any terms or conditions that would require such person to violate or forego a sincerely held practice of his or her religion, including but not limited to the observance of any particular day or days or any portion thereof as a Sabbath or other holy day in accordance with the requirements of his or her religion, unless, after engaging in a bona fide effort, the employer demonstrates that it is unable to reasonably accommodate the employee's or prospective employee's sincerely held religious observance or practice without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business."

"Undue hardship" is defined in the amendment as meaning "an accommodation requiring significant expense or difficulty (including a significant interference with the safe or efficient operation of the workplace or a violation of a bona fide seniority system)." Among the factors to be considered are identifiable costs (including the costs of loss of productivity and hiring or transferring employees, in relation to the size and operating cost of the employer), the number of individuals involved and specific considerations for employers of multiple facilities relative to whether the geographic separateness and the relationship of the facilities will make the accommodation more difficult or expensive. There is a further provision that “an accommodation shall be considered to constitute an undue hardship if it will result in the inability of an employee to perform the essential functions of the position in which he or she is employed.”

The amendment makes clear that if an employee is working a shift with premium wages or benefits only as an accommodation to religious requirements, that employee will not be entitled to such wages or benefits.

Military Status

Military status was added to the Human Rights Law as a protected class on
July 1, 2003. Military status was defined in section 292.28 of the Human Rights Law as meaning "a person's participation in the military service of the United States or the military service of the state, including but not limited to, the armed forces of the United States, the army national guard, the air national guard, the New York naval militia, the New York guard, and such additional forces as may be created by the federal or state government as authorized by law. The terms "reserve armed forces" and "organized militia of the state" are also defined by the amendment, in sections 292.29 and 292.30, respectively of the Human Rights Law.

Discrimination on the basis of military status is prohibited in all areas covered by the Human Rights Law, including employment, housing, public accommodation, credit and education.

**OPERATIONS**

As part of the Executive Department, The Division of Human Rights is organized into several program areas. The agency is headed by the Commissioner, with an executive staff consisting of an Executive Deputy Commissioner, Chief Administrative Law Judge, General Counsel, and Deputy Commissioner for Regional Affairs, Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs, Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs, Deputy Commissioner for Administration, Executive Assistant, Special Assistant, and Directors of Regional Offices and various other departmental units. The Division has approximately 200 employees.

The Bureau of Regional Affairs, the largest of the agency's units, is responsible for the receipt and initial investigation of complaints that are filed in offices throughout the State. Bureau investigators use fact-finding conferences, interrogatories, personal interviews and on-site visits to collect information concerning allegations of illegal discrimination. Investigators strive to improve conditions and practices in the workplace, and to help the parties reach a satisfactory resolution without having to go to a public hearing.

The Legal Department serves as in-house counsel to the Commissioner. Legal staff advises regional investigators on the legality of issues arising from complex investigations, attempts conciliation after a Probable Cause finding, and prosecutes cases in public hearings when a conciliation effort fails. Division attorneys also represent the Division in court, and the Legal Bureau prepares
legislative proposals to advance the human rights agenda for the State. The Division's Freedom of Information Officer, Appeals, and Compliance Unit are also located in the Legal Bureau.

The Hearing Unit, or Office of Administrative Law Judges, is entrusted with the task of conducting public hearings on Probable Cause cases. Overseen by the Chief Administrative Law Judge, the unit's logistics are coordinated by the Calendar Unit, for hearings throughout the State. The Hearing Unit is kept separate from the rest of the operating units of the Division, ensuring due process and impartiality to both parties to a complaint.

The Bureau of Administration is responsible for all personnel, budget, and finance operations. Management Information Systems is a crucial component of the Division's ability to meet the challenges of the future.

The Public Information Office presents the agency's image and provides information to the media and to the general public with respect to Division operations. This unit is also responsible for the creation and revision of agency publications for public distribution.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology plays an important role in case-processing at the Division. The Division’s Case Management System (CMS), was upgraded in 2004 transforming the Division’s technology from a DOS-based environment to a Windows environment. The system was designed to provide easy access to timely case information, service multiple users at the Division, and seamlessly interfaces with Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook applications. CMS has greatly improved the quality of case processing by using advanced technology to process discrimination complaints more efficiently.

STATISTICS
NYS Division of Human Rights
Active Caseload as of March 31

NYS Division of Human Rights
Jurisdiction of Complaints Filed FY05-06

Percentages do not equal 100% because of rounding errors
NYS Division of Human Rights
Bases Cited in Complaints Filed FY05-06

Some complaints allege more than one basis; therefore the total percentage of bases cited will be more than 100%.

NYS Division of Human Rights
Intake & Case Resolution

NYS Division of Human Rights
Intake & Case Resolution
FINANCE

For Fiscal Year 2005-2006, the Division received an allocation of $14,110,000 in state funding, and another $100,000 sub-allocation from the New York State Department of Health to be used for the Office of AIDS Discrimination Issues (OADI). During this same reporting period, the Division’s existing federal case processing contracts with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development continued to generate additional revenues in excess of $3 million.

Source: NYS DHR Annual Statistical Summaries
FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The Bureau of Federal Programs is responsible for ensuring the appropriate use of federal contract funds that are issued to the New York State Division of Human Rights.

HUD CONTRACT

In 1999, the Division entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which is now in its 7th year. Through this agreement and over the last seven years, the Division has generated more than $9,224,499 in contract revenue. These funds are for complaint processing, training, administrative costs and special enforcement projects. Since October 1, 2000 over 3,391 cases have been dual-filed with the Division and $3,856,482 has been obtained in monetary relief for complainants through settlements and other enforcements efforts. During federal Fiscal Year 2005, the Division completed 514 dual-filed housing cases.

EEOC

In the interest of promoting shared goals and similar jurisdictions, the Division maintains an on-going work-sharing agreement with the EEOC in order to minimize the duplication of efforts. Each year, the Division receives substantial contractual funding from the EEOC for the processing and closing of dual-filed employment complaints under Title VII, ADEA and ADA.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Considering that a substantial amount of time and effort is required to thoroughly investigate every allegation of discrimination, Alternative Dispute Resolution often provides another effective and viable means of resolving complaints that are brought before the Division.

Conciliation and Mediation also continue to play a vital role in deterring future acts of discrimination. In many negotiated settlements, Respondents are held to agreements that require or adopt new policies against discrimination. In addition, Respondents may also be required to implement employee training
programs that are geared toward eliminating discriminatory practices.

The Division continues to develop and expand its mediation program to further advance this initiative.

**JURISDICTIONS**

**Employment**

The New York State Human Rights Law protects employees against discrimination in hiring, firing, and wages, and in terms, conditions, and privileges of employment, including apprentice training programs.

The Law protects individuals from discrimination during interviews for employment, promotion, or transfer. Interview inquiries should be concerned only with a person's ability to do his or her job. Employers should not ask questions such as: How old are you? Have you ever been arrested? Are you now pregnant or planning to have a family in the future? Do you have a disability? Have you ever been treated for any of the following diseases? Are you married, single, or divorced? What is the name and occupation of your spouse?

Unlawful discrimination occurs when a Latino in middle management is denied a promotion after ten years of exemplary service because she has a slight accent, when a single mother is forced to leave her job—without unemployment or health benefits—due to sexual harassment, or when a blind college graduate cannot find a job commensurate with his skills and abilities. Within New York State, employment agencies, labor organizations, joint labor management boards, all agencies of state and local governments, and employers of four or more individuals must comply with the Human Rights Law.

**Housing**

The Human Rights Law guarantees all New York residents equal opportunity to purchase, rent, or lease housing, land, or commercial space. Sellers, owners, landlords, real estate brokers and salespeople cannot deny a person a housing accommodation or discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of the sale, rental, or lease of housing, or in the furnishing of facilities or services in connection therewith. Racial steering, block busting, and redlining are also illegal.

When a person is turned down by a cooperative board because of age; when a real estate broker refuses to show a house to an Asian couple because of
their race or national origin, or when a landlord advertises an apartment as "no children allowed," unlawful discrimination has taken place.

Public Accommodation

Places of public accommodation include hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, doctors' and dentists' offices, hotels, restaurants, public transportation, amusement parks, sports facilities, garages, entertainment and cleaning establishments, and retail and wholesale stores. A doctor or dentist may not refuse to treat a patient because of the patient's HIV/AIDS status. Similarly, a taxi may not refuse a fare because of a person's race or other covered category.

Education

Non-sectarian, tax-exempt educational institutions cannot deny the use of their facilities to any person otherwise qualified.

Credit

Banks, trust companies, savings and loan associations, foreign banking institutions, credit unions, insurance agencies, credit card issuers, mortgage companies, mortgage brokers, wholesale and retail merchants, and any person or institution that extends or arranges for extensions of credit cannot discriminate against applicants. Unlawful discrimination occurs when a person is denied a mortgage due to national origin; is offered different credit terms or conditions due to marital status; or is subject to income discounting due to a disability.

BASES OF DISCRIMINATION

Race & Color

Race and color pertains to a person's racial background or skin color.

Creed

Creed pertains to a person’s religious beliefs. The wearing of religious garb and the observance of religious holidays and practices are protected under the Human Rights Law.

National Origin

National origin pertains to one's national group and includes one's
ancestry.

Sexual Orientation

Discriminating against an individual based on sexual orientation is prohibited under the New York State Human Rights Law in all areas covered by the Human Rights Law, including public accommodation, housing, educational institutions and credit transactions. The law defines sexual orientation as "heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality or asexuality, whether actual or perceived".

Military Status

A person may not be discriminated against based on his/her military status under the Human Rights Law in all covered areas, including employment, housing, public accommodation, educational institutions and credit transactions. The law defines military status as a person's participation in the military service of the United States or the military service of the State including The Armed Forces of the United States, The Army National Guard, The Air National Guard, The New York Naval Militia, The New York Guard, and other forces as may be created by federal or state government as authorized by law.

Age

The Human Rights Law protects persons age 18 or older. A person cannot be discriminated against on the basis of his or her age in all covered jurisdictions, except public accommodation. Employees cannot be forced to retire except for very limited situations relative to tenured professors and certain highly paid executives.

Sex

Discrimination on the basis of sex includes unequal treatment in the workplace, sexual harassment, and pregnancy discrimination. Under the Human Rights Law, men and women are entitled to equal pay, benefits, working conditions, and seniority rights; men and women are entitled to be free from unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature, and a hostile work environment; and pregnant women are guaranteed the right to work, and to enjoy the same medical, vacation and disability leave policies as non-pregnant co-workers.

Marital Status
A person may not be discriminated against on the basis of whether he or she is married, divorced, single, separated or widowed.

Disability

A disability is a physical, mental, or medical impairment resulting from anatomical, physiological, or neurological conditions that prevent the exercise of a normal bodily function or is demonstrable by clinical or laboratory diagnostics techniques.

If a person has a record of a disability or is perceived by others to have a disability, whether or not that person does, he or she is also protected under the Human Rights Law. Under the jurisdiction of employment, a person is protected when the disability does not interfere with the ability to reasonably perform job duties. It is illegal to discriminate against people who have, are perceived to have, or perceived to be at risk for HIV/AIDS. The definition of disability under New York State's Human Rights Law is much more comprehensive and includes disabilities that are not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Familial Status

Discrimination in the rental, purchase, or lease of housing on the basis of familial status is prohibited. Familial status means any person who is pregnant or has a child or is in the process of securing legal custody of any individual under the age of 18: or one or more individuals under the age of eighteen, living with a parent, a legal guardian, or a designee of a parent.

Retaliation

Each time a person makes a charge of discrimination, whether internally, with the Division, or with a third party, that person runs the risk of being retaliated against. Under the Human Rights Law, complainants and their witnesses are protected against retaliation.

Arrest or Conviction Record

It is unlawful for any person, agency, bureau, corporation or association, including the State and any political subdivision thereof, to deny employment because of an individual's conviction record, where such denial is in violation of Article 23-a of the Correction Law. A potential employer cannot make any inquiry about an arrest record, but can inquire if a potential employee has been convicted of a crime.
Genetic Predisposition or Carrier Status

Employment discrimination on the basis of Genetic Predisposition or Carrier Status is prohibited by the Human Rights Law. The legislature added this protection to the law in 1996.

TRAINING

The Division of Human Rights administers on-going training programs, both within the agency and externally for public entities that seek training and education about the Human Rights Law. All training initiatives fall under the purview of the Division's Training Office, which is responsible for the planning and implementation of a variety of programs.

The Training Office also serves to ensure that Division staff is appropriately advised of any possible amendments to the law; particularly those having an impact on case processing functions; and that Division employees receive instructional updates in computer technology.

The Training Office also collaborates with federal agencies such as the EEOC in the implementation and development of training modules that have been used by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) for its Regional Training Taskforce.

PREVENTION & OUTREACH

The Division of Human Rights maintains an extensive prevention and outreach program in furtherance of its mission to promote and expand human rights awareness throughout the State. The agency currently offers numerous educational and instructional programs that are designed to foster a better understanding of the Human Rights Law. By promoting an understanding of our law, many unnecessary acts of discrimination can be promptly avoided.

Several agency departments are actively involved in administering educational outreach programs throughout the State. The Division's Office of Sexual Harassment Issues (OSHI) for example, hosts training seminars for employers that focus exclusively on the issue of sexual harassment prevention. The agency's Training Office provides public service workshops such as "Discrimination in the Workplace", which deals with discrimination on the job and its Office of AIDS Discrimination Issues (OADI) offers seminars pertaining to HIV/AIDS discrimination. Finally, the agency's Public Information Office offers numerous publications that define the Human Rights
Law and discrimination in all its forms.

The Division's educational outreach programs are available to the public free of charge. For more information, please visit our website @ www.dhr.state.ny.us or contact the Division's Training Office for assistance.

**INTERNSHIPS**

The Division of Human Rights established an internship program that is among one of the finest in the country. It continues to recruit candidates from colleges and Law schools throughout the state who, once selected, are trained by the Division to assist in the area of case processing.

The agency's Internship Program is comprised of two levels; the traditional summer program for college and law school students and the program for high school students. Candidates at the college level serve internships at the Division in departmental areas such as: Legal, Finance and/or the Hearing Unit. The program for High School students assigns candidates to work on a variety of special projects at the Division's Administrative Headquarters located in the Bronx.

In recent years, the program for interns has been expanded to include a special collaboration with Abilities, Inc. This program enables disabled individuals to obtain valuable work experience which may be useful in furthering their career goals. Additional information about the Division's Internship program is available on line at: www.dhr.state.ny.us
COUNCILS AND COMMISSIONS

Local Human Rights Commissions and Advisory Councils are groups that aid the Division in its mission to promote and expand human rights awareness throughout the State. These organizations continue to work in tandem with the Division to ensure that every New Yorker is assured “the right to lead a full and productive life … free from the injustice of illegal discrimination.”

The Division wishes to thank all of its Local Human Rights Commissions and Advisory Councils for their unrelenting support and assistance in the continuing fight against discrimination.

SPECIALIZED UNITS

Office of Sexual Harassment Issues

The Division maintains an Office of Sexual Harassment Issues (OSHI) to advocate Governor Pataki’s strong stand on issues of sexual harassment in New York State. This unit focuses on instances of sexual harassment in employment, landlord tenant relationships and in places of public accommodation. In addition to investigation and resolving sexual harassment complaints, OSHI staff provides specialized training in the area of sexual harassment and serve as an informational resource for employers, employees and the general public. This office administers sexual harassment prevention seminars and assists others in understanding their rights under the law.

Office of AIDS Discrimination Issues

The Division also maintains the Office of AIDS Discrimination Issues (OADI) which deals specifically with complaints based on HIV infection or AIDS. Individuals perceived to have AIDS are also protected under the Human Rights Law. Complainants with HIV/AIDS often face life threatening situations that are only exacerbated by discriminatory acts that are often based on ignorance and fear. AIDS complaints are prioritized and expedited with an emphasis on resolution at the earliest possible point. This can be critical to individuals who face life threatening health problems.
SELECTED ORDERS AFTER HEARING SUSTAINING COMPLAINT

COURT DECISIONS OF NOTE HEARING SUSTAINING COMPLAINT
The New York State Division of Human Rights commemorated its Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration of the Human Rights Law on October 27, 2005 at the New York City Surrogate Court, at 31 Chambers Street in lower Manhattan.

Approximately, 200 guests attended the historic 2-hour event which paid tribute to the history and longevity of the nation’s first Human Rights Law. The celebration afforded the Division an opportunity to tout its most recent achievements and at the same time, reaffirm the agency’s standing as the nation’s leading agency in human rights enforcement.

Following a lively reception with musical accompaniment by The Juliard Striking Ensemble, Division of Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Cheney Donaldson presented awards to some of New York’s most prominent leaders in the fields of human and civil rights. Executive Deputy Commissioner Edward Friedland updated the guests on the state of the Division, while Professor Joseph Gordon Hylton of Marquette University gave the keynote address.

Guest speakers also included Spencer E. Lewis, Eastern Regional Director of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Commissioners Donaldson and Friedland also presented an Award of Excellence to Judith P. Vladeck, Esq, a world-renowned champion of women’s rights in the workplace. The Division’s Advocate Award went to State Senator John J. Flanagan, the Honorable Kenneth Thompson, Esq, and the United Spinal Association. In concluding the ceremony, the Division presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to the Honorable Denny Chin for his outstanding contribution in the human rights arena.
From left to right: Michelle Cheney Donaldson, Judith P. Vladeck, and Edward Friedland

From left to right: Hon. Denny Chin, Bruce Vladek, Spencer Lewis, and Joe Alvarado

From left to right: Mr. Blenderman, Edward Friedland, and Gina Marie Lopez Summa

From left to right: Shelly Wong, and Stephanie Baptiste, Spencer Lewis, Nancy Boyd, Gina Marie Lopez Summa, Joe Alvarado, Edward Friedland, and Michelle Cheney Donaldson

From left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Friedland, Mrs. Bould, a Guest, Nancy Boyd, Spencer Lewis, Joe Alvarado, and Deborah May.
STAFF

Headquarters

New York State Division of Human Rights
One Fordham Plaza Bronx, New York 10458
Telephone: (718) 741-8400

Michelle Cheney Donaldson, Commissioner
Edward A. Friedland, Executive Deputy Commissioner
Michele Heitzner, Deputy Commissioner for Regional Affairs
Edward A. Watkins, Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs
Denise L. Ellison, Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs
Martha Furlong, Deputy Commissioner for Administration
Gina M Lopez-Summa, General Counsel
Migdalia Pares, Chief Administrative Law Judge
Tammy Collins, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
Darryl Fox, Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Wilson Ortiz, Director, Special Projects
Natasha Saxton, Director, HUD Contract Unit
Lawrence Wizman, Director, Organizational Development
Sara Toll East, Director, Appeals & Litigation
Caroline Downey, Director, Legislation and Opinions
Albert Kostelny, Director, Prosecution Section
Ali Jafri, Director, Affirmative Action
Trevor Usher, Director, Calendar Unit
Barbara Buoncristiano, Director, Compliance Review
Judith Butcher, Director, EEOC Contract
Stephen Lopez, Acting Director, Information Technology
Wyletta Barbee, Director, Training

Regional Offices

Albany

New York State Division of Human Rights
Agency Building 2, 18th Floor
Empire State Plaza. P.O. Box 20491
Albany, New York 12220
Telephone: (518) 474 – 2705
Rey Torres, Regional Director

Binghamton

New York State Division of Human Rights
44 Hawley Street, Room 603
Binghamton, New York 13901
Telephone: (607) 721-8467
Rey Torres, Director, Binghamton

Brooklyn

New York State Division of Human Rights
55 Hanson Place, Room 304
Brooklyn, New York 11217
Telephone: (718) 722-2856
Joseph Kaufman, Regional Director, Brooklyn

Buffalo

New York State Division of Human Rights
The Walter J. Mahoney State Office Building
65 Court Street, Suite 506
Buffalo, New York 14202
Telephone: (716) 847-7632
William Marks, Regional Director, Buffalo

Lower Manhattan

New York State Division of Human Rights
20 Exchange Place, Second Floor
New York, New York 10005
Telephone: (212) 480-2522
Leon DiMaya, Regional Director, Lower Manhattan

Upper Manhattan

New York State Division of Human Rights
Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building
163 West 125th Street, 4th Floor
New York, New York 10027
Telephone: (212) 961-8650
Wilson Ortiz, Regional Director, Upper Manhattan

Nassau

New York State Division of Human Rights
175 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, New York 11550
Telephone: (516) 538-1360
Angel Rivera, Regional Director, Nassau County

Suffolk

New York State Division of Human Rights
State Office Building, Suite 3A-15
Veterans Memorial Highway
Hauppauge, New York 11787
Telephone: (631) 952-6434
Angel Rivera, Regional Director, Suffolk County

Rochester

New York State Division of Human Rights
One Monroe Square, 259 Monroe Avenue, 3rd Floor
Rochester, New York 14607
Telephone: (585) 238-8250
Forrest Cummings Jr., Regional Director, Rochester (Deceased-Vacant))

Syracuse

New York State Division of Human Rights
333 E. Washington Street, Room 443
Syracuse, New York 13202
Telephone No (315) 428-4633
Forrest Cummings Jr., Regional Director, Syracuse (Deceased-Vacant)

Peekskill

New York State Division of Human Rights
8 John Walsh Blvd., Suite 204
Peekskill, New York 10566
Telephone: (914) 788-8050
Margaret Gormley-King, Regional Director, Peekskill

Office of Sexual Harassment

New York State Division of Human Rights
Office of Sexual Harassment Issues
55 Hanson Place, Room 900
Brooklyn, New York 11217
Telephone: (718) 722-2060
Joyce Yearwood-Drury, Director, Office of Sexual Harassment Issues

Office of AIDS Discrimination
New York State Division of Human Rights
Office of AIDS Discrimination Issues
20 Exchange Place, Second Floor
New York, New York 10005
Telephone: (212) 480-2522
Stephen Lopez, Director, Office of AIDS Discrimination Issues

Office of Case Review and Special Projects
New York State Division of Human Rights
Office of Case Review and Special Projects
One Fordham Plaza
Bronx, New York 10458
Telephone: (718) 741-8334
Sallie Clark, Director, Case Review

For more information, please contact the Division’s Public Information Office. For copies of this publication in large print for the visually impaired, please call: (718) 741-8400.

Visit our website @
www.dhr.state.ny.us

LEADERSHIP

New York State Commission Against Discrimination

1945  Henry C. Turner  Chairman
      Charles Garside  Chairman
      Edward W. Edwards  Chairman
      Ward Arbury  Chairman

1955  Charles Abrams  Chairman

1959  Elmer A. Carter  Chairman

1961  Ogden Reid  Chairman

New York State Commission for Human Rights

1962  George Fowler  Chairman
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Robert J. Mangum</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Jack M. Sable</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Werner Kramarsky</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Robert Shaw</td>
<td>Acting Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>H. Carl McCall</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Douglas H. White</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Margarita Rosa</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Edward Mercado</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Jerome H. Blue</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Evonne W. Jennings Tolbert</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Michelle Cheney Donaldson</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**New York State Division of Human Rights**

**General Counsels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Henry Spitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Beverly Gross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Ann Thatcher Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Roberto Albertorio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Margarita Rosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Lawrence Kunin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Gina M. Lopez</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>