

LAW & JUSTICE

Job Bias Charges at Five Year High

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission received 82,792 discrimination-charge filings during the last fiscal year in the private sector, the highest volume of incoming charges since 2002.

The complaints were also nine percent higher than a year earlier, the largest annual increase since the early 1990s, the federal agency reported last week.

The data, available online at EEOC.gov, also shows that the EEOC recovered \$345 million in monetary relief for job-bias victims.

"Corporate America needs to do a better job of proactively preventing discrimination and addressing complaints promptly

and effectively," said Commission Chair Naomi C. Earp. "To ensure that equality of opportunity becomes a reality in the 21st-century workplace, employers need to place a premium on fostering inclusive and discrimination-free work environments for all individuals."

According to the latest data, allegations of discrimination based on race, retaliation, and sex were the most frequently filed charges, continuing a long-term trend. Additionally, nearly all major charge categories showed double digit percentage increases from the prior year -- a rare occurrence.

The jump in charge filings may



Naomi C. Earp

be due to a combination of factors, including greater awareness of the law, changing economic conditions, and increased diversity and demographic shifts in the labor force, officials said.

Last year, for the first time, retaliation was the second highest charge category (behind race), surpassing sex-based charges in total filings with EEOC offices nationwide. Historically, race has been the most frequently filed charge since the EEOC became operational in 1965.

Discussion on Police Accountability

The League of Women Voters of Portland will host a panel to discuss police accountability in Portland on Wednesday, March 12 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of the Multnomah Building, 501 S.E. Hawthorne. The event is free, and the public is invited to attend.

Portland's first police oversight system grew out of the racial tensions of the 1980's between the police and the African-American community. It survived a police-union-led referendum and remained in place for nearly 20 years with mixed results.

The present system, the Independent Police Review division, currently is steeped in controversy after a performance review by a nationally recognized expert on civilian

oversight, Eileen Luna-Firebaugh, revealed its lack of transparency and independence from the police bureau.

Participating in the discussion will be Gary Blackmer, Portland City Auditor; Michael Bigham, Chair of the Citizen Review Committee; Dan Handelman, co-founder of Portland Copwatch; Alejandro Queral, former director of the Northwest Constitutional Rights Center; and Darleane Lemley, League member and longtime citizen activist on police oversight issues.

Portland Community Media will broadcast the forum live on Channel 30. Repeat broadcasts will be aired on Channel 30 on Friday, March 14, at 5 p.m.; Sunday, March 16, at 6 p.m.; Tuesday, March 18, at 3 p.m.; and Friday, March 21, at 11 p.m.

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Prison Population, Costs Grow Tough sentencing measures blamed

(AP) — For the first time in history, more than one in every 100 American adults is in jail or prison, according to a new report tracking the surge in inmate population and urging states to rein in corrections costs with alternative sentencing programs.

The report by the Pew Center said the 50 states spent more than \$49 billion on corrections last year, up from less than \$11 billion 20 years earlier. The rate of increase for prison costs was six times greater than for higher education spending, the report said.

Using updated state-by-state data, the report said 2,319,258 adults were held in U.S. prisons or jails at the start of 2008 — one out of every 99.1 adults, and more than any other country in the world.

The report cited Kansas and

Texas as states which have acted decisively to slow the growth of their inmate population. Their actions include greater use of community supervision for low-risk offenders and employing sanctions other than reimprisonment for offenders who commit technical violations of parole and probation rules.

The largest percentage increase — 12 percent — was in Kentucky, where Gov. Steve Beshear highlighted the cost of corrections in his budget speech last month.

The report said prison growth and higher incarceration rates do not reflect a parallel increase in crime or in the nation's overall population. Instead, it said, more people are behind bars mainly because of tough sentencing measures, such as "three-strikes" laws, that result in longer prison stays.

Cold Cases

There is no statute of limitations for the crime of murder

Unidentified Remains
Case #: 2000-46109

Victim: African-American male, 6' tall, 25-35 years old.

Location: The unknown person's remains were found near the Silver Fox RV Park in a wooded area, near 40505 E. Hwy 224, Estacada.

Date: Nov. 11, 2000

Details: A forensic artist used clues from the skull of the unidentified man to create a sketch of his face. The state medical examiner's office analyzed the bones to determine his height, race and approximate age. Evidence suggested his body had been there for less than a year. There was no indication of trauma, so investigators don't know if he died of natural causes, took his own life or was murdered.

To Report Information: Call the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Tip Line at 503-723-4949.

Murder Victim

Case #: 2006-36655

Victim: Andrew William Corpe
Suspect: Unknown

Details: Sometime in the hours prior to 8 a.m. on Oct. 20, 2006, Andrew William Corpe was murdered while traveling down the Springwater Trail in the area of Southeast Johnson Creek Boulevard and Bell Avenue.

Corpe was shot several times in the head, and neighbors in the area reported hearing shots at approximately 4 a.m. His body was discovered dumped in Johnson Creek.

To Report Information: Anyone with information about this crime is urged to call the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Tip Line at 503-723-4949.

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