



Fair Housing Enforcement Program

July 2016

Volume 3, Issue 7

Aloha!



Mural, painted by Rose Jaffe, outside of Center for Creative Nonviolence (CCNV) in Washington D.C. The CCNV is a homeless shelter- the mural depicts residents and staff at the shelter. Photo by Madonna Castro-Perez

The Fair Housing Enforcement Program at Legal Aid has been busy in the month of July with two of our staff returning from conferences on the mainland.

Madonna Castro-Perez, Civil Rights Advocate, attended the National Fair Housing Alliance Conference in Washington D.C. to learn about fascinating trends and updates that's happening in Fair Housing across the country.

Dan O'Meara, Managin Attorney at Legal Aid returning from Fair Housing and National Legal Aid & Defender Association conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The theme of both of these national conferences was supporting fairness and diversity so that people of color and people living in poverty are not faced with barriers blocking their access to basic human needs, but are given an equal opportunity to exercise their rights.

Continue reading to view FHEP's outreach schedule and learn about some interesting Fair Housing news from around the country.

Fair Housing is our kuleana, our right and responsibility. Have you ever felt discriminated against by a housing provider based on your national origin, your familial status, your sex, etc? Share your story with

Quick Links

[Visit Our Website!](#)

[Learn More About Fair Housing](#)

[Request a Training](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Join Our Legal Aid Society Mailing List](#)

About Us

The Fair Housing Enforcement Program (FHEP) is a project of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. Our mission is to promote fair housing and end housing discrimination through education, advocacy, outreach, and litigation.

All people in Hawaii have the right to make housing choices without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, or HIV infection.

If you believe you have been denied access to housing because of discrimination, you may call the FHEP Hotline at **808-527-8024** or from the Neighbor Islands, **866-527-3247**. Leave a message and our Intake Specialist will call to

us! #FairHousingIsOurKuleana



schedule an interview.

One of our staff attorneys will then review your case and determine whether we will be able to provide assistance.

Inspiring Fair Housing News

DOJ Settles Ohio Design & Construction Case

June 24, 2016

The Department of Justice has settled a case against an Ohio based real estate developer and architect, which found that multiple properties that the two housing companies developed were in violation of the seven design and construction requirements outlined under the Fair Housing Act. The defendants were ordered to pay \$100,000 to owners of the condominium units who needed modifications, \$10,000 each to two fair housing organizations, and a \$40,000 civil penalty. To read more, click [here](#).

Discrimination in Off-Campus Housing

July 1, 2016

The Fair Housing Center (FHC) is suing the City of Boca Raton, FL as well as developers and owners of private off-campus student housing for being in violation of familial status anti-discrimination laws. The FHC claims that the City of Boca Raton approved of plans that were discriminatory against students with minor children by precluding children from the lease since they could not legally sign the lease and enforcing occupancy rules that prevented more than one person from occupying the unit. To read more, click [here](#).

Foreclosure Process Violates the FHA

July 13, 2016

The ACLU is suing the City of Detroit in an effort to save tens of thousands of African American homeowners from losing their homes in illegal tax foreclosures. The plaintiffs argue that the City of Detroit failed to assess residents homes based on their true cash value and prevented thousands of qualified owners from receiving a federal poverty tax exemption, which would waive the property tax due. Since an overwhelming number of households affected by this failure are African American, the ACLU plans to argue that the defendants actions amount to a disparate impact against homeowners of color, which is a violation of the Fair Housing Act. To read more, click [here](#).

SCOTUS Agrees to Review City of Miami's Fair Housing Claim

July 8, 2016

The City of Miami has sued Well Fargo Corp. and Bank of America Corp. for discriminatory lending practices, accusing the two major banks of foreclosing on a disproportionately high amount of homes owned by people of color, causing a loss of property tax revenue for the City and also increasing municipal costs. The Supreme Court's review will set a precedence for city governments and whether they are permitted to bring a suit seeking to enforce the equality guarantees of the Fair Housing Act. To read more, click [here](#).

What Is Fair Housing If You Have No Housing?

April 26, 2016

In this interesting article on the barriers to finding affordable housing, the founder of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Maria Foscarinis, makes the case that housing discrimination - by race, ethnicity, disability, familial status or other protected class - is a market distortion that increases housing costs and decreases housing choices for those who are its targets. As a result, many of our society's most vulnerable wind up homeless where they face a whole new onslaught of debilitating social challenges. To read more, click [here](#).

Tester Training for Interested Volunteers

The Fair Housing Tester Program hosts regular tester training for interested volunteers. Candidates must be 18 years and older with no previous felony record, have no open case with the Legal Aid Society, and cannot have an active real estate license.

Please call the Fair Housing Investigation Coordinator at (808) 527-8036 to register and to receive more details, or complete the online [application here](#).

July FHEP Outreaches



FHEP at Celebrate Micronesia!

The Fair Housing Enforcement Program has partnered with [We Are Oceana](#) to provide outreach, education, and on-site intake for legal assistance at St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church in Kalihi.

Where:

St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

720 N. King Street, HI 96817

When:

Thursdays from 11:30am-2:00pm

If you or anyone you know has a fair housing issue and is interested in applying for Legal Aid services, feel free to come down. A Chuukese interpreter will also be present. For more information on this outreach, please contact Madonna or Shea at (808) 527-8024.

Also this weekend, July 30-31, FHEP's outreach specialist, Emmie Suzuki-Phillip, will be at the Chuukese Youth Track & Field Day at the Leilehua High School. Please join us, where you can cheer on Chuukese Youth and also learn more about Fair Housing in Hawaii.

Where: Leilehua High School

1515 California Ave, Wahiawa, HI 96786

When: Saturday, July 30th from 5:00pm-8:00pm

Sunday, July 31st from 8:00am-5:00pm

Training Opportunities

Looking for training on the Fair Housing Act?

FHEP offers free training on fair housing. Our training seminar options cover a range of topics from general fair housing information to specific areas such as reasonable accommodation requests, assistance animals, and others. Please contact Madonna or Shea at (808) 527-8024 to schedule a free training on fair housing.

Mahalo for reading!

Legal Aid Society of Hawaii | | info@fairhousinghawaii.org | <http://www.fairhousinghawaii.org>
924 Bethel Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Please forward this email to other interested parties

Copyright © 2015. All Rights Reserved.