



FAIR HOUSING FOR ALL

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3 SPRING QUARTER 2007

APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH



Fair Housing Month is a time to celebrate the progress we've made in opening the doors of housing opportunity to every citizen of this nation, regardless of race, gender, color, nationality, religion, family status, or disability. It is also a time to acknowledge the fair housing challenges that still remain, and collectively commit to finding viable solutions to those challenges.

One out of every five Americans has some type of physical disability, yet there continues to be an acute shortage of housing to meet their needs. National studies show that while progress has been made, racial discrimination in housing still exists at unacceptable levels in our country. One out of every four or five Hispanics, African Americans, Asians, or Native Americans still

faces discrimination in renting, buying, or financing housing.

Low-income people, seniors and the disabled, seeking to purchase, refinance, or secure a reverse mortgage, are often targets for predatory lenders or loan fraud. Predatory lenders take advantage of borrowers with a variety of abusive practices such as charging excessive interest rates or loan fees.

Illegal housing discrimination can take many forms, some quite subtle: realtors showing apartments or homes only in certain neighborhoods, advertising housing only to preferred groups of people, denials of property insurance, discriminatory property appraisals, or refusals to make reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.

Whether people are trying to rent, buy, sell, or finance a home or apartment, as a tenant, homeowner, or landlord, they need to know the rights and protections provided by the Federal Fair Housing Act, and state and local fair housing laws. It's equally important for people to know where to file a complaint if they suspect they are a victim of discrimination or predatory lending.

Federal law makes it unlawful to discriminate in housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or family status (families with children under the age of 18, or who are expecting a child). Broader protections are often provided under state, county, or city laws.

By John W. Meyers, HUD Regional Director

WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF FAIR HOUSING FOR ALL

The Howard University School of Law's Fair Housing Clinical Program proudly announces the launching of our NEW fair housing clearinghouse website, www.howardfairhousing.org. The website will be a one-stop information depot for all matters concerning fair housing. Attorneys, law students, landlords, tenants, home owners and buyers, housing professionals, realtors and community members in general will find numerous housing topics and case law of interest.



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Proclamation 7664—National Fair Housing Month, 2003

By the President of the United States of America, April 15, 2003

A Proclamation

The Fair Housing Act was signed on April 11, 1968, just one week after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This landmark bill, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, resulted from the hard work and leadership of Dr. King and others in the civil rights movement and was an important step toward confronting discrimination against minorities in housing. As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of this historic legislation, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that all Americans have equal access to housing.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 has helped open doors of opportunity for countless families. Since its passage, America has made significant progress in achieving equal housing access for all individuals.

Despite this progress, more work remains in our struggle to achieve equality and racial justice. Prejudice and discriminatory practices in housing still exist in America. A recent lending study showed that minorities continue to receive less information, less assistance, and less favorable terms and conditions than non-minorities while applying for home loans. These practices are wrong. As a Nation, and as individuals, we must be vigilant in responding to discrimination wherever we find it and ensuring that minority families have access to housing. With my minority homeownership initiative and its partnership with the private sector, I have set a goal to increase the number of minority homeowners by 5.5 million by 2010.

All Americans should know their housing rights, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is working to increase public awareness of fair housing laws, including those combating discrimination in mortgage lending. The 2004 budget request for HUD includes \$50 million for fair housing—a 9 percent increase over 2003 funding—with a substantial portion specifically allocated for increased education and outreach efforts. The Department is also collaborating with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation on a financial education program in minority neighborhoods. In addition, the HUD, Education, and the Treasury Departments are advancing initiatives to educate families about homeownership through counseling programs and financial literacy efforts.

We are also vigilantly enforcing fair housing laws, showing no tolerance for those who discriminate. The Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at HUD is working with private industry and fair housing and community advocates to promote voluntary compliance and to ensure that consumers are treated in a lawful, respectful manner. When warranted, the Department of Justice takes legal action to protect our citizens from discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Finally, we are working to increase the supply of accessible housing for citizens with disabilities. HUD continues to aggressively enforce the law on behalf of people with disabilities, and the Department is working cooperatively with builders, architects, and others to

**PROCLAMATION 7664** (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

provide technical assistance to help construct more handicapped-accessible housing.

Fair Housing Month provides an opportunity to place special emphasis on our goal to increase homeownership throughout our country. Together, we can advance toward a future where all our citizens have access to a key element of the American Dream--homeownership.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2003 as National Fair Housing Month. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act and the roles they can individually and collectively play to combat housing discrimination.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 am., April 17, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the Federal Register on April 18.

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CLINICAL LAW CENTER RECEIVES FUNDING FROM THE HERB BLOCK FOUNDATION

Howard University School of Law (HUSL) is pleased to announce that the **Clinical Law Center (CLC)** has been granted \$25,000 from **The Herb Block Foundation**. This funding will be utilized to further enhance education and outreach within the Center.

The Clinical Law Center provides an exceptional and innovative course of training that teaches law students the skills necessary for the effective practice of law. Composed of four in-house clinical specializations — **Criminal Justice, Alternate Dispute Resolution, Civil Rights and Fair Housing** — and two external programs (the **DC Law Students in Court** consortium program and an **Externship Program**), the primary goal of the CLC revolves around providing high quality legal assistance to the under-served and under-represented communities of

the greater metropolitan District of Columbia area.

Through The Herb Block Foundation's generous support, the CLC will have the ability to further integrate, coordinate and expand its activities in reaching out to the community through education and outreach projects designed to build upon the civil rights history of HUSL.

The Herb Block Foundation

www.herblockfoudation.org

FAIR HOUSING CLINIC ACTIVITIES FOR FAIR HOUSING MONTH 2007

APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH: HOWARD FAIR HOUSINGS ACTIVITIES FOR 2007

It was 39 years ago this April that the Fair Housing Act became law. The Fair Housing Clinic at the Howard University School of Law announces the following activities to celebrate and to forge the mission of the act this month:

- [Tuesday, April 3, 2007 - Howard University School of Law Fair Housing Clinic Announces "Community Chat" on Affordable Housing...](#) Please join us as Judy Lawton, Adjunct Professor and Clinical Attorney, Harrison Institute, Georgetown University Law Center and Sam Jefferson, Assistant Professor of Law, David A. Clarke School of Law discuss affordable housing, community development, and tenant empowerment issues in the city.
- [Wednesday, April 4, 2007 - Community Housing Clinic](#) Co-sponsored by the District of Columbia Field Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- [Friday, April 6, 2007 - Habitat for Humanity Day](#) Students from the Fair Housing Clinic will participate in a Habitat for Humanity effort in the local community.
- [Friday, April 13, 2007 - "Know Your Fair Housing Rights!"](#) Fair Housing Forum at the David A. Clarke School of Law with Howard University School of Law Fair Housing Clinic Supervising Attorney, Brian Gilmore.
- [Saturday, April 14, 2007 - Fair Housing Education Day](#) Students from the Fair Housing Clinic will educate and inform the public regarding the laws of fair housing and why these laws are important in the first tie home buyer context. Forums will take place at two local libraries in Prince George's County (Largo and Hyattsville, Maryland).



FISRT QUARTER 2007 CLINIC HIGHLIGHTS

Lending Issues in America

On February 8, 2007, **Jim Sugarman** was the fair housing seminar guest lecturer discussing the paramount lending issues in America. **Mr. Sugarman** is Supervisory Attorney of the **Consumer and Financial Abuse Unit of AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE)**. Prior to working for LCE he was a staff attorney for Mountain State Justice in Charleston, West Virginia where he handled consumer law, child advocacy and prisoner rights litigation. He began his legal services career at DNA-Peoples Legal Services representing indigent clients from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Reservation and specializing in tribal trust property issues.

Fair Housing Tester Training

On February 22, 2007, **Paul Brachman** and **Anna Maria Calonje** of the **Equal Rights Center** conducted a Fair Housing Tester Training. Mr. Brachman, a former ERC intern, he graduated with a B.A. from the University of New Hampshire where he majored in Political Science. As a new Project Assistant Paul will be


helping the ERC to recruit and train new testers in addition to a variety of other tasks. Ms. Calonje is a bilingual project assistant at the Equal Rights Center. After working for a year at an immigration and criminal defense law firm, she returned to school at American University and graduated in May 2006 with a MA in International Peace and Conflict Resolution.

Tenant Rights to Purchase

The fair housing seminar guest lecturer on February 27, 2007, presenting on Tenant Rights to Purchase was **Julie D. Lawton**. **Ms. Lawton** is an adjunct professor and staff attorney in the **Harrison Institute for Public Law, Georgetown University Law Center**. She represents low-income tenant associations in purchasing, renovating and converting their multifamily housing into condominiums and cooperatives. She also supervises clinical law students who work on these housing cases and supervised law students teaching entrepreneurial skills to new and potential small business owners. (continued on page 14)

Fair Housing Clinics

In Prince George's County Public Libraries



FAIR HOUSING *for all*

In recognition of National Fair Housing Month in April, the Howard University School of Law's Fair Housing Clinic offers educational sessions to the public on fair housing information and their rights under the law. Law students will describe how the law protects you from housing discrimination and offer referrals to residents during these free legal seminars. Visit www.howardfairhousing.org for more information.

- Saturday, April 14 10:30 am Largo-Kettnering Branch
9601 Capital Lane Largo MD 20774 301-336-4044
- Saturday, April 14 1:30 pm Hyattsville Branch (an español)
6530 Adelphi Rd. Hyattsville MD 20782 301-985-4660


Cosponsored by the Housing Incentive Partnership, Prince George's County
Departments of Family Services, Social Services and Housing & Community
Development.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Sign up for updates on our events, programs & services. Visit our website at www.pgcmls.info to sign up today. Please contact the branch at least two weeks in advance.

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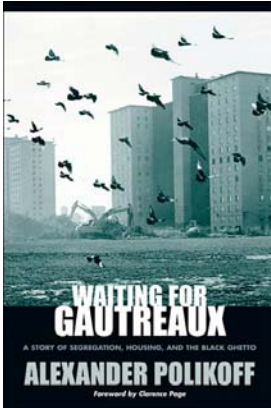
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THE FAIR HOUSING & DISCRIMINATION BOOK SHELF

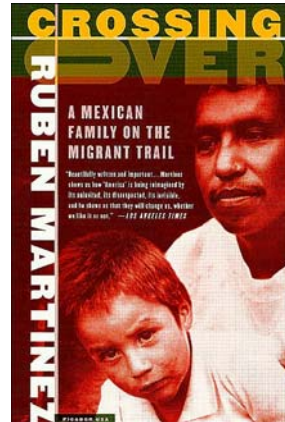


Waiting for Gautreaux: A Story of Segregation, Housing & The Black Ghetto (Paperback April '07)

Alexander Polikoff

"It was on his thirty-ninth birthday, in 1966, that Alexander Polikoff, a volunteer ACLU attorney and a partner in a Chicago law firm, met three friends to discuss a pro bono case. Over lunch, they talked about the Chicago Housing Authority construction program. All the

new public housing, it seemed, was going into black neighborhoods. If discrimination was prohibited in public schools, wasn't it also prohibited in public housing?" And so began *Gautreaux v. CHA and HUD*, a case that would roll on year after year, decade after decade, carrying Polikoff and his intrepid colleagues to the nation's Supreme Court (to face then-solicitor general Robert Bork). Despite legal roadblocks and political constraints, the case would set the stage for a nationwide experiment aimed at ending the concentration - and racialization - of poverty through public housing. The story of *Gautreaux* as told by its principle lawyer moves with ease through local and national civil rights history. Both the memoir of a dedicated advocate and the narrative of a tenacious pursuit of equality, this story - itself a critical, still-unfolding chapter in recent American history - proposes a creative new step toward ending racial inequality, which Alexis de Tocqueville prophetically named America's "most formidable evil."



Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail (Paperback Sept. 2002)

Ruben Martinez

The U.S.-Mexican border is one of the most permeable boundaries in the world, breached daily by Mexicans in search of work. Thousands die crossing the line and those who reach "the other side" are branded illegals, un-

documented and unprotected. *Crossing Over* puts a human face on the phenomenon, following the exodus of the Chávez clan, an extended Mexican family who lost three sons in a tragic border accident. Martínez follows the migrants' progress from their small southern Mexican town of Cherán to California, Wisconsin, and Missouri where far from joining the melting pot, Martínez argues, the seven million migrants in the U.S. are creating a new culture that will alter both Mexico and the United States as the two countries come increasingly to resemble each other.

4TH QUARTER U.S. HOUSING MARKET CONDITIONS

HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research released its 4th Quarter 2006 U.S. housing Market Conditions publication, a compilation of statistical data and written reports. Tabular data indicate market conditions on the national level and are presented for each quarter. Historical data are also presented in summary tables. Overviews of economic and housing market trends are presented for 10 geographical regions, the report for each of which includes a profile on a selected housing market. Each issue includes a summary of the overall trends in national housing and a topical piece that describes a particular, noteworthy aspect of housing activity.

Housing market conditions at the end of 2006 reflected two themes. First, the year posted significant declines from 2005. Second, since these declines were from records set in 2005, the levels of housing market activity are still quite high. Another twist to these themes is that the quarterly data have been on the decline throughout the year.

In this issue:

- "New Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Project (LIHTC) Data Available" —This article provides a brief synopsis of the LIHTC Program, discusses some of the findings from the recently added data, and explains how the public can access the LIHTC Database.
- National Data
- Regional Activity
- Historical Data

Copies of this publication are available on the HUD USER web site at www.huduser.org/periodicals/pdrperio.html, or by calling 1-800-245-2691, fax 1-800-708-9981.

LUKE CHARLES MOORE MOOT COURT COMPETITION RESULTS & APPRECIATION



The **Charles Hamilton Houston National Moot Court Team (CHHNMCT)** and the **Howard Law Fair Housing Clinic** hosted a very successful **Luke Charles Moore Invitational (LCMI)** civil rights moot court competition on March 2-3.

Howard Law opened its doors to twenty-two moot court teams from schools across the country. As a result of this year's collaboration with the Fair Housing Clinic, the competitors addressed arguments regarding zoning regulations which touched on Fair Housing Act and Equal Protection Clause issues.

Howard Law professors, alumni and members of the local bar participated as judges during the competition. The judges were extremely impressed by the quality and depth of the competitors' arguments and were even more impressed by the efforts put forth by both the team and the Fair Housing Clinic to run an organized and well-run competition.

Eight teams advanced from preliminary rounds on Friday to the quarterfinal rounds held on Saturday at the D.C. Superior Court House. Those teams were: (1) Cincinnati, (2) Duke, (3) Florida State University, (4) New York University, (5, 6) Thomas Jefferson School of Law (two teams), and (7, 8) Chapman University School of Law. Ultimately, the field had to be narrowed down to the two best teams:

FSU and Duke.

The winner, Duke (Steve Schindler and Chris Richardson), took home the overall prize by a vote of the judges, while **FSU (Lisa Milnamow and Ben Webster)** went home with the second place prize and best brief overall. **The Best Oralist Award** went to **Tom Voge** of **Chapman University School of Law**.

All of the participants received certificates during an awards banquet at the Embassy Suites hotel in Chevy Chase Pavilion Saturday evening. Competitors provided positive feedback about the competition and many teams expressed their intent to return to Howard to compete in LCMI next year. The Luke Charles Moore Moot Court competition is Howard Law's annual national competition.

The team thanks everyone who participated as a brief grader and "justice" during the competition. The team expresses special thanks to **Dean Okianer Christian Dark** and **Professor Patricia M. Worthy** for their hard work in soliciting judges, **Fair Housing Clinic Fellow Adrienne DeCuire** for sacrificing endless hours to work on the competition, and **Professor Robert Fabrikant**. To see streaming video of the final round and the photo gallery of the two days of competition and awards banquet, please visit www.howardfairhousing.org and select the "News & Events" section.

The members of the Charles Hamilton Houston Moot Court Team would also like to express their deep gratitude to the University, the administration, professors, staff, and the Howard University Fair Housing Clinic for their graciousness with LCMI this year. — **Diana Vilmenay, Howard University School of Law, J.D. Candidate, 2007**



Ben Webster, FSU; Paul Monteiro, HUSL; Diana Vilmenay, HUSL;
Lisa Milanomow, FSU



Steve Schindler & Chris
Richardson, Duke Law



Professor Robert Fabrikant, HUSL

HOME BUYING CONSIDERATIONS & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: PART 2. MOLD

Mold

What are Molds?

With more than 100,000 species in the world, it is no wonder molds can be found everywhere. Neither animal nor plant molds are microscopic organisms that produce enzymes to digest organic matter and spores to reproduce. These organisms are part of the fungi kingdom, a realm shared with mushrooms, yeast, and mildews. In nature, mold plays a key role in the decomposition of leaves, wood, and other plant debris. Without mold, we would find ourselves wading neck-deep in dead plant matter. And we wouldn't have great foods and medicines, such as cheese and penicillin. However, problems arise when mold starts digesting organic materials we don't want them to, like our homes.

How do Molds grow in my home?

Once mold spores settle in your home, they need moisture to begin growing and digesting whatever they are growing on. There are molds that can grow on wood, ceiling tiles, wallpaper, paints, carpet, sheet rock, and insulation. When excess moisture or water builds up in your home from say, a leaky roof, high humidity, or flooding, conditions are often ideal for molds. Longstanding moisture or high humidity conditions and mold growth go together. Realistically, there is no way to rid all mold and mold spores from your home; the way to control mold growth is to control moisture.

How can I be exposed to Mold?

When molds are disturbed, their spores may be released into the air. You then can be exposed to the spores through the air you breathe. Also, if you directly handle moldy materials, you can be exposed to mold and mold spores through contact with your skin. Eating moldy foods or hand-to-mouth contact after handling moldy materials is yet another way you may be exposed.

How can Molds affect my health?

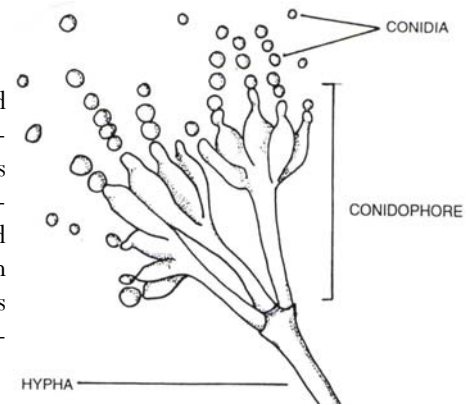
Generally, the majority of common molds are not a concern to someone who is healthy. However if you have allergies or asthma, you may be sensitive to molds. You may experience skin rash, running nose, eye irritation, cough, congestion, and aggravation of asthma. Also if you have an immune suppression or underlying lung disease, you may be at increased risk for infections from molds.



When necessary, some resourceful molds produce toxins in defense against other molds and bacteria called mycotoxins. Depending on exposure level, these mycotoxins may cause toxic effects in people, also. Fatigue, nausea, headaches, and respiratory and eye irritation are some symptoms that may be experienced from exposure to mycotoxins. If you or your family members have health problems that you suspect are caused by exposure to mold, you should consult with your physician.

How do I know if I have a mold problem?

You may have seen white thread-like growths or clusters of small black specks along your damp bathroom or basement walls, or smelled a "musty" odor. Seeing and smelling mold is a good indication that you have a mold problem. However, you cannot always rely upon your senses to locate molds. Hidden mold can be growing behind wall coverings or ceiling tiles.



(continued on page 10)



**YOUR CREDIT STATUS
WILL AFFECT YOUR
ABILITY TO BUY A HOUSE.**



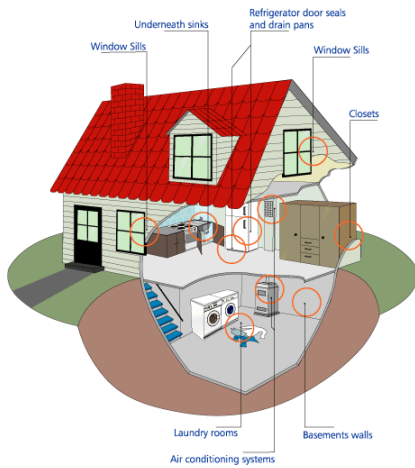
**YOUR RACIAL STATUS
SHOULD NOT.**



The Federal Fair Housing Act protects your right to live where you want. In fact, in any decision regarding rental, sales, or lending, it is against the law to consider race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or family status. If you think you've been denied housing, please call the Howard University School of Law's Fair Housing Clinic. We are here to help! *Fair Housing. It's not an option! It's the law.*

For more information, call 202-806-8082, or visit www.howardfairhousing.org

HOME ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: MOLD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)



Common places to find mold are in areas where water has damaged building materials and furnishings perhaps from flooding or plumbing leaks. Mold can also be found growing along walls where warm moist air condenses on cooler wall surfaces, such as inside cold exterior walls, behind dressers, headboards, and in closets where articles are stored against walls. Rooms with both high water usage and humidity, such as kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms, and basements are often havens for mold. If you notice mold or know of water damaged areas in your home, it is time to take action to control its growth.

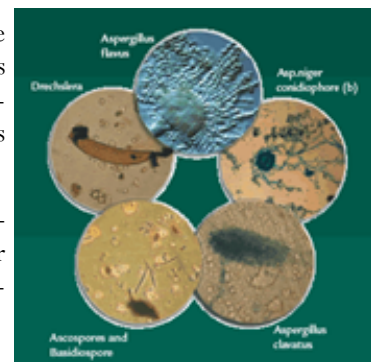
How can I control mold growth in my home?

- Fix any moisture problems in your home:
- Stop all water leaks first. Repair leaking roofs and plumbing fixtures. Move water away from concrete slabs and basement walls.
- Increase air circulation within your home, especially along the inside of exterior walls, and ventilate with fresh air from outside. Provide warm air to all areas of the home. Move large objects away from the inside of exterior walls just a few inches to provide good air circulation.
- Install and use exhaust fans in bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms.
- Ventilate and insulate attic and crawl spaces. Cover earth floors in crawl spaces with heavy plastic.
- Clean and dry water damaged carpets, clothing, bedding, and upholstered furniture within 24 to 48 hours, or consider removing and replacing damaged furnishings.
- Vacuum and clean your home regularly.

How do I clean up mold?

The time you are most likely to stir up spores and be exposed is the very time you are trying to clean up your mold problem. That's when you need to be the most careful. First, try to determine the extent of the mold infestation. If the area is small and well defined, the clean up can be done by you, as long as you are free of any health symptoms or allergies. However, if the mold problem is extensive, such as between the walls or under the floors, you should leave clean up to a professional. For more information, visit the following web sites:

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC)** Mold Web site (<http://www.cdc.gov/mold/>) provides information on mold and health and links to resources in conjunction with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, CDC has created an inventory of state indoor air quality programs, which is available at http://www.cdc.gov/airpollution/indoor_air.htm.
- **National Association of Home Builders' (NAHB)** Web site has prepared consumer information to help you understand what mold is, how it can grow in your home, the routine maintenance procedures you can follow to prevent mold problems, and methods of removing mold already in your home.



As always, please visit the Howard Law Fair Housing Clinical Program's web site, www.howardfairhousing.org for additional comprehensive information on mold or other environmental hazard issues. In the summer edition of FAIR HOUSING FOR ALL, we will examine the hazard issues of GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION in part three of this seven-part series.



FAIR HOUSING

IT'S NOT

AN OPTION

IT'S THE

LAW



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

2007

www.hud.gov
espanol.hud.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ALPHONSO JACKSON, SECRETARY

KIM KENDRICK, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, FHEO

39TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION HOTLINE
1.800.669.9777 (VOICE) 1.800.927.9275 (TTY)

HOWARD LAW STUDENTS VOLUNTEER IN NEW ORLEANS

From March 10th through the 16th, 57 Howard Law students volunteered to spend their spring break down in New Orleans, providing legal and humanitarian services to those still desperately in need a 18 months after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This was part of Howard's **Alternative Spring Break (ASB)**. They could have easily lounged by the pool or caught up on much-needed sleep, but instead demonstrated that being a social engineer is a journey, not a destination.

These students provided legal and humanitarian services that included:

- Assisting in the New Orleans District Attorney's Office;
- Working with criminal defendants in the Public Defender's Office;
- Helping property owners in eminent domain cases and other property litigation with the Loyola University of New Orleans legal clinic;
- Helping homeowners clear their title in order to receive much-needed government recovery aid;
- Interviewing Katrina survivors displaced to a FEMA-run trailer park 100 miles from New Orleans in Baker, LA;
- Investigating the cases of individuals who may have been wrongfully convicted with the Innocence Pro-

ject; and

- Helping to rebuild homes and lives with Habitat for Humanity.

These students are a shining example of what it means to be a social engineer, living that call here and now while still law students. They bring great credit to themselves, the HUSL, and Howard University through their selfless service, dedication, and passion.

Special thanks to **Professor Josephine Ross** and the student planners who have worked tirelessly since early January to make this ambitious project a resounding success. Thanks also to **Dean Dionne Duckett** and **Professors Atiba Ellis, Tamar Meekins** and **e. christi cunningham** for organizing project for the students, supervising them down in New Orleans all week.

Professor Meekins, Clinical Law Center Director, and one of the faculty at the School of Law who accompanied the students states that the students were also presented with two proclamations by the City Council of New Orleans recognizing their dedication, commitment and tireless work on these various projects and the Law School's continuing commitment to social justice. The proclamations are signed by all members of the City Council, including one of the Law School's alums, **James Carter**. The presentation took place at a regularly scheduled Council meeting with remarks by Professor Ross and **Louis Brown**, ASB student leader.

— *Jeremy Broussard, HUSL, J.D. Candidate, 2007*





HUD FAIR HOUSING NOTES



Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

The Limited English Proficiency Implementation Plan Providing Federally-Conducted Activities to Persons with Limited English Proficiency provides guidance to HUD's own program staff to follow to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to HUD programs and activities. The implementation plans show how HUD programs plan to comply with Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency." While the Executive Order does not impose any new requirements on Federal agencies, it requires that greater emphasis be put on existing requirements under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect persons based on national origin.

Purpose

On August 11, 2000, Executive Order 13166, titled, "Improving Access to Services by Persons with Limited English Proficiency, was issued." Executive Order 13166 requires federal agencies to assess and address the needs of otherwise eligible persons seeking access to federally conducted programs and activities who, due to LEP cannot fully and equally participate in or benefit from those programs and activities. Section 2 of the Executive Order 13166 directs each federal department or agency "to prepare a plan to improve access to...federally conducted programs and activities by eligible LEP persons... Once finalized, such plans are to be filed with the Department of Justice as the central repository of agencies' plans." In compliance with Section 2 of Executive Order 13166, this Implementation Plan details the Department of Housing and Urban Development's initiatives and plans over the next twelve months to improve access to its federally conducted programs and activities by eligible persons with limited English proficiency (LEP).

Background

The general mission of the Department of Housing and Urban Development is to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a suitable living environment for every American free from discrimination. HUD has six strategic goals to help in achieving its mission:

Increase Homeownership Opportunities for low-and moderate-income persons, persons with disabilities, the elderly, ethnic and racial minorities, and families with limited English proficiency.

Promote Decent Affordable Housing by expanding access to affordable rental housing, improving the physical quality and management accountability of public and assisted housing, and

helping HUD-assisted renters make progress toward self-sufficiency.

Strengthen Communities through improving economic conditions in distressed communities, making communities more livable, ending chronic homelessness, and mitigating housing conditions that threaten health.

Ensure Equal Opportunity in Housing by resolving discrimination complaints on a timely basis, promoting public awareness of Fair Housing laws, and improving housing accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Promote Participation of Faith-Based and Community Organizations by providing full and equal access to grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations.

Embrace High Standards of Ethics, Management and Accountability by rebuilding HUD's human capital and further diversify its work force, improving accountability, service delivery, and customer service of HUD and its partners, and ensuring program compliance.

HUD has many programs that assist in meeting the eight strategic goals. Among these programs are: (1) Office of Fair housing and Equal Opportunity; (2) Office of Community Planning and Development; (3) Office of Housing; and (4) Office of Public and Indian Housing. These four programs administer much of the approximately \$30 billion that is provided directly to State and local governments, Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), profit and non-profit organizations to implement critical housing and community development programs and activities. HUD wants to ensure that the programs and activities made possible through these resources are made available to the LEP population. Therefore, this Implementation Plan focuses on providing equal opportunity to persons with LEP. Visit www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/promotingfh/lep.cfm for more details.

For additional information regarding LEP initiatives, visit www.LEP.gov. LEP.gov promotes a positive and cooperative understanding of the importance of language access to federal programs and federally assisted programs. This website supports fair, reasoned and consistent implementation of Executive Order 13166, Title VI, and the Title VI regulations regarding language access. This site also acts as a clearinghouse, providing and linking to information, tools, and technical assistance regarding Limited English Proficiency and language services for federal agencies, recipients of federal funds, users of federal programs and federally assisted programs, and other stakeholders.



Kim Kendrick, HUD Assistant Secretary for FHEO



2900 Van Ness Street, NW
Notre Dame Hall, G18
Washington, DC 20008

HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF
LAW FAIR HOUSING CLINICAL
PROGRAM

Phone: 202-806-8082
Fax: 202-806-8436
E-mail: bjlmore@law.howard.edu
edavis@law.howard.edu

VISIT US ONLINE!

WWW.HOWARDFAIRHOUSING.ORG

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Howard University

School OF Law

IT'S THE LAW!

The Federal Fair Housing Act protects your right to live where you want. In fact, in any decision regarding rental, sales, or lending, it's against the law to consider race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or family status. If you thing you've been denied housing, please call the Howard University School of Law's Fair Housing Clinic. We are here to help! Fair Housing! Its not an option!

It's the law!

For more information, call 202-806-8082, or visit

www.howardfairhousing.org

The Howard Law Fair Housing Clinic is made possible through a grant by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



FIRST QUARTER 2007 CLINIC HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

Careers in Affordable Housing & Community Development Law

On March 20, 2007, a seminar featuring practitioners of affordable housing and community development law work within traditional corporate, business, tax, and non-profit law to create affordable housing, equity funds, schools, community-based financial institutions, child care centers, and health care facilities. The field involves transactional as well as litigation work. Panelists: Moderated by **Michael Mitchell**, Vice President of Fair Lending at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition and Adjunct Professor at Howard University School of Law; **Oramenta Newsome**, Director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation; **Megan Glasheen**, Reno & Cavanaugh, PLLC; **Don Holm**, National Trust for Historic Preservation. Co-Sponsored by the **Howard University School of Law Career Services**.

Foreclosure Questions?

On March 22, 2007, the Fair Housing Clinic sponsored a seminar an effort to educate the public on how to prevent foreclosures now and in the future. Just recently, due to rising numbers of bad mortgages numerous well known mortgage companies folded because of risky, high priced loans they had sold. The number of individual foreclosures overall is increasing in the United States and these statistics are not different in the Washington, D.C. area as well. The featured presenter was, **Larry J. Laws**, Executive Director and Founder of First Home Alliance, Incorporated. He is a certified homebuyer educator and counselor, providing counseling in the areas of credit, budgeting, mortgage delinquency and foreclosure prevention.

Visit www.howardfairhousing.org and view the "Events Calendar" for future activities/seminars.

