



FAIR HOUSING NEWS

A newsletter about fair housing, community development, & neighborhood quality of life

GREETINGS!



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MARYLAND AREA

Maryland Attorney General Urges State Supreme Court to Hear Case Protecting Fair Housing Rights Under the HOME Act. Attorney General Anthony G. Brown has filed an amicus brief urging the Maryland

Supreme Court to hear *Hare v. David S. Brown Enterprises, Ltd.*, to protect fair housing rights under the HOME Act and prevent discrimination against low-income Marylanders using Housing Choice Vouchers. The brief urges the Court to grant a writ of certiorari to hear the case and protect the fair housing rights of Marylanders. The outcome of this Supreme Court decision could set a significant precedent for how income requirements are applied in housing practices across the State. Maryland enacted the HOME Act in 2020, joining 22 states and over 40 municipalities in outlawing housing discrimination based on source of income. The legislation was designed to protect marginalized groups such as people of color, families with children, and individuals with disabilities. This includes participants in the federal Housing Choice Voucher program, which subsidizes rents for nearly 50,000 Maryland low-income families.

Eligible families receiving assistance pay 30% of their income toward rent and utilities, with the remaining rent paid by a separate contract with local government agencies. The case of *Hare v. David S. Brown Enterprises, Ltd.* involves an appeal from Katrina Hare, an elderly, disabled, African-American woman who receives Supplemental Security Income and uses a Housing Choice Voucher to afford housing. Hare was denied housing by David S. Brown,



Ltd. because she did not meet its minimum income requirement of \$47,700 a year, even though her Housing Choice Voucher would have covered all but \$126 of rent. The Baltimore County Circuit Court ruled that this denial was not discrimination and granted summary judgment in favor of David S. Brown Enterprises, Ltd. Hare appealed that decision to the Maryland Appellate Court and has requested that the State's Supreme Court hear the case (she petitioned for a writ of certiorari)

before the Appellate Court issues its opinion. The Attorney General’s brief supports Hare’s petition to the Maryland Supreme Court, and requests the Court to hear the case and rule that David S. Brown Enterprise, Ltd. applied its minimum income requirements that illegally discriminates against prospective tenants who, like Hare, use Housing Choice Vouchers. The brief also details the legislative history of the HOME Act and emphasizes the intent of the General Assembly to protect Housing Choice Voucher participants from the type of housing discrimination in this case. [Read the September 9, 2024 The Moco Show article.](#) [Read the September 6, 2024 Franklin County Free Press article.](#) Supreme Court photo by Maryland GovPics - Edward Draper Bar Induction, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=139633822>



The 31st Baltimore Civil Rights Breakfast will be on October 7th. The Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights is excited to invite you to join us for the 31st Civil Rights Breakfast! We will be gathering this October 7th at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel (700 Aliceanna Street, Baltimore 21202) from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A time-honored tradition, we are privileged to host so many change makers and trailblazers from in and around the Baltimore area for the official kick off to Civil Rights Week. Join us as we dive into the theme of “From Protest to Progress” and acknowledge the amazing contributions of our Impact Award recipients, the obstacles we have overcome, and the challenges that still face us as we work to build a more equitable community for all. Governor Wes Moore has proclaimed 2024 to be “Maryland’s Year of Civil Rights.” Individual Ticket - \$75.00. Full Table - \$675.00. Get Your Tickets: [Civil Rights Week 2024 - Eventeny](#). For questions, contact Jumel Howard at 443.602.5461 or jumel.howard@baltimorecity.gov.

Police Investigate Antisemitic Graffiti Found at Bethesda School.

Montgomery County police are investigating antisemitic graffiti discovered at Bethesda Elementary School on August 11th. The school’s marquee sign was defaced with a statement: “Israel rapes men, women and children,” in red spray paint. The nearby crosswalk and sidewalk also were painted with similar statements and “Free Gaza,” as was a nearby building in the 4900 block of Del Ray Avenue.



Authorities were investigating the incident as a bias-related crime. Several families with young children saw the graffiti while going to the market located there on Sundays, said Guila Franklin Siegel, associate director of the [Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington](#). Siegel said the farmers market is owned by a Jewish person and located in a neighborhood with several synagogues nearby. A few families with young children, and the [Bethesda Urban Partnership](#) helped to clean up the vandalism. Thomas Taylor, superintendent of [Montgomery County Public Schools](#), called the incident horrifying, adding that he was grateful for the volunteers who cleaned up the vandalism. He said that the school district is partnering with organizations to train staff on how to address hate and bias in the classroom, which he said “will ultimately have a ripple effect in the community and spread to our community.” [Read the August 12, 2024 Washington Post article.](#)



A Harrisburg Property Management Company Has Been Ordered To Pay Over \$55,000 In Damages in a Housing Discrimination Case. The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) says 1952 Allegheny Associates LP discriminated against one of its tenants by refusing to transfer the tenant to another building because of their skin color and national origin. A

public hearing was held on May 16, 2024, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the issue of damages. The state's case was prosecuted by PHRC Assistant Chief Counsel Stacy McNaney, Esq. Although they were notified of the public hearing, 1952 Allegheny Associates LP did not attend. "The PHRC will always defend those who experience illegal discrimination," said PHRC Executive Director Chad Dion Lassiter. "Impacts of discrimination are long-term and final orders like this one provide relief to those who file complaints with the PHRC. I am proud of our team at the PHRC for their work." PHRC says Allegheny Associates did not respond to the complaint it was served, participate in conciliation, or attend a public hearing on the issue of damages. In its August 26 final order, the Commission ordered 1952 Allegheny Associates LP to cease and desist from acting in a discriminatory manner in the terms and conditions of any lease based on a tenant's color or national origin, pay the complainant the lump sum of \$45,408.10 within 90 days, pay the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a civil penalty of \$10,000 within 90 days, complete Fair Housing Training within 90 days, and report to the PHRC within 90 days on how it will comply with the order. [Read the September 8, 2024 WPXI Channel 11 article.](#) [Read the September 9, 2024 PennWatch article.](#)

ADA ASSESSMENT

At 34th Anniversary of the ADA, Advocates Cite Some Progress for People with Disabilities.

The ADA (enacted July 26, 1990) was a significant achievement, guaranteeing civil rights protections to people with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. For example, parking lots now have the familiar blue-and-white signs designating accessible parking spaces and where curbs and sidewalks have cuts and ramps to accommodate those in wheelchairs or with other mobility issues. Most new buildings are now designed with ADA-compliant doors and elevators and hallways and bathrooms. There are also required accommodations in classrooms and public spaces, nondiscrimination in employment, and more accessible housing. On many aspects of ADA compliance, Maryland is above other states. Over 1.1 million Maryland adults had a disability - almost 25% - in 2022 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - compared to 16% in 2021. Maryland was third best for its health care among the 50 states and Washington, D.C., and eighth best overall for someone with a disability in the April 2024 report from Policygenius. With major medical centers, such as the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland has become a destination. Maryland also is a leader in equal pay for people with disabilities, after the General Assembly in 2016 phased out 14(c) certificates, letting employers to pay subminimum wage to people with disabilities. Maryland Governor Wes Moore (D) recently signed an executive order requiring state agencies to use "plain language" in documents and on websites. This will especially benefit persons with disabilities, who have trouble accessing state websites for available support and services, and will probably be available in early 2025.



Maryland's major remaining disability-related problems are in the delivery of needed services. In 2023, the U.S. Attorney's Office notified the Maryland Transit Administration that its paratransit service MobilityLink was not in compliance with ADA protections, with the major issue long delays for service. Also, people with disabilities are "still an underserved population" because there are waitlists to receive services and administrative turnaround time for

services, as well as many restrictions and limitations that mean years of waiting to access services. Advocates hold that there has definitely been progress, but see the need for improvements. Arc Maryland said acceptance of people with disabilities has increased and the negative stigma has declined, but not consistently. It believes that Maryland “has a reputation of treating people with respect and having services” to help people with disabilities, factors that draw families to the state. Disability Rights Maryland said “It’s possible that more people are comfortable with acknowledging or self-identifying as a person with a disability.” [Read the July 26, 2024 Maryland Matters article.](#)



HUD Announces New Voucher Flexibility to Support Community Living for People with Disabilities. Commemorating the 34th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision, HUD has announced new policy changes to improve community living options for people with disabilities. These shifts give public housing agencies (PHAs) with new flexibility to better utilize Mainstream Vouchers, an important federal program offering rental assistance to non-elderly persons with disabilities. Key updates include extended housing search times, the removal of residency preferences for voucher recipients, and

new options for PHAs to prioritize direct referrals from healthcare and disability agencies to address barriers in the housing search process and strengthen partnerships that support independent living for people with disabilities. The Mainstream Voucher waivers and alternative requirements help address some of the barriers to housing search among non-elderly people with disabilities identified in a study published by HUD on June 27, 2024. The study, “[Housing Search Assistance for Non-Elderly People with Disabilities](#),” found that people with disabilities face various tough challenges in searching for housing. They have difficulty securing services and supports before their voucher expires, navigating the housing search process and overcoming screening requirements, accessing reasonable accommodations or necessary modifications that are more than what a landlord is required to provide, and covering moving and initial living expenses. [Read the August 27, 2024 HUD press release.](#)



NATIONAL NEWS

New Jersey Proposes New Disparate Impact Discrimination Rule.

New Jersey Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin and the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights have announced a proposed rule describing and clarifying the prohibitions against disparate impact discrimination under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD). The proposed rule clarifies the legal standard for disparate impact discrimination and the burdens of proof in claims in the housing, financial lending, employment, places of public accommodation, and contracting. It largely codifies existing state and federal case law. The proposed rule is intended to clarify that the LAD prohibits practices or policies that result in a disproportionately negative effect on members of a protected class, even if such practices or policies are not intended to discriminate, unless it is shown that such are necessary to achieve a substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interest and there is no less discriminatory, equally effective alternative that would achieve the same interest. The burden is put on showing that there is not a less discriminatory, equally effective alternative means of achieving the housing provider’s or lender’s substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory

interest on the respondent at the final stage of the burden-shifting test. Some examples include: minimum income requirements; financial standards, or income standards with a disparate impact on people paying rent with government low-income rental assistance; excluding applicants based on criminal or credit history; automatically refusing all rental housing applicants who have no credit score or a score below a minimum threshold; and requiring a renter or buyer to violate or forgo a religious practice or observance. The proposed rule also would apply to the practices and policies of real estate brokers, agents, salespersons, property management, and lending institutions. [Read the June 4, 2024 VitalLaw article.](#) [Read the June 14, 2024 Fox Rothschild LLP article.](#)



Groundbreaking Settlement of NYC Source of Income Housing Discrimination Complaints. The Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC) and the New York City Commission on Human Rights (Commission) have just made a groundbreaking

settlement agreement with the operators of 6,000 rental apartments in the Bronx. The settlement resolves FHJC's claims of source of income discrimination against Respondents Parkchester Preservation Company, LP, and Parkchester Preservation Management LLC, who own and manage rental apartments at the Parkchester housing development in the Bronx. The complex has 171 buildings with over 12,000 apartments including almost 30,000 residents. [Originally filed by the FHJC with the Commission in 2016](#), the complaint was based on a year-long FHJC testing investigation which found that the Respondents maintained and enforced an income requirement for rental applicants which excluded renters with housing subsidies for their rent. Housing providers in New York City are required to accept Rental vouchers are a lawful source of income protected under the New York State Human Rights Law and the New York City Human Rights Law. The respondents' dismissal motions were denied, and Parkchester agreed to eliminate its minimum income requirement and rent at least 850 apartments to applicants with rental subsidies. They also agreed to pay damages and, as needed, rent apartments to eight individual renters with complaints filed at the Commission. Respondents also agreed for five years to not apply credit score, credit history requirements, employment, or housing history requirements to any applicant using rental assistance; change its advertising, website, recorded phone messages, and internal policies to include the no-minimum-income-requirement policy; modify application forms and application processes to comply with fair housing laws; provide fair housing training for Parkchester staff; do recordkeeping and monitoring by the Commission and FHJC of Parkchester's compliance with the agreement; and to pay over \$2.2 million in a civil penalty, damages, and attorneys fees. The Commission approved the final agreement on August 21st. The FHJC settlement can be read [here](#).

New Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Report Finds Many Social Media Platforms Are Not Fully Complying with New Transparency Reporting.

The ADL report evaluates the first rounds of transparency reporting for social media platforms as required by this first-of-its-kind law in California with the goal of getting social media platforms to stop hiding hate. While most tech companies have rules against hate and harassment, they previously have not been held accountable for enforcing them. This changed with the California Assembly Bill 587, also known as the Social Media Transparency Bill, which requires social media platforms to publicly disclose their community safety guidelines and report data about



hate, harassment, misinformation, disinformation, foreign interference, and the enforcement of their policies. The ADL sponsored AB 587 from its inception in 2021. Before this law took effect, transparency reports were published voluntarily on an ad-hoc basis, were largely inconsistent, and were far from transparent (see ADL's [Platform Transparency Reports – Just How Transparent?](#)). ADL's report - [AB 587 Revisited: How are Platforms Complying with California's Newly-Mandated Transparency Reporting?](#)— analyzed nine platforms' mandated reports from January and April 2024. Though reporting has already improved from January to April, several major platforms avoided complying fully. ADL found that Discord, LinkedIn, Reddit, and Roblox committed to addressing hate and appear to have made efforts to publish detailed reports. ADL found that even with these new reports, platforms do not always provide the context to understand their numbers, thus making it difficult to judge efforts to quell hate online. According to ADL's most recent [Online Hate and Harassment report](#), 22% of Americans experienced severe harassment on social media in the past year, an increase from 18% in 2023. Some 61% of those harassed said at least some harassment happened on Facebook, 39% on Instagram, and 28% on Twitter. Platforms that do not comply with the mandated reporting may be fined up to \$15,000 daily by the California Attorney General, or almost \$3 million per company since the law went into force. Some platforms are objecting, and the law is being challenged in federal court in a case led by X and now in appeal. In July 2024, Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA) [introduced legislation](#), endorsed by the ADL, to protect social media users from hate speech and increase transparency from tech companies. The next round of transparency reports is scheduled for October 2024. [Read the August 28, 2024 ADL press release.](#)



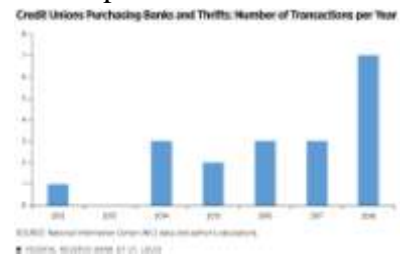
FAIR LENDING

Credit Unions Exploit Federal Tax Exemption to Buy Tax-Paying Community Banks - Not Subject to Community Reinvestment Act Requirements. Nonprofit credit unions are buying record numbers of for-profit [banks](#). Until recently, a nonprofit couldn't own a for-profit, but tax changes in recent years have made it legal. The Independent Community

Bankers of America (ICBA) wrote: "Credit unions are increasingly exploit their federal tax exemption to acquire tax-paying community banks, the need for policymakers to re-examine their tax status is urgent. Action is needed now to preserve community banks and the communities that depend on them, ensuring the continued vitality of the relationship-based banking sector that has supported Main Street America for generations. Credit unions pay no tax to operate the same business that was taxable the day before once they acquire a bank.

As public scrutiny of these inappropriate deals and the number of credit union purchases of taxpaying community banks have raced past record highs, policymakers must protect local communities by ending the credit union tax exemption." Over 20% of 2024 bank deals have been credit unions leveraging their tax exemption to purchase banks. [Axios: Why credit unions are buying banks.](#)

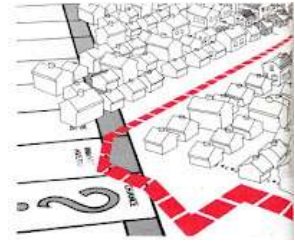
[American Banker](#) article: Credit unions extend bank-buying spree. [Credit Union Today](#): Citing exec pay, sports deals, "lavish" HQs, bank group tells Congress there are new reasons to revoke CU tax exemption. Credit unions have many advantages over banks. They pay less in taxes and don't need to deliver profits to shareholders. They also have less of a regulatory burden, they aren't subject to Community Reinvestment Act requirements, and their National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund is in better shape than the FDIC's Deposit Insurance Fund. [Read the August 19,](#)



[2024 ICBA article.](#)

KeyBank Criticized by Advocates for Not Improving Performance in Cleveland's Low-Moderate Neighborhoods.

Cleveland-based KeyBank - which mortgage lends in Baltimore - has criticized for years that it has systematically failed minority residents in its own hometown. In November, 2023, the National Community Reinvestment Coalition released a critical report on the bank for "betraying" Black applicants in search of home loans. In 2022, the report found, just 2.6% of KeyBank's Cleveland lending went to Black borrowers, down from 3% the year prior. While KeyBank denied the report's findings and cited recent improvements, Cleveland City Councilman Richard Starr, whose Ward 5 has had decades of disinvestment, criticized the bank. Starr describes his ward as "a low moderate neighborhood" that is diverse. The median household income is around \$13,000. He agreed with the report's stance that KeyBank did not meet the criteria of what was supposed to be a promise to promote and work towards social and racial equity for Black and low-income homebuyers. In 2016, KeyBank made a \$16.5 billion dollar community benefits agreement, with a goal to invest \$5 billion in lending to Black and low-income neighborhoods, but reports show it failed to do this. Starr also said "...they have shown that they have redlined in the neighborhoods that majority African Americans live in, and that is no way to call yourself a key player in the community." KeyBank said it has acted to increase Black and minority lending in Cleveland. "Nationally, our percentage of applications from Black borrowers has grown from 2.6% in FY20 to 7.6% YTD 2024," according to KeyBank, adding that Black borrowers in Cleveland grew from 5.7% to 27% since 2020, and that the bank has hired a Community Lending team to create support for underserved communities in Cleveland and launched the Neighbors First Credit program in 2023, providing more than \$200,000 in credits to homebuyers, and has helped 41 clients in the Cleveland metro. Starr says the Black community has not seen the results of any of KeyBank's investments: "Despite being headquartered in Cleveland, KeyBank has not made significant investments in our major underserved neighborhoods, leaving many areas in economic stagnation." Starr says KeyBank's performance under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) has been "unsatisfactory," and they have not met the credit needs of low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. [Read the July 26, 2024 Cleveland Scene article.](#)



ENFORCEMENT

HUD Approves Settlement with California Housing Providers Resolving Claim of Disability Discrimination.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has entered into a Conciliation Agreement between Burbank Housing Management Corporation, Burbank Housing Development Corporation, BHDC Parkwood Apartments, LLC, Oak Ridge Apartments Associates LP, and James Perez, requiring the respondents to pay \$41,500 in compensation to the complainant. The Agreement resolves allegations that the respondents violated Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Fair Housing Act by discriminating against tenants with disabilities. Read the

Agreement [here](#). The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination because of disability, including refusing to allow reasonable accommodations that would otherwise permit tenants with disabilities an equal opportunity to use and enjoy their housing. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) prohibits the exclusion or discrimination of qualified individuals based on disability

in any program receiving federal financial assistance, including from HUD. The Agreement began with a complaint alleging that the Sonoma County based housing providers interfered with the rights of tenants with disabilities to obtain reasonable accommodations, and that the respondents, who receive HUD and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding, were in noncompliance with Section 504. The Respondents denied the allegations and agreed to settle the matter. The Conciliation Agreement does not constitute an admission of guilt by the Respondents and no determination has been issued by HUD about this. Under the terms of the Agreement, the housing providers will pay \$41,500 to the complainant, will get their reasonable accommodation policies in compliance with the Fair Housing Act and Section 504, and process reasonable accommodation requests in a timely manner. Both HUD and USDA will monitor the Agreement. Anyone who believe they have experienced discrimination may file a complaint by contacting HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at (800) 669-9777 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (Relay) or at hud.gov/fairhousing. Read the July 2, 2024 HUD press release.

HUD Charges Colorado Appraiser, Appraisal Management Company, and Lender with Race Discrimination.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has charged multiple entities with housing discrimination for issuing a biased appraisal and then denying a refinance loan application in Denver, Colorado. HUD's Charge against the appraiser,



Maksym Mykhailyna; appraisal company, Maverick Appraisal Group; appraisal management company, Solidifi U.S. Inc.; and lender, Rocket Mortgage, LLC, alleges that the appraiser issued a discriminatory appraisal that undervalued a Black homeowner's property on the basis of her race. The Charge also alleges that when the homeowner complained to Rocket Mortgage, it would only approve her refinance loan application based on the appraised value that she alleged was discriminatory. Read the Charge. HUD's Charge of Discrimination alleges that Mykhailyna and his appraisal company issued a dubious low appraisal of a duplex owned by a Black woman in a predominantly Denver white area. Other recent appraisals of the same property had steadily increased in value, yet this appraisal resulted in a significant drop, despite the Denver market having substantial growth in home values at that time. To reach that low number, the appraisal was filled with inaccuracies and unsupportable methodological choices (such as relying on comparable properties in neighborhoods with greater Black populations and excluding potential comparables in neighborhoods with larger white populations) that artificially lowered the appraised value and deviated from Mykhailyna's own methodology and findings about the relevant neighborhood in appraising similar, nearby properties with White owners. Both Solidifi and Rocket Mortgage reviewed the appraisal report but failed to correct it despite several red flags. Ultimately, her application was denied. HUD's National Fair Housing Training Academy website contains a flowchart of the appraisal process as well as trainings related to combating and investigating appraisal bias. Image by pch.vector on Freepik.



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Charges Wisconsin Housing Provider with Discriminating Against a Tenant with Disabilities.

On July 19, 2024 HUD charged Tammy and Ramiro Estrada, the owner of a duplex in Appleton with violating the Fair Housing Act by refusing to grant a tenant with a disability a reasonable accommodation to allow the tenant to live with her assistance animals. HUD's Charge alleges that the owners denied the tenant's request by applying unlawful breed restrictions, fines, and fees to the request. They

also interfered with the Complainant's attempt to obtain a service dog and threatened them with eviction, eventually non-renewing their lease and citing the reasonable accommodation requests in the non-renewal notice. The tenants had to rent more expensive housing elsewhere. A U.S. Administrative Law Judge will hear HUD's Charge unless any party to the Charge elects to have the case heard in federal district court. If an administrative law judge finds, after a hearing, that discrimination has occurred, the judge may award damages to the family for their losses because of the discrimination, injunctive relief and other equitable relief to deter further discrimination, payment of attorney fees, and civil penalties to vindicate the public interest. If the federal court hears the case, the judge may also award punitive damages to the family. Additional information is available at www.hud.gov/fairhousing. Housing providers and others can learn more about their responsibility to provide reasonable accommodations and reasonable modifications to individuals with disabilities [here](#). [Read the July 19, 2024 HUD press release](#).

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Files Civil Rights Lawsuit Against Illinois Landlord for Sexually Harassing Tenants.

The DOJ filed a lawsuit on July 18, 2024 against Michael J. DeWitte, of Washington, Illinois, for sexually harassing female tenants and housing applicants in violation of the Fair Housing Act. The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, alleges that, since at least 2002, he harassed female tenants and applicants with unwelcome sexual harassment including sexual contact and comments about their physical appearances; offers to strip for female tenants; removed his pants while giving a tour to a female housing applicant; exposed his genitals to female tenants; asked female tenants on dates; requested sex in exchange for reduced rent or other housing benefits; and evicted female tenants when they did not give in to his sexual advances. The lawsuit seeks monetary damages to compensate those harmed, civil penalties to vindicate the public interest, and a court order barring future discrimination. Anyone who believes that they may have been victims of sexual harassment or other types of housing discrimination at rental properties owned or managed by Michael DeWitte, or who have other info that may be relevant to this case, may contact the DOJ by calling the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois at 309-671-7019 or 833-591-0291, and emailing USAILC.Civil.Rights@usdoj.gov or FairHousing.USAILC@usdoj.gov. The Justice Department's [Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative](#) is run by the Civil Rights Division, in coordination with U.S. Attorneys' Offices. Since beginning in 2017, DOJ has filed 44 lawsuits alleging sexual harassment in housing and recovered over \$17 million for victims of this harassment. [Read the July 18, 2024 DOJ release](#).



CALENDAR

The 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is October 22nd!

Join the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, the Anne Arundel County Office of Equity and Human Rights, the Baltimore County Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Advisory Council, the Montgomery County Office of the Office of Human Rights, and the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights for a celebratory Gala from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree By Hilton Baltimore - BWI Airport (890 Elk Ridge Landing Road,

Linthicum Heights, MD 21090). "This transformative legislation has stood as a pillar of our Democracy, helping move our nation closer to our founding promise of liberty and justice for all.

Our Celebration will commemorate the courage and sacrifice of countless civil rights heroes that gave rise to this historic piece of legislation." Tickets are \$60. For more information, go to <https://mccr.maryland.gov/Pages/Events.aspx>. To purchase tickets to the Gala, go to <https://www.velocitypayment.com/client/maryland/mccr/luncheon/index.html>.

FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES

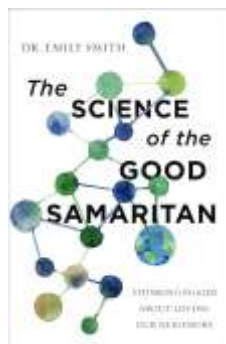


Interested In Fair Housing? Community Development? Insurance? Foreclosure Prevention? Check Out the [GBCHRB's YouTube Channel!](#) You can watch interviews about insurance, discrimination, affordable housing, Fair Housing laws, disability issues, mortgage lending, etc. Our radio shows: <http://www.gbchr.org/2rad9899.htm>.

The GBCHRB Distributes Free Fair Housing Brochures, Posters, and Guides. We have Fair Housing information, brochures, guides, & posters in English, Spanish, Korean, Russian, and for people with disabilities. We also distribute brochures and guides about housing and insurance. Call 443.347.3701 or <mailto:wkladky@gbchr.org>.



What Do You Think of This Newsletter? Is it good? Bad? How can we improve it? What issues should we cover more? Less? Any good ideas? Tips? Good jokes?! Positive or negative, we want to hear from you! We do appreciate constructive criticism! Send comments to <mailto:wkladky@gbchr.org>.



TO READ

***The Science of the Good Samaritan: Thinking Bigger about Loving Our Neighbors* by Dr. Emily Smith** Zondervan, 2023. 288 pages. \$19.99 trade paperback. This excellent book explores what it means to love your neighbor in a divided world. Smith, a global health epidemiologist and host of the popular Facebook page Friendly Neighbor Epidemiologist, examines what loving your neighbor - as illustrated in the Biblical parable of the Good Samaritan - really means in actual day-to-day practice. To Smith, "truly being a neighbor goes way beyond simply donating food or money... it's also [about] changing our hearts and posture to match those deeds." Her perspective is as a scientist and a Christian, and uses examples from her own life. Included are interesting stories from the lives of other inspiring people in multiple cultures to illustrate how to find shared values with people from different backgrounds, faiths, and cultures than our own; reach outside our immediate circles to bring in those on the margins; redefine our concept of "neighbor" and love our neighbors in more practical and global ways; and bridge the gaps of society's disparities and inequities. It all starts with authentically loving your neighbor." Source of photo: Amazon.com.