



FAIR HOUSING NEWS

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

GREETINGS!

Welcome To The April-May 2014 Edition of *Fair Housing News*, Produced by the GBCHRB as a Public Service! Join the mailing list: <mailto:wkladky@gbchr.org>. Go to <http://www.gbchr.org> for laws, links, and studies. See our Fair Housing TV show on the GBCHRB's YouTube Channel - <http://www.youtube.com/user/wkladky1>! Or, check out <http://www.gbchr.org/2rad9899.htm> for radio shows on interesting topics about Fair Housing!

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NATIONAL NEWS

New Study Discovers Pervasive Discrimination In Housing Voucher Program. The two-year study by the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law investigated discrimination in subsidized housing and found significant racial discrimination. [Read the report outlining the discrimination.](#) White and black testers, with comparable backgrounds, tried to rent from landlords. Landlords then in the voucher program discriminated against tenants based on race 33 percent of the time, mostly by steering them to other buildings or neighborhoods. There was discrimination based on disabilities (44%) and against families with children (25%). 55% of landlords in opportunity areas - places with low poverty - who were not participating in the Chicago Housing Authority's voucher program discriminated against white testers with vouchers. In 39% of the tests, landlords directly refused to rent to them. Over half of the landlords who told white testers that they accepted vouchers discriminated against African American testers with vouchers (April 1, 2014 Release / <http://www.wbez.org/news/new-report-reveals-pervasive-discrimination-housing-voucher-program-109946>).

Study Finds Positive Link Between Car Access and Poverty Reduction. A study by researchers at the Urban Institute, the University of Maryland, and UCLA examined low-income families in 10 cities active in the Moving to Opportunity Program and the Welfare to Work Voucher Program. They discovered that moving to places with better schools, lower poverty, and less crime cannot assist a family unless they have access to an automobile. The study emphasized that car access was critical for many facing poor public transportation availability. A recent Washington *Post* interview explored the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program. [Read about the Post on the Baltimore Program.](#) [Read the Urban Institute report.](#) (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/04/01/why-the-poor-need-better-access-to-cars/> / Washington *Post*, April 4, 2014:A15).





Study Finds Same-Sex Couples Seeking Senior Housing Often Face Bias.

The 10-state testing-based study by the [Equal Rights Center](#) (ERC) found adverse differential treatment against older same-sex couples seeking housing in senior living facilities. The report ("[Opening Doors: An Investigation of Barriers to Senior Housing for Same-Sex Couples](#)") documents the results of 200 matched-pair telephone tests conducted in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and

Washington. In 48 percent of the tests, a tester asking about housing in a senior living facility for a same-sex couple experienced at least one form of discriminatory treatment, compared to a tester inquiring about housing for a heterosexual couple. Some of the adverse differential treatment included housing agents providing information about additional units being available to the tester from an opposite-sex couple, advising the same-sex couple about additional fees, costs, and/or a more extensive application process; not providing information about additional amenities to the same sex couple; and offering "specials" and discounts to the tester from the same-sex couple that were not offered to the tester from the opposite sex couple (February 16, 2014 ERC Press Release / http://www.equalrightscenter.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pr_14_2_26).

U.S. Department of Education Study of All 97,000 Public Schools

Finds Pattern of Inequality Along Racial Lines. It found that "racial minorities are more likely than white students to be suspended from school, to have access to fewer rigorous math and science classes, and to be taught by lower-paid teachers with less experience." Among the findings were that Black students are four times as likely as white students to attend schools with 20% of teachers not meeting state teaching requirements, 25% of high schools with many Black and Latino students do not offer any Algebra II courses, and 33% have no chemistry classes. (New York *Times*, March 21, 2014: A19).



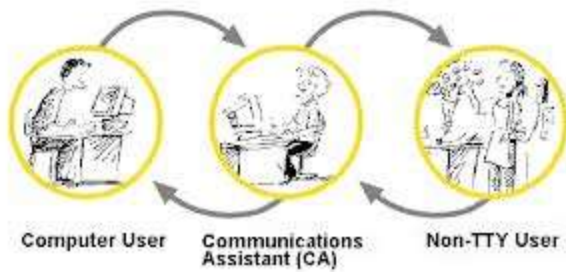
Anti-Discrimination Center Blasts Compliance of Westchester County, New York, to Fair Housing Agreement; Case Enters Gubernatorial Election.

The Westchester County, New York County Executive Rob Astorino, is running to unseat Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and has made Westchester's Fair Housing problems an issue. Astorino's predecessor signed an agreement in 2009 to bring integrated housing into the County, ending a long battle featuring HUD and the State. In the settlement, the County agreed to "affirmatively further Fair Housing" by revising onerous zoning laws and other actions. Since becoming executive, Astorino has slowed down the County's compliance and railed about it. The Anti-Discrimination Center (located in New York), which filed the original complaint, blasted the County's performance in a just-released report (<http://www.antibiaslaw.com/westchester-false-claims-case>). HUD has warned the County it will lose \$5.2 Million in CDBG funds as well as the \$7.4 Million it lost in 2013 because of its noncompliance (New York *Times*, May 22, 2014:A22).

HUD & DOJ ENFORCEMENT

HUD Negotiates An Agreement Between the National Fair Housing Alliance, the Austin Tenants' Council, the National Association of the Deaf, and Bell Partners, a Greensboro, NC-Based Apartment Owner and Operator that Controls Over 64,000 Homes in 15 States, Settling





Allegations That the Company Denied Housing to Deaf Persons. It was alleged that Bell Partners discriminated against rental applicants who were deaf or hard of hearing based on fair housing tests that were done in Savannah, Georgia, and Austin, Texas, in 2013. When agents spoke with testers using the IP Relay system, they allegedly quoted higher rental prices and failed to offer the same specials and amenities they offered to testers who

did not use the IP Relay system. Agents also allegedly failed to follow up with testers who used the IP Relay system. Under the terms of the [agreements](#), Bell Partners will pay \$175,000 to the National Fair Housing Alliance, including \$25,000 in attorneys' fees, provide fair housing training to both newly-hired and current employees, and adopt a written policy addressing equal access to housing opportunities for applicants with disabilities, including deaf and hard of hearing individuals, that describes the correct handling of telecommunications relay calls and other types of communications with deaf and hard of hearing individuals. In addition, it will pay the National Association of the Deaf \$15,000 for assistance in the development of these policies. (May 20, 2014 HUD Press Release / http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2014/HUDNo_14-051).

HUD Reaches [an Agreement](#) with the Owners and Managers of a Denver-Area Apartment Complex to Resolve Allegations They Discriminated Against Families When They Refused to Allow Children to Play Outside.

Under the terms of the Conciliation agreement, the owner and management company of The Orchards at Cherry Creek Apartments in Centennial agreed to construct a \$10,000 accessible playground and require employees to attend fair housing training. HUD's complaint alleged that the apartment complex unfairly restricted the activities of children. A notice published in the complex's monthly newsletter set an essentially anti-children rule: *"All children must be supervised by an adult at all times while playing outside. No sports activities, skateboarding, roller-blading, or general extracurricular activities are to take place in our community. If we see anyone violating any of the above activities or see any unsupervised children they will be sent home immediately."* Under the terms of the agreement, property managers will design and build the play area, which will be accessible to persons with disabilities, within six months; all employees will undergo fair housing training; and the company will amend its policies to comply with the Fair Housing Act (May 6, 2014 HUD Press Release / http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2014/HUDNo_14-041).



City of New Orleans Agrees to Settlement to Resolve Housing Discrimination Lawsuit.

Under the settlement, the city agrees to allow the conversion of the former Bethany Nursing Home into 40 units of affordable housing. Half of the units will be designated as permanent supportive housing and be reserved for formerly homeless persons with disabilities. The settlement also commits New Orleans to developing additional supportive housing for 350 persons with disabilities over the next three years, as well as requires that the city provide all appropriate permits for the Esplanade, amend its Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to allow permanent supportive housing, continue its work to prepare and implement a reasonable accommodation policy approved by the United States, conduct fair housing training for key city officials and be subject to reporting requirements (April 22, 2014 DOJ Press Release / <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2014/April/14-crt-418.html>).

USDOJ Sues Oyster Bay, N.Y., for Housing Discrimination. The complaint alleges that two housing programs designed to develop below-market rate housing for first-time homeowners and senior citizens discriminate against African-Americans because the programs give preference to residents of the mostly-white (99) town. Developers who build housing under the two programs get zoning variances allowing more density than current zoning restrictions permit in exchange for lower sale prices for some units. According to the complaint, the residency preferences discriminate against African-Americans because very few live in the town and even fewer are eligible for the program. The complaint was filed with an accompanying settlement between the Department and the Long Island Housing Partnership (LIHP), the not-for-profit organization responsible for administering the housing program. LIHP has agreed to ensure that residency preferences are analyzed so that they do not violate fair housing laws, as well as provide education and training to localities, banks and individuals on Long Island regarding the requirements of fair housing laws (April 10, 2014 USDOJ Press Release / <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2014/April/14-crt-368.html>).



The Law School Admission Council Agrees to Systemic Reforms and \$7.73 Million Payment to Settle Justice Department's Nationwide Disability Discrimination Lawsuit. The decree resolves allegations that the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) did violate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Under the decree, the Council will pay \$7.73 million in penalties and damages to compensate over 6,000 applicants for testing accommodations on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) in the past five years. The decree also requires significant reform of LSAC's policies and ends its practice of "flagging," or annotating, LSAT score reports for test takers with disabilities who receive extended time as an accommodation. The allegations in the complaint detail LSAC's regular denial of testing accommodation requests, even if applicants have a permanent physical disability with supporting documentation and demonstrated a history of testing accommodations. The lawsuit further alleged that LSAC engages in discrimination "through its practice of flagging the LSAT score reports of individuals who received extended time as a testing accommodation, thereby identifying to law schools that the test taker is a person with a disability." (May 20, 2014 USDOJ Press Release / <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2014/May/14-crt-536.html>).

Texas Man Indicted for Federal Hate Crime and Kidnapping Charges for Assault Based on Victim's Sexual Orientation. A federal grand jury returned a two count indictment against the Springtown, Texas man, charging him with willfully causing bodily injury to a person because of the actual or perceived sexual orientation of that person and with kidnapping. Earlier, a federal criminal complaint was unsealed charging Johnson with a hate crime. The indictment charges Johnson with the same hate crime offense and further charges that Johnson's actions included kidnapping. According to the affidavit filed with the criminal complaint, in the early morning hours of Sept. 2, 2013, the adult male victim connected with the man through the cell phone application for MeetMe.com. An indictment merely establishes probable cause and Johnson is presumed innocent unless proven guilty. Each count carries a maximum statutory sentence of life in prison and a \$250,000 fine. (May 14, 2014 DOJ Press Release / <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2014/May/14-crt-517.html>).



TRANSGENDER RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

MARYLAND NEWS

Governor O'Malley Signs Legislation to Protect Transgender Rights in Maryland.

The legislature approved expanding protections for transgender individuals, giving them the same rights against discrimination based on race, sex, color, creed, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, age, or disability. The bill passed after seven years of trying, after some very emotional debate. Maryland joins 16 other states and the District of Columbia with similar laws. Advocates for transgender rights have estimated the law may affect over 30,000 Maryland residents. Many face discrimination, according to a nationwide survey of transgender people. Over two-thirds of the Marylanders questioned in the survey said they had experienced harassment or discrimination on the job; 81 percent who had expressed their gender identity in school said they had been harassed. However, according to the *Sun* article, the transgender rights measure "could face a challenge at the polls in November. Conservative opponents have launched a petition drive, hoping to collect enough signatures to put it up for a referendum vote. They have dubbed it the 'Bathroom Bill' because it protects a person's right to use restrooms for the gender with which they identify." But an Equality Maryland spokesperson commented that voters had upheld all three laws in that referendum. (Baltimore *Sun*, May 15, 2014 / <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/blog/bs-md-last-signing-20140514,0,6134049.story>).

FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES

Interested In Fair Housing? Community Development? Insurance?

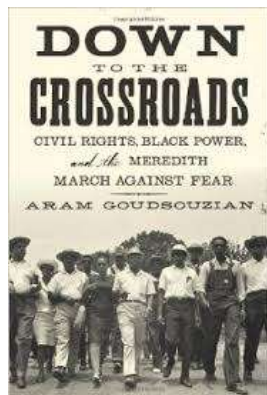
Discrimination? Check Out the [GBCHRB's YouTube Channel!](#) You can watch interviews about insurance problems, discrimination, affordable housing, ethnic history, foreclosures, racial history, Fair Housing laws, disability issues, mortgage lending. Listen to a radio show: <http://www.gbchr.org/2rad9899.htm>. Let us know your opinion & any good ideas for topics!



The GBCHRB Distributes Free Fair Housing Brochures, Posters, and Guides for FREE. We have Fair Housing information, brochures, guides, & posters in English, Spanish, Korean, Russian, and for people with disabilities. We also are distributing various brochures and guides about housing, life, and health insurance. Call 410.929.7640 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! Just send any comment to the GBCHRB at <mailto:wkladky@gbchr.org> or call us at 410.929.7640.



INTERESTING BOOKS

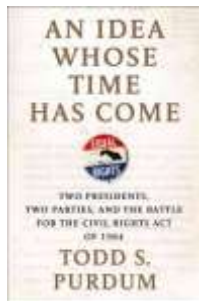
Down to the Crossroads: Civil Rights, Black Power, and the Meredith March Against Fear by Aram Goudsouzian (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014). 368 pages. \$30.00 hardcover. This is the interesting story of the last great march of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. era, and the first great showdown of the



turbulent years that followed. In 1966, civil rights hero James Meredith (the first African American student at the University of Mississippi) reentered Mississippi on foot to walk from Memphis to Jackson - spearheading a "March Against Fear" to promote black voter registration and to fight the area's racism. On the March's second day, Meredith was shot by a mysterious gunman. Highlighted in the book are various stories of rural demonstrators' courage under fire, as well as the impassioned debates among movement leaders about tactics and strategy.

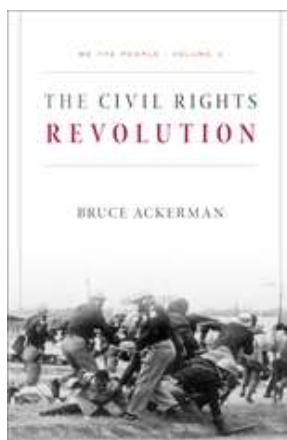


The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is fifty years old this year, so some interesting books have been published:



An Idea Whose Time Has Come: Two Presidents, Two Parties, and the Battle for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by Todd S. Purdum (Henry Holt, 2014). 416 pages. \$30.00 hardcover. This is an engaging story of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, with all its legislative maneuvering and the colorful characters (Kennedy brothers, Lyndon Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., Hubert Humphrey, Everett Dirksen, etc.). The Act took a year to create, prompted the longest filibuster in the history of the U.S. Senate, but was finally adopted with bipartisan support. This version includes dozens of new interviews.

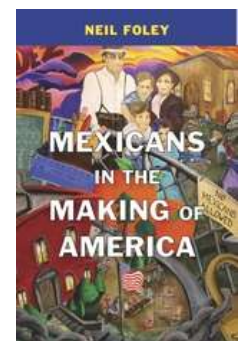
The Bill of the Century: The Epic Battle for the Civil Rights Act by Clay Risen (Bloomsbury Press, 2014). 320 pages. \$28.00 hardcover. As the publicity blurb says: "It was a broad, epic struggle, a sweeping tale of unceasing grassroots activism, ringing speeches, backroom deal-making and finally, hand-to-hand legislative combat. The larger-than-life cast of characters ranges from Senate lions like Mike Mansfield and Strom Thurmond to NAACP lobbyist Charles Mitchell, called "the 101st senator" for his Capitol Hill clout, and industrialist J. Irwin Miller, who helped mobilize a powerful religious coalition for the bill."



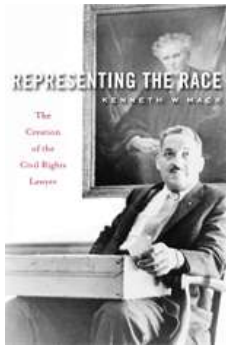
We the People, Volume 3: The Civil Rights Revolution by Bruce Ackerman (Belknap Press, 2014). 432 pages. \$35.00 hardcover. This is a reinterpretation of constitutional history focused on the landmark statutes of the 1960s: the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. The author rejects conventional legal analysis to argue that constitutional politics triumphed, by way of the complex interactions among branches of government, between government and those who participated in the struggle. Ackerman asserts that "the Civil Rights revolution transformed the Constitution, but not through judicial activism or Article V amendments. The breakthrough was the passage of laws that ended the institutionalized humiliations of Jim Crow and ensured equal rights at work, in schools, and in the voting booth."

Here are some relevant upcoming books from Belknap or Harvard University Press:

Mexicans in the Making of America by Neil Foley. Available 09/08/2014. 340 pages. \$29.95 hardcover. A good history, including the "xenophobic fantasies of a tidal wave of Mexicans overrunning the borders and transforming "real America" beyond recognition have inspired measures ranging from Operation Wetback in the

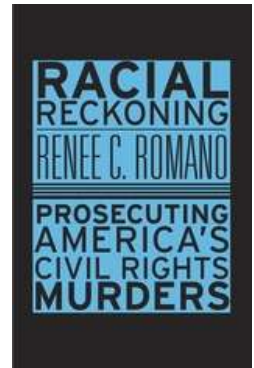


1950s to Arizona's draconian SB 1070 anti-immigration law and the 700-mile security fence under construction along the U.S.-Mexican border today."



Representing the Race: The Creation of the Civil Rights Lawyer by Kenneth W. Mack. 352 pages. \$19.95 paperback. This is "the story of an enduring paradox of American race relations, through the prism of a collective biography of African American lawyers who worked in the era of segregation. Practicing the law and seeking justice for diverse clients, they confronted a tension between their racial identity as black men and women and their professional identity as lawyers. Both blacks and whites demanded that these attorneys stand apart from their racial community as members of the legal fraternity. Yet, at the same time, they were expected to be 'authentic' - that is, in sympathy with the black masses."

Racial Reckoning: Prosecuting America's Civil Rights Murders by Renee C. Romano. Available 09/15/2014. 256 pages. \$35.00 hardcover. Looking at the trials of the civil rights era's most infamous killings (e.g., Birmingham church bombing; the triple murder of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Mickey Schwerner). Though the hope that bringing those responsible to justice would highlight the state-sanctioned racism that had condoned the killings and the continuing effects of racial violence was frustrated, courtroom procedures resulted in not exposing the state's involvement in murder or a complete accounting of racial injustices. However, the convictions were seen as proof of the politically rehabilitated South and the end of America's legacy of violent racism. The author argues that healing the nation's racial past will require more than legal justice.



REST IN PEACE

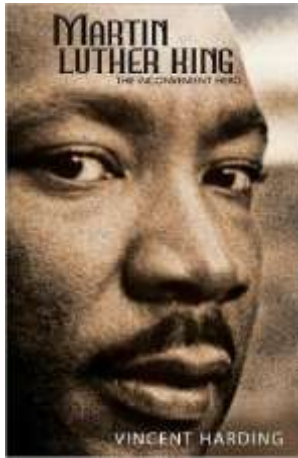
Gary Becker, Discrimination Analyst Author, 83. Aside from being a [Nobel prize-winning economics professor](#) (University of Chicago) and columnist for *Business Week*, Becker wrote *The Economics of Discrimination* (University of Chicago, 1971). This book was heralded during the rise of the civil rights movement because Becker argued "that to better understand any form of discrimination, one needs to quantify what people are willing to pay to avoid one another's company. He concluded that the perpetrator of discrimination is harmed as well as the victim. 'Every time I discriminate - if I decline to hire a black and instead hire a white, when they're equally productive, but the black is cheaper - I'm losing,' he said in an interesting 1993 interview with *Modern Maturity* magazine." (New York Times, May 4, 2014 / <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/05/business/economy/gary-s-becker-83-nobel-winner-who-applied-economics-to-everyday-life-dies.html>).

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/05/business/economy/gary-s-becker-83-nobel-winner-who-applied-economics-to-everyday-life-dies.html>.

Julian R. Dugas, Lawyer and Civil Rights Activist, 95. As a very young lawyer, Dugas was part of the [Bolling v. Sharpe](#) case, a 1954 companion to the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education*. In this case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation in D.C. public schools was unconstitutional. When he began his government career, District affairs were managed by congressional



committees and other federal authorities. He became one of the closest advisers to Walter Washington, who was the city's presidentially appointed mayor-commissioner and in 1975 became the District's first elected mayor in over 100 years. During the 1968 riots, Dugas was responsible for the policy that demonstrators would not be shot on sight and that broken store windows would be replaced (Washington *Post*, April 15, 2014 / http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/julian-r-dugas-longtime-dc-government-leader-dies-at-95/2014/04/15/464657d2-c3f0-11e3-bcec-b71ee10e9bc3_story.html).



Dr. Vincent Harding, Civil Rights Author and Associate of Dr. King, 82. Widely known as a major figure in the civil rights movement, Harding was a friend, adviser and occasional speechwriter to Dr. King. He helped carry on his mission after his 1968 assassination. Harding was the first director of what became the [Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change](#), and fought for black studies as an academic discipline at colleges and universities. He also served as a consultant to various TV programs about African-Americans, such as "[Eyes on the Prize](#)," the praised documentary series. He also wrote Dr. King's landmark anti-Vietnam War address, known as "Beyond Vietnam" and "[A Time to Break Silence](#)," at Riverside Church in Manhattan in 1967. Among many others, he wrote *There Is a River: The Black Struggle for Freedom in America* (Mariner Books, reissue 1993) and *Martin Luther King, The Inconvenient Hero* (Orbis, 2008) (New York *Times*,

May 21, 2014 / http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/22/us/vincent-harding-civil-rights-author-and-associate-of-dr-king-dies-at-82.html?_r=0).
