



FAIR HOUSING NEWS

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



DECEMBER GREETINGS!

Welcome to this Edition of *Fair Housing News* Produced by the GBCHRB as a **Public Service!** To join the mailing list: <mailto:wkladky@gbchr.org>. You can go to our website <http://www.gbchr.org> for

laws, links, etc. See our [TV show on the YouTube Channel](#) or check out <http://www.gbchr.org/2rad9899.htm> for radio shows on topics about Fair Housing!

IN THIS ISSUE...

<i>National News</i>	1
<i>Data Center</i>	5
<i>Maryland News</i>	6
<i>HUD & DOJ Enforcement</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7
<i>Did You Know?</i>	8
<i>Fair Housing Resources</i>	8
<i>Interesting Books</i>	8
<i>Rest in Peace</i>	10



NATIONAL NEWS

National Analysis of Most Recent HMDA Data Show Despite Growing Market, African-Americans and Latinos Remain Underserved. The Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) requires financial institutions to submit information annually about all mortgage applicants. The data is critical for both the public and

financial sectors to identify trends in the groups of Americans receiving - and being denied - mortgage loans. For the third straight year, the HMDA analysis by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) found that the level of mortgage lending has not been affected by lending rules like the Ability-to-Repay and Qualified Mortgages (QM). Instead, lending trends have been modest increasing in 2014, 2015, and 2016. In 2016, 2,123,000 conventional loans were approved. An additional 866,000 non-conventional loans were made. Consumers of color and low-wealth families still lack access to conventional loans. Consumers of color received 187,958 conventional loans or 9% of 2016's conventional mortgage loans. 324,566 non-conventional mortgage loans were approved in 2016 for African-Americans and Hispanic Whites. The high rates of denial in mortgage applications filed by consumers of color are continuing. African-Americans continues to have the highest denial rate with Hispanic White applicants also denied more than Whites. [Read the September 29, 2017 CRL article.](#)

Leadership Conference Education Fund (LCEF) Report Says Trump Administration Is Taking Steps That Undermine Data Collection for Civil Rights-Related Data Collection. The paper, [Misinformation Nation: The Threat to America's Federal Data and Civil Rights](#), highlights the importance of this data and the current threats to civil rights-related data collection. The White House and



federal agencies have canceled the collection of worker pay data by race and sex, hurting efforts to remedy the wage gap; stopped collecting key data on LGBT individuals and families, leaving the LGBT community more vulnerable to discrimination; and removed many data tables from the annual US crime report, hampering development of solutions to criminal justice trends." The LCEF recommended transparency and public availability for government data sources, while simultaneously protecting sensitive or individual data. To be considered credible and reliable, government data collection should be "divorced from partisan influence, including any political anti-civil rights agenda." [Read the Dec. 13, 2017 LCEF press release.](#)



Alleged Hate Crime Committed Against Chennel “Jazzy” Rowe is Likely a Violation of the Fair Housing Act. When Brianna Brochu, a freshman at the University of Hartford, allegedly poisoned and harassed Chennel “Jazzy” Rowe because Chennel is African American, she may well have violated federal and state fair housing laws. The federal Fair Housing Act was passed almost 50 years ago to eliminate housing discrimination and includes a strong

provision to protect people from harassment, intimidation or coercion because of race, national origin, religion, sex, color, disability, or familial status. “The acts by Ms. Brochu may be construed as harassment, intimidation, and intentional behavior to displace Ms. Rowe from her housing,” said the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA). “Racial harassment and intimidation in dormitories is as bad as those same actions in private housing. The University of Hartford is just as liable under the Fair Housing Act as a private landlord and should be held accountable if it has violated the law,” said Erin Kemple, Executive Director of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center. There have been an increase in the number of hate crimes over the past year. According to 2015 FBI statistics, 31.5% of hate crimes occur at someone’s home or residence. That includes dormitories and student housing which are both covered dwellings under the federal Fair Housing Act. [Read the November 2, 2017 NFHA article.](#)

National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) Settles Race Discrimination Complaint with Real Estate Groups in Jackson, Mississippi.

The housing discrimination complaint with Lorgroup, LLC, DBA RE/MAX Alliance, and The Lee Garland and Rita Jensen Team (Lorgroup) will open up housing opportunities for African Americans buying homes in metropolitan Jackson, Mississippi. According to one analysis, Jackson is the third most segregated city in the U.S. Following allegations of housing discrimination from African Americans, NFHA launched an investigation of how Whites and Blacks were treated when inquiring about purchasing homes, found differences in treatment based on race, and filed a federal housing discrimination complaint with HUD. Testing showed that when potential White homebuyers sought housing in integrated and mostly African American areas, they were given information and assistance to help buy a home in a predominantly White area. African American homebuyers often never even received a call back from an agent about purchasing a specific home. Under the agreement, Lorgroup will pay \$46,000 to NFHA, attend fair housing trainings, and display fair housing signs in its offices. Lorgroup also will promote fair housing in the communities where it does business and expand equal housing opportunities for all consumers. The settlement agreement will be monitored by HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. [Read the September 26, 2017 NFHA press release.](#)





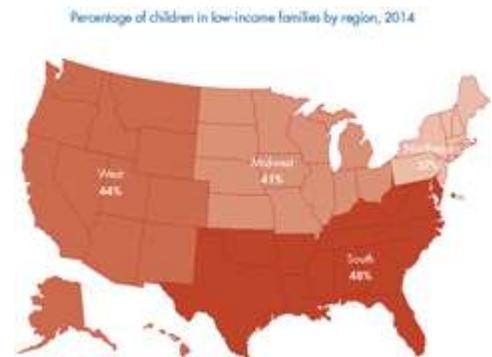
The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the Largest Muslim Civil Rights and Advocacy Organization, Condemned the President’s “Trashing” of Legal Immigrants Who Came to this Country through the Visa Lottery System.

In a speech at the FBI Training Academy, he said in part: “They have a lottery. You pick people. Do you think the country is giving us their best people? No. What kind of a system is that?”

They come in by a lottery. They give us their worst people, they put them in a bin, but in his hand when he’s picking ‘em is the really the worst of the worst. Congratulations you’re going to the United States. Okay.” CAIR said that “when he uses an appearance at a law enforcement setting to trash those who came to this country through a strict legal process - calling them ‘the worst of the worst’ - he sends the message that the status of immigrants is somehow lower than that of native-born citizens, and that law enforcement authorities should perhaps treat them differently than other Americans. This is the same racist, white supremacist message that has emboldened bigots and has resulted in an unprecedented spike in hate targeting minority and immigrant communities.” CAIR's mission is "to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding." [Read the December 15, 2017 CAIR press release.](#)

Civil Rights Groups Sue U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Suspension of Rule Helping Low-Income Families.

Several civil rights organizations sued the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), challenging its decision to suspend a rule that would have helped low-income families get affordable housing. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), the Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC law firm, the Poverty & Race Research Action Council (PRRAC), the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Public Citizen Litigation



Group represent the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. Read the [complaint](#). HUD’s Small Area Fair Market Rent (Small Area FMR) rule would have improved the method to calculate the value of housing vouchers by allowing low-income families access to a larger market of rental properties. The lawsuit therefore challenges HUD’s delay of the rule’s implementation. The lead plaintiff, [Open Communities Alliance](#), is a Connecticut-based fair housing organization that tries to end government policies promoting housing segregation. The Alliance is located in Hartford, one of the 23 metros affected by HUD’s suspension of the rule. According to the complaint, the rule suspension is illegal because HUD did not follow appropriate administrative procedure rules requiring public comment and did not provide enough justifications for the change. The lawsuit also alleges that HUD’s action violated its obligation



under the Fair Housing Act to spend federal funds to affirmatively furthers fair housing, instead of increasing racial segregation and concentrated poverty. The plaintiffs seek a court order requiring HUD to implement the new Small Area FMR rule on schedule. [Read the October 23, 2017 NAACP-LDF article.](#)

Report Finds that Racists Use Various Ways, Especially the Internet, to Raise Money. [Funding Hate: How White Supremacists Raise their Money](#), a new report from the

[Anti-Defamation League](#) (ADL), investigates the tools that white supremacists use to raise funds. Ostracized because of their ideology and violence, the white supremacist movement does not have ready access to the usual methods of raising and transmitting money, and thus is limited in what it can do. Though many on-line selling sites such as E-bay have long cracked down on the sale of white supremacist merchandise, other avenues still are open. Many white supremacist writers use Amazon's CreateSpace self-publishing service to sell their racist books and pamphlets. Hate music can be found on Amazon, but some music services (e.g., Spotify and iTunes) have started removing this music. New [safety rules on Twitter](#) disallowed a number of users with white supremacy and other hateful ideologies from the platform. However, the ADL report found that white supremacists are usually very early adopters of new technologies to raise or transfer money, from crowdfunding to Bitcoin, and start their own services when kicked off others. Recent developments like crowdfunding have given the white supremacist movement more fundraising opportunities than for some time. [Read the December 19, 2017 ADL press release.](#) [Read the December 19, 2017 ADL article about Twitter.](#)



Similar To A Portland Ordinance, Bill Would Make Seattle Landlords Pay When Tenants Are Priced Out. A city councilor will introduce legislation to make landlords pay for tenants' relocation if their rent gets too high. The city now only requires 30 days notice for a rent increase, or 60 days if it increases over 10% in one year. Under the proposal, if the rent increases over 10% in one year and the tenant moves, the landlord would pay for three months rent to help the tenant relocate. The ordinance solely would apply to tenants with 80% of area median income or below, or about \$50,000 annually. A similar ordinance enacted in Portland, Oregon in early 2017 required landlords to pay an amount based on apartment size for no-cause evictions and for moves because of rent increases. With rent control illegal in Oregon, the ordinance went to court and landlords argued that the

ordinance is de facto rent control. The judge ruled in the city's favor that the measure does not violate the rent control ban, and the landlords appealed. The ordinance is also similar to Seattle's existent Tenant Relocation Assistance Ordinance, which has a lower income threshold around \$30,000 and applies to remodels and demolitions. [Read the Nov. 7, 2017 Crosscut article.](#)

The NAACP Warns African-American travelers to be careful when they fly with American Airlines. In an October advisory, the organization said it has noticed "a pattern of disturbing incidents reported by African-American passengers, specific to American Airlines." The NAACP cited four examples of black passengers who were forced to give up their seats or were removed from American Airlines flights. It said the incidents "suggest a corporate culture of racial insensitivity and possible racial bias" and African-American advised travelers to "exercise caution." "Booking and boarding flights on American Airlines could subject them [to] disrespectful, discriminatory or unsafe conditions," the advisory said. American Airlines (AAL) CEO Doug Parker said in a memo to staff that the company was "disappointed" to hear about the NAACP warning. [Read the October 25, 2017 CNN.com article.](#)





DATA CENTER

Zillow Report Finds Increase in Housing Values Spotty; Many African-Americans and Hispanic/Latinos Had Problems with Renting and Buying . While some people have gotten rich, with home value growth surging, not everyone and not all markets are recovering. In some places, less than 5% of homes have returned to their pre-recession highest values. African-Americans and Hispanics/Latinos remain underrepresented among homeowners. *The Zillow Group Consumer Housing Trends Report 2017*

also found that rent increases pushed 61% of African-American and 70% of Hispanic/Latino renters, compared with 44% of white renters, to move. African-American and Hispanic/Latino home seekers and sellers had more problems than Caucasian/white households in buying and selling. Non-white buyers said they feel satisfied with the home-buying process less often than white buyers do, and report more hurdles at all stages of the process, from finding an agent to getting approved for a mortgage. Some 32% of renters report had problems determining if an advertised rental home was legitimate or fraudulent. Generation Z and Millennial renters are slightly more likely (37% and 35%, respectively) to have this problem, as are renters with children (37% had this problem during their rental home search). [Read the 2017 Zillow report.](#)

HUD Report Finds Homelessness has Increased Slightly. HUD said that the lack of affordable rental housing in Los Angeles and NYC is "driving increases nationally." Homelessness among individuals with long-term disabilities jumped. HUD's [2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress](#) found that 553,742 persons experienced homelessness on a single night in 2017, an increase of 0.7% since last year. Homelessness among families with children declined 5.4% since 2016. Local communities have reported an increase in the number of persons with long-term chronic homelessness and Veterans. Thirty states and the District of Columbia reported decreases in homelessness during 2016-2017. In the City and County of Los Angeles, there was a 26% increase in homelessness since 2016, mostly among those found in unsheltered locations. New York City's rate increased 4.1%, mainly among families in emergency shelters and transitional housing. Veteran homelessness increased 1.5% (or 585 persons) since January 2016, especially in California cities. Veteran homelessness has declined nationally by 46% since 2010. On a single night in January 2017, 40,056 veterans were homeless. [Read the December 6, 2017 HUD press release.](#)



Pew Report Finds Americans Deepest in Poverty Lost More in 2016. While the U.S. poverty rate declined and incomes rose rapidly for the second straight year in 2016, many poor Americans fell deeper into poverty, according to a Pew Research

Center [analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data](#). The nation's official poverty rate was 12.7% last year, close to 2007's 12.5% before the Great Recession, with 40.6 million people in poverty. The percent of the U.S. poor population in severe poverty (those with family or individual incomes below half of their poverty threshold) reached its highest point in over 20 years: 45.6% in 2016 and 39.5% in 1996. Poverty thresholds, used by the Census Bureau to determine the poverty rate, vary. 2016's Census poverty thresholds ranged roughly from \$12,000 for a single-person family to \$25,000 for a family of four, and higher for larger families. The median household income for all households was \$59,039 in

2016. For family households, median household income was \$75,062. For poor families, the average income deficit was largest for female-headed households (\$11,139), compared with \$9,991 for married couples and \$9,288 for families led by a man with no wife present. [Read the October 6, 2017 Pew Research Center article.](#)



MARYLAND NEWS

Baltimore to Provide Support for Legal Representation to Immigrants in Deportation Proceedings. To "keep the City of Baltimore safe and secure and to protect the well-being of local residents," the City's budget will be increased to provide legal representation to immigrants facing deportation hearings. This is part of the Safe City Baltimore initiative with [Open Society Institute-Baltimore](#). The City will provide funding for trained legal service providers to represent immigrants facing deportation proceedings. The funds will be supplemented by a grant administered by the [Vera Institute of Justice](#), which is also providing the Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs assistance in identifying and training legal service providers, opportunities to share best practices with other jurisdictions, and data collection and research support. Baltimore is one of 11 jurisdictions in the US that provide this sorely needed help (via the [SAFE Cities Network](#)). [Read the November 9, 2017 Baltimore Mayor's press release.](#) [Read the Nov. 10, 2017 WBAL-TV article.](#)

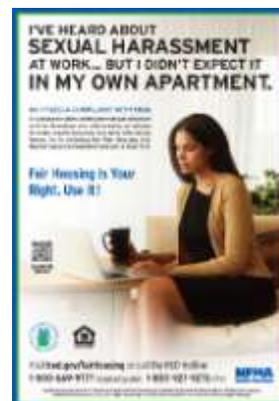


California



HUD & DOJ ENFORCEMENT

HUD Reaches Fair Housing Agreement With Bay Area Landlord And Manager, Settling Disability Discrimination Complaints. The owner and property manager of Shadowbrook Gardens Senior Townhomes in Morgan Hill, California (south of San Francisco), discriminated against a resident with disabilities. [Read the Conciliation Agreement.](#) The complaint was brought by a resident with a mobility impairment, and alleged that the owner and property manager of Shadowbrook Gardens discriminated against her because of her disability. She requested to have a live-in aide and a key to a locked gate near her unit to make it easier for her. The owner and property manager allegedly asked her intrusive questions about her disability, challenged if she had a disability, said the development was for people who could live independently, and refused her requests. The nonprofit group [Project Sentinel](#), a HUD Fair Housing Initiatives Program agency, helped her with filing her complaint and filed its own complaint. Under the agreement, the owner and property manager will pay \$4,000 to the resident and \$7,000 to Project Sentinel. The agreement also requires the owner to keep the gate located near the resident's unit unlocked or give her a key; allows her to have a live-in caregiver; and requires the owner and property manager to obtain fair housing training and implement a reasonable accommodation policy complying with the Fair Housing Act. [Read the Dec. 14, 2017 HUD press release.](#)



HUD Charges Kansas Property Owners with Housing Discrimination after Alleged Sexual Harassment of Two Female Tenants. The owner and

landlord of several rental properties in Wichita, Kansas, and his wife, allegedly sexually harassed two female tenants at his properties. HUD's charge further alleges that he also made discriminatory racial-based statements. [Read HUD's charge.](#) The charge is the result of complaints filed by the female residents alleging that the landlord made unwanted sexual advances toward them, harassed them, made derogatory race-based statements, and evicted them because they refused his advances. HUD's charge alleges that the landlord subjected one of the women, who was working as a property manager, to a hostile environment, including entering her apartment uninvited, sexually harassing her, and requesting sex for allowing her to stay in her unit. The charge also alleges that the landlord told her that he could be her "sugar daddy," grabbed her buttocks, and made comments about her body to others. One time she awoke to find him in her bedroom on her bed. The charge further alleges that the landlord subjected a second woman to a hostile environment by making numerous requests for sex when he picked up her rent payments. [Read the November 16, 2017 HUD press release.](#)

Illinois



Justice Department Sues Springfield, Illinois, for Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities.

The City of Springfield, Illinois, allegedly has discriminated against persons with disabilities in violation of the Fair Housing Act. The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, alleges that Springfield's zoning code treats small group homes for persons with disabilities less favorably than like housing for those without disabilities. The complaint also alleges that Springfield violated the Act by refusing to approve an exception that would allow a three-person group home for individuals with disabilities to continue operating in a residential neighborhood. The case arose when

the city tried to close a home with three residents with intellectual and physical disabilities because the home violated a 600-foot spacing requirement applying to community residences for persons with disabilities. That same spacing requirement does not apply to homes for up to five unrelated persons without disabilities. [Read the November 28, 2017 DOJ press release.](#)

Justice Department Files Disability Discrimination Lawsuit Against the Housing Authority of the City of Bridgeport.

The lawsuit against the Housing Authority of the City of Bridgeport (HACB) alleges that HACB discriminated against persons with disabilities in violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Fair Housing Act. The lawsuit came after a compliance review by HUD. After issuing a determination of noncompliance and attempting resolution, HUD referred the case to the Justice Department. The complaint alleges that HACB failed to properly process, decide, and fulfill requests for reasonable accommodations for tenants with disabilities over at least two years. The complaint also alleges that HACB did not provide a sufficient number of public housing units that are accessible to tenants with mobility, vision, or hearing-related disabilities. [Read the November 15, 2017 DOJ press release.](#)



CALENDAR

"Creating a Just Economy," the [National Community Reinvestment Coalition's](#) 2018 annual conference, will be April 9-11, 2018 at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. It will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Community Reinvestment Act and the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. Featured are: (1)

workshops bridging the gap between policy shifts and intersection community impact for a more #JustEconomy; (2) keynote speeches from contemporary leaders, with past speakers include Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Hillary Clinton, and others; (3) NCRC's Hill Day for conversations with Congressional representatives, and to build the power and relationships necessary to tackle injustice; and (4) the 2018 NCRC National Achievement Awards Dinner to honor those who have made significant impact and showed the difference that can be made by working together. More info: 202.464.2297/ <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=2069153>.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2017 edition of "Programs of HUD" has been posted. It may be found on the HUD.gov public website, and <https://www.hud.gov/hudprograms>. This document provides a broad summary of HUD programs, along with the corresponding statutory and regulatory authorities. Included are information about major mortgage, grant, assistance, and regulatory programs.



FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES

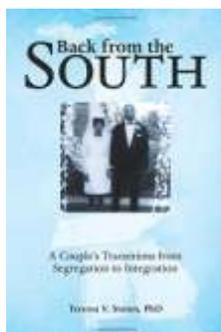


Interested In Fair Housing? Community Development? Insurance? Foreclosure Prevention? Check Out the [GBCHRB's YouTube Channel!](#) You can watch interviews about insurance, discrimination, affordable housing, Fair Housing laws, disability issues, mortgage lending, and related issues. Our radio shows: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

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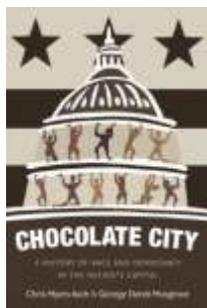
What Do You Think of This Newsletter? Is it good? Bad? How can we improve it? What issues should we cover more? Less? Any good ideas? Tips? Positive or negative, we want to hear from you! We appreciate constructive criticism! Send comments to <mailto:wkladky@gbchr.org>.



INTERESTING BOOKS

Back from the South: A Couple's Transitions from Segregation to Integration by Teresa V. Staten. Archway Publishing, 2017. 126 pages. \$11.99, paperback. An autobiographical picture of how events of the segregated South and subtly segregated North defined an African-American couple's life. Their "sheer determination led them to leave their hometowns in the South, move to the north, and work through institutional odds to become middle-class Americans, often being the first blacks to work and live in all-white workplaces and communities." Good

personalized exploration of the positive and negative consequences of being the first to integrate many situations in a rapidly evolving culture resistant to change.

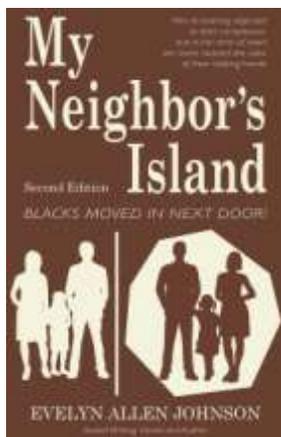
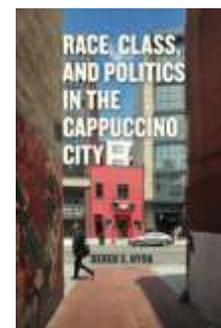


Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital

Hardcover by Chris Myers Asch and George Derek Musgrove. University of North Carolina Press: 2017. 624 pages. \$39.95, hardcover. Good history of Washington DC's four centuries, including clashes over slavery, segregation, civil rights, the drug war, and gentrification, among others. Chapters illuminate the Native American invasion (1608-1790), the post Civil War history of hope and retreat, the development of black militancy, the collapse of Jim Crow, and Washington's rise and fall and rise under Marion Barry and others. The nation's first black-majority city, DC has changed from being "Chocolate City" to "Latte

City." There remains great racial division, but also "hope, resilience, and interracial cooperation."

Another good book about DC that was previously reviewed in this publication (April, 2017) is ***Race, Class, and Politics in the Cappuccino City*** by Derek S. Hyra. University of Chicago Press, 2017. 240 pages. Paperback, \$30.00. that book chronicles and studies gentrification in the Shaw/U Street neighborhood as it changed from being a home to the nation's preeminent African American elite, to a center of a strong narcotics trade, and is now home to an increasing number of young professional millennials.



My Neighbor's Island by Evelyn Johnson. Lynray Press, 2017. 2nd edition. 80 pages. \$9.95, hardcover. Originally published in 1968, this is an interesting look at the problems, issues and emotional attitudes that happen when a black family moves into an all-white neighborhood. The focus is on two families the Burtons, a black household, and their neighbors, the Armstrongs. Mrs. Armstrong suffers from many conventional prejudices and from fears for the value of her house and land. Dr. Burton, a distinguished obstetrician, his wife and his child want to live according to the standard best suiting their tastes and income. It takes an accident and a dramatic birth to lead to friendship and civilized behavior. While many issues are raised, this story is an "example of the truth that people of different racial backgrounds can live together in harmony if they try."

The Arsenal of Exclusion & Inclusion by Interboro, Tobias Armbrorst, Daniel D'Oca, and Georgeen Theodore. 440 pages. Actar; Fol Har/Ma Edition, 2017. \$49.95, hardcover. This is an interesting examination of 202 policies, practices, and physical artifacts that have been used by planners, policymakers, developers, real estate brokers, community activists, and other urban actors to draw, erase, or redraw the lines that divide the urban society. The use of each of these "tools or weapons" of exclusion and inclusion are described, with speculation about how they might be utilized or retired to have open cities in which more people have access to more places. Over 50 architects, planners, geographers, historians, and journalists have written in this encyclopedia about tools/weapons such as Audible Pedestrian Signal,



Exclusionary Amenity, Unaccompanied Adult Rule, etc. One entry is dedicated to the history and policies of racial residential segregation and the efforts for fair housing. The section on fair housing also features an interview about the importance of testing in uncovering and eliminating housing discrimination.



REST IN PEACE

Ernest Finney Jr., Civil Rights Lawyer, 86. Finney was the first African-American Supreme Court Justice appointed to the Supreme Court of South Carolina since Reconstruction. He was the lawyer of the 10 black college students - the Friendship Nine - who were arrested at the McCrory's in Rock Hill, South Carolina, who chose jail rather than bail: the 1961 "Jail, Not Bail" case. Their strategy spurred the civil rights movement by embarrassing local authorities for being imprisoned for merely eating lunch or riding a bus. Finney and his partner subsequently represented thousands of other civil rights movement defendants. Finney served in the State Legislature, where he drafted a bill to improve voter representation. In 1976, he was elected South Carolina's first black Circuit Court judge. In 1985, Finney was named by the Legislature to the State Supreme Court. In 2015, he represented the surviving eight members of the Friendship Nine at the court hearing where their convictions were overturned and the prosecutor apologized. "Justice and equity demand that this motion be granted," Justice Finney had declared. When the presiding judge, Circuit Court Judge John C. Hayes III, ruled to overturn the convictions, he said "We cannot rewrite history, but we can right history." In 2000, Finney observed "We knew the law at the time was against us, but we never lost faith that what we perceived to be justice would prevail. When I look at how far we have come today, I have to say, If there's a man who ought to be impressed with the fact that the law works, I'm that man." [Read the December 7, 2017 New York Times obituary.](#)

Charles Halleck, D.C. Judge and Activist, 88. When he was first a D.C. Superior Court Judge, he gave out tough sentences and had conservative political views. Halleck's views shifted after the civil rights movement began and he married a criminologist. With her encouragement, he visited Pride Inc., an employment program for black teenagers led by future D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, and met with prisoners at Lorton Reformatory, the Virginia prison with many District inmates. He decided that prisons were "finishing schools for crime." Halleck began advocating for expanded mental health facilities and better treatment for female convicts, and railed against former conservative allies who wanted more police courts to address crime. He dismissed charges against gay men targeted under an indecency act, testified against marijuana possession laws he said were disproportionately applied against black men, and wept and laughed during trials that acquitted protesters such as Dick Gregory, arrested at the White House in 1973 for protesting the U.S. bombing of Cambodia. [Read the November 2, 2017 Washington Post obituary.](#)

