



FAIR HOUSING NEWS

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



SPRING 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. Watch an episode of our TV show on the YouTube Channel - <http://www.youtube.com/user/wkladky1>! Or, check out <http://www.gbchr.org/2rad9899.htm> for radio shows on topics about Fair Housing!

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NATIONAL NEWS

HUD Will Enforce the Fair Housing Act to Prohibit Housing Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity. HUD now interprets the Fair Housing Act to bar discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and directs HUD offices and recipients to enforce the Act. This came from HUD's implementation of President Biden's Executive Order 13988 on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation (Executive Order), which directed executive branch agencies to develop actions to combat such discrimination. HUD now will accept and investigate all complaints of sex discrimination, including discrimination

because of gender identity or sexual orientation, and enforce the Fair Housing Act where it finds such discrimination; HUD will conduct all activities involving the application, interpretation, and enforcement of the Act's prohibition on sex discrimination consistent with its conclusion that such discrimination includes discrimination because of sexual orientation and gender identity; (3) HUD FSAP funded state and local jurisdictions that enforce the Act through their HUD-certified substantially equivalent laws will administer those laws to prohibit discrimination because of gender identity and sexual orientation; FHIP-funded organizations and agencies must prevent and combat discrimination because of sexual orientation and gender identity; and FHEO Regional Offices, FHAP agencies, and FHIP grantees will review all records of allegations since January, 2020, and notify persons who alleged discrimination because of gender identity or sexual orientation that their claims may now be eligible for filing. Read the NCRG's information about Same-Sex Couples And Mortgage Lending - <https://ncrc.org/same-sex-couples-and-mortgage-lending/>, or about Lending Discrimination against Same-Sex Couples in Mortgage Applications - <https://ncrc.org/same-sex-couples-and-mortgage-lending/>. [Read the February](#)





[11, 2021 HUD press release.](#) [Read the February 11, 2021 NCRC statement.](#)

Action Pushed to Protect Rights of Asian Americans. After the horrific March 17, 2021 fatal shootings in Atlanta, Georgia of eight people, six of them women of Asian descent, at Gold Spa, advocates are demanding better enforcement of their rights. Some Asian-Americans are angered over the country's long failure to take discrimination against them seriously. For most of the last year, there has been rising discrimination against Asian-Americans, fueled in part by racist language and false claims about the coronavirus by former President Donald J. Trump and other public officials. Some scholars and activists said the Atlanta massacre was unsurprising after public officials and popular culture have downplayed the dangers of bias and stereotypes against Asians. Although Asian-Americans, like other minority groups, have endured a long tradition of deadly violence, the threats and discrimination they continue to face are frequently trivialized as harmless insults. People are reluctant to even acknowledge that attacks against them could be racially motivated, as when a law enforcement official in Georgia seemed to dismiss racial hatred as a motive in the shootings. Many are ignorant of the history of Asian-Americans, and do not know, for instance, about [the lynching of 18 Chinese people](#) in Los Angeles in 1871, or the [forcible removal of Chinese people by mobs in Seattle](#) in 1886. Japanese residents were for decades kept out of white neighborhoods through covenants written into real estate deeds; tens of thousands of American citizens of Japanese descent were jailed in internment camps during World War II. [Read the March 18, 2021 New York Times article.](#)

A 2020 Analysis by WBEZ and the Nonprofit Newsroom City Bureau Reveals Huge Disparities in the Amount of Money Lent in Chicago's White Neighborhoods Compared to Black and Latino Areas.

This locks Blacks and Latinos out of home ownership, deprives communities of sorely needed capital investment, and worsens racial inequities between neighborhoods. Lenders have invested more in a single white neighborhood than all the black neighborhoods combined. 68.1% of dollars loaned for housing purchases went to majority-white neighborhoods, while only 8.1% went to majority-black neighborhoods and 8.7% went to majority-Latino. There are similar numbers of majority-white, black and Latino neighborhoods in the city. The gaps in home purchase lending were wider for some of the largest lenders, like JPMorgan Chase, which lent 41 times more money in white neighborhoods than black neighborhoods. Lenders invested more money in each of the majority-white communities of Lincoln Park, Lake View, the Near North Side, and West Town than they did in all of the majority-black neighborhoods combined. [Read the June 3, 2020 WBEZ 91.5 Chicago article.](#)



Major Class Action Lawsuit Challenges New York City's Segregated School System for Students with Disabilities on Staten Island.

The lawsuit alleges that the borough's separate school district for children with disabilities (District 75) denies them an equal education, forcing them into segregated schools and classrooms without adequate resources and with no

meaningful opportunity to be integrated into their community schools. Disability Rights New York, the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, and Disability Rights Advocates are together supporting the plaintiffs, three Staten Island students with disabilities. Not seeking monetary damages, they seek reforms that will force the New York City Department of Education to provide the resources necessary so that every Staten Island District 75 student has the opportunity to attend their neighborhood schools if they choose. [Read the press release \(PDF\) here.](#) [View Class Action Complaint \(PDF\) here.](#)



FOCUS: SEGREGATION'S EFFECTS

Study Finds Segregation-Produced Urban Heating Disproportionately Affects Black and Latino Children Before Birth & in Their Early Years.

The report by *The (London)*

Guardian summarized recent environmental research shows that

racial segregation caused by decades of discrimination is directly affecting Black and Latino children before they were even born and in their early years. The recent analysis of over 30 medical studies found "women of color, particularly Black women, and their babies are most likely to suffer low birth weights, pre-term births and stillbirths from climate-driven threats exacerbated by racial segregation. Hot temperatures can cause strain upon women and their unborn children, while heat can also react with pollutants from cars and power plants to create ozone, a ground-level pollutant that can cause an array of health problems. It was found that pollution causes placental inflammation and affects the baby. In 2020, it was discovered that pregnant women exposed to heat and air pollution are at heightened risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes. This can cause childhood impacts as well as when they are adults, such as heart and kidney disease. Even at limited exposures, it can affect baby development. Many children will be hurt for life because of what their mothers are exposed to, affecting the brain, lungs, pancreas, etc. [The \(London\) Guardian, February 16, 2021.](#)



Other sources for this research include: ["Association of Air Pollution and Heat Exposure With Preterm Birth, Low Birth Weight, and Stillbirth in the US: A Systematic Review."](#) Bruce Bekkar, MD; Susan Pacheco, MD; Rupa Basu, PhD; et al Nathaniel DeNicola, MD, MSHP. *JAMA Netw Open*.

2020;3(6):e208243. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.8243; ["Can We Turn Down the Temperature on Urban Heat Islands?"](#) Jim Morrison. *E360 Digest*. September 12, 2019; ["Racist Housing Practices From The 1930s Linked To Hotter Neighborhoods Today."](#) Meg Anderson. *NPR*. January 14, 2020; ["Study Finds Link Between Deadly Heatwave Exposure and Redlining Housing Policies."](#) Nina Lakhani. *E360 Digest*. January 16, 2020; and ["The Effects of Historical Housing Policies on Resident Exposure to Intra-Urban Heat: A Study of 108 US Urban Areas."](#) by Jeremy S. Hoffman 1,2,*OrcID, Vivek Shandas and Nicholas Pendleton. *Climate* 2020, 8(1), 12; <https://doi.org/10.3390/cli8010012>.



FAIR LENDING NEWS

CFPB Announces Effort to Prevent Lending Discrimination Based on Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation.

[Read the NCRC press release.](#) The CFPB said the principles from the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Bostock v. Clayton County* that provide protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation

or gender identity also apply to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. HUD made a similar announcement last month that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity violates the Fair Housing Act in response to executive orders promoting fair housing previously signed by President Biden in January. A [recent NCRC study](#) on mortgage lending showed that same-sex couples are significantly less likely than different-sex couples to be approved for mortgage loans, and that same-sex couples who are approved pay higher interest rates and closing costs. [Read the March 9, 2021 CFPB interpretive rule that discrimination by lenders on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is illegal.](#) [Read the NCRC comment on the CFPB's RFI on the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.](#)

'Racial bias runs deep' at America's largest banks, study says. A just-released study *Advancing Racial Justice for Frontline Bank Workers* conducted by the Committee for Better Banks found that people of color's chances of getting promoted to the highest levels of management or senior and executive leadership at the major consumer banks are much lower compared with Whites. "Racial bias runs deep," the report concluded. The report graded 13 major banks on their willingness to disclose workforce demographic data, their levels of diversity across the job classification hierarchy, and how employees of color fare in career advancement relative to their White peers. The study gave a final overall grade of "C" for diversity and inclusion to the collective financial services industry, "D's" for Black and Latino representation, and a "C" for Asians. Asian Americans did better than Black and Latino workers, with Black employees the worst for career advancement at the banks. Top grades went to Bank of America, Capital One, Citibank, and JPMorgan Chase with a "C," and the lowest grades to 8 banks that provided incomplete data or refused to provide any. Bank of the West, Fifth Third Bank, HSBC, PNC, Santander, Truist, US Bank, and Wells Fargo got overall "F's" because they declined to provide data. [Read the March 18, 2021 CNN article.](#)



HUD Approves Agreement with JP Morgan Chase Resolving Claims of Race Discrimination in Appraisals. The Conciliation Agreement between the bank and an African-American woman resolves the woman's claim that the mortgage lender, relying on an appraisal that she believed was inaccurate, valued her home at an amount lower than its actual worth because of her race. [Read the agreement.](#) Under the Conciliation

Agreement, JPMorgan Chase Bank will pay \$50,000 to the woman and provide home lending advisors and client care specialists with mandatory training on the Reconsideration of Value process and fair lending issues connected to appraisals, including specifics regarding how to handle complaints of discrimination in the appraisal process. [Read the March 8, 2021 HUD release.](#)

HUD Approves Agreement with Wells Fargo Bank Resolving Claims of Lending Discrimination. The Conciliation Agreement between Wells Fargo Bank and a customer resolves the customer's claim that the mortgage lender denied her loan after learning it was for a group home for persons with disabilities. [Read the agreement.](#)

"Group homes for persons with disabilities are homes, just like any other, and mortgages may not be denied because individuals with disabilities will be living there," said Jeanine Worden, HUD's Acting Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "HUD is committed to enforcing the Fair Housing Act to ensure that mortgage lenders comply with the nation's fair housing laws and do not use discriminatory business practices." [Read the March 21, 2021 HUD release.](#)



MARYLAND NEWS

Maryland Commission on Civil Rights Celebrates Women's History Month with Two Upcoming Events: (1) *The Shadow Pandemic: Gender Inequality in the Wake of Covid 19* on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, from 12 noon - 2:00 p.m.

[REGISTER HERE.](#) This two-hour interactive presentation will detail the disparate impact of COVID-19 on women with an emphasis on the longstanding economic and racial disparities that have led to the exacerbation of systemic and structural inequity. Topics that will be covered include: Employee's rights if they have COVID (what to do about FMLA, vaccine

mandates, caretaking duties, unemployment and under-employment etc.); The “she-cession;” the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Women of Color as well as low-wage workers; and the vulnerability of women (especially women with children) to housing insecurity and harassment during the pandemic. Presented by Glendora C. Hughes, General Counsel for the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights and Michelle Daugherty Siri, Executive Director, The Women's Law Center of Maryland. (2) Fairness for All Marylanders: Barriers to Equality for Transwomen on Friday, March 26, 2021 from 12 noon - 2:00 p.m. [REGISTER HERE](#). This educational program and panel presentation will feature an overview of Maryland’s anti- discrimination laws with an emphasis on gender identity protections and unlawful employment practices. The panelists will provide background and insight with regard to the personal, systemic, and institutional barriers the trans community has encountered and how to support and take action to ensure equal rights.

A Baltimore Episcopal Church Founded by Slaveholders in the 1860s will spend \$500,000 Over the Next Five Years to Establish a Fund Intended as Reparations for Slavery.

Members of Memorial Episcopal Church in Bolton Hill voted to budget \$100,000 a year to donate to community organizations doing “justice-centered work.” The fund aims to address race-based inequalities that took began during slavery and spread for generations in the church and in the wider community. The parish will take half the funding from its endowment and half from its operating budget. A church advisory group will choose beneficiaries that focus their work on issues of housing, education, environmental justice or civic engagement. These are areas where church researchers have found that parishioners supported racist views and practices in past years. The panel is considering organizations that work within the church’s ZIP code, 21217, an area of about 40,000 people in west-central Baltimore, more than 86% of them African American.



[Read the January 29, 2021 Baltimore Sun article.](#)



Maryland U.S. attorney’s New Civil Rights Unit to Focus on Biased-Based Hate Crimes & Domestic Terrorism in the State.

The U.S. attorney’s office in Maryland's unit will be staffed by assistant U.S. attorneys experienced in the civil and criminal federal statutes that deal with civil rights. The acting US Attorney Jonathan F. Lenzner said the unit will look “holistically” at cases “so we can make sure we are getting under the surface to address discrimination wherever it lies.” The unit will investigate and prosecute criminal conduct, such as hate crimes, and civil wrongdoing including “patterns or practices of discrimination” in education, housing, employment, and health care. It will collaborate with the office’s national security team to ensure that civil rights statutes are adequately applied when acts of domestic terrorism are racially motivated or include hate crimes. The federal prosecutors assigned to the new unit will continue working with the FBI and DOJ's civil rights division. The goal is to expand collaboration beyond other federal agencies, working with local law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations to educate residents about their constitutional and civil rights protections. [Read the March 11, 2021 Washington Post article.](#)

Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition Provides Many Different Trainings: (1) Advocacy - [email us to schedule your advocacy training](#); (2) Know Before You Enroll - To help prospective students avoid predatory higher education institutions, [email us to schedule a Know Before You Enroll](#)



[training](#); (3) Renters' & Homeowners' Tax Credits - a guide clients through the RTC/HOTC application process, [email our SOAR Financial Counselor to learn more and set up a training or event](#); (4) Scam Prevention - Trainings to organizations and the community to encourage older adults to take the necessary steps to protect themselves from financial fraud, just [email our SOAR Financial Counselor](#). (5) Digital Privacy - Trainings on digital privacy for older adults on protecting their privacy online, what to do if their privacy is breached, and what Maryland laws and resources are available to assist them, and [email our SOAR Financial Counselor](#). (6) Money Smarts for Older Adults - Training with practical knowledge, skills-building opportunities, and resources to manage their finances with confidence, just [email our Economic Rights Organizer](#); and (7) Community Reinvestment - Trainings on all the issues we work on by [emailing us to find out more and schedule a training](#). Contact the MCRC at (410) 220-0494 | info@marylandconsumers.org.



HUD & DOJ ENFORCEMENT

Anyone who believes they have experienced housing discrimination may file a complaint of discrimination by contacting HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at (800) 669-9777 or visiting [How to File a Complaint](#) on HUD's website. Materials and assistance are available for persons with limited English proficiency. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact HUD using the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

HUD Charges Oil City, Pennsylvania Landlords with Sexual Harassment and Retaliation Against a Female Resident.

HUD's charge alleges that the husband groped and tried to forcibly kiss the woman when he was in her unit to perform electrical repairs, and that the owners retaliated against the woman and her infant child after she told the wife about the husband's harassment. [Read HUD's charge](#). The charge alleges that the husband co-owner of the apartments made sexual advances to the female tenant when he was repairing her unit. The housing was rented using a Housing Choice Voucher. The charge will be heard by a US Administrative Law Judge unless any party elects for the case to be heard in federal court. If the administrative law judge finds after a hearing that discrimination has occurred, the judge may award damages to the complainant for losses that have resulted from the discrimination. The judge may also order injunctive relief and other equitable relief, payment of attorney fees, and civil penalties. [Read the March 16, 2021 HUD release](#).



HUD Approves \$115,000 Settlement Resolving Claims of Disability Discrimination at 27 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Area Apartment Complexes. Regarding a complaint about a refusal to grant reasonable accommodations requested by individuals with disabilities, the Conciliation Agreement is between the Housing Equality Center of Pennsylvania; management companies HumanGood East, dba Presby's Inspired Life and HumanGood Pennsylvania, dba Presby's Inspired Life; 27 apartment complex owners; and an individual with disabilities. [Read the agreement](#).

Under the terms of the settlement, the management companies and owners will pay \$90,000 to the Housing Equality Center of Pennsylvania and \$25,000 to the complainant, develop and implement nondiscrimination and reasonable accommodation policies, provide training to staff, and grant reasonable accommodations to tenants whose requests were previously denied. [Read the March 4, 2021 HUD release](#).



HUD Charges Pennsylvania Housing Provider with Discriminating Against People with Mental Disabilities. Perry Homes, Inc., and Whittington and Whittington, doing business as Perry Homes, are charged with refusing to allow assistance animals in rental properties in Harmony, Cranberry Township, and Zelienople, which are near Pittsburgh. HUD's charge alleges that rental agents told fair housing testers posing as

prospective tenants with disabilities that they could accept service animals but were not permitted to accept "emotional support" animals. [Read HUD's charge](#). The case came to HUD's attention when Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services (SPLS) filed a complaint after testers posing as prospective tenants who said they had assistance animals were told that the animals were not allowed. [Read the February 24, 2021 HUD release](#).

HUD Charges Providence, Rhode Island Housing Provider with Discriminating Against Families with Children. D&D Realty Management, LLC, owner and manager of several rental properties, is charged with refusing to rent to families with children. HUD's charge alleges that the owners stated that they cannot have children at the property and refused to show available units to fair housing testers posing as prospective tenants with children. [Read HUD's charge](#). SouthCoast Fair Housing filed a complaint based on fair housing tests it conducted after seeing an ad on Facebook for remodeled student apartments. Testing evidence showed that testers without children who applied for housing were shown available units and offered the opportunity to rent. [Read the February 22, 2021 HUD release](#).



Justice Department Settles Claims Against Toms River, New Jersey Over Zoning Code that Restricts Houses of Worship. The agreement resolves allegations that the Township violated the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act by severely restricting where houses of worship can locate within its jurisdiction. Since 2009, Toms River has enacted a series of revisions to its zoning code - including a ten-acre parcel minimum requirement - which greatly reduced the number of zoning districts in which houses of worship

can locate and the number of sites available for houses of worship. These restrictions particularly impact the Township's Orthodox Jewish population, who, because of their faith and religious traditions, tend to worship at small houses of worship which they walk to and from on the Sabbath and holidays. The complaint also alleges that the Township's zoning ordinance treats houses of worship and other religious assemblies and institutions on less favorable terms than nonreligious assemblies and institutions. As part of the consent decree, the Township will revise its zoning code to reduce the minimum acreage required for a house of worship in many zoning districts from 10 to 2 acres; allow houses of worship as-of-right in certain zoning districts; allow smaller houses of worship to be located on minor collector roads; and treat houses of worship on comparable terms to nonreligious places. The Township also will train its officials and employees on legal requirements and establish a procedure for receiving and resolving complaints and other injunctive relief. [Read the March 10, 2021 USDOJ release](#).

Indiana Man Pleads Guilty to Hate Crime for Making Racially-Charged Motivated Threats Toward Black Neighbor and to Unlawful Possession of Firearms. The 51-year-old pleaded guilty in federal court to making threats to intimidate and interfere with his neighbor, who is Black, because of his race and because the neighbor was exercising his right to fair housing, and also pleaded



guilty to unlawfully possessing firearms. According to documents filed in connection with the plea, the lawbreaker took several steps to threaten, intimidate and interfere with his neighbor and construction workers, including burning a cross above the fence line; displayed a swastika on his fence facing his neighbor's property; put a large sign containing various anti-Black racial slurs next to the swastika; displayed a machete near the sign with the racial slurs; loudly played the song "Dixie;" and threw eggs at his neighbor's house. The law breakers' sentencing date has not been set yet, and he faces a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 for each of the offenses. [Read the February 12, 2021 USDOJ release.](#)



FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights Provides Free Great Trainings on Issues Affecting Equal Access & Opportunity. The following training modules for agencies, businesses, and organizations are available: Know Your Civil Rights, Conflict Resolution, Dimensions of Diversity, Disability Issues, Awareness & the Law, Employment

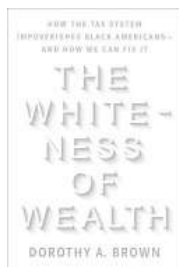
Discrimination Prevention, Housing Discrimination Prevention Public Accommodations/Services Discrimination Prevention, Race in America: Systemic and Structural Discrimination, Investigating Complaints of Discrimination (4 hours), Religious/Spiritual Awareness, Accommodation & the Law, Sexual Harassment Prevention, Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity, LGBTQIA Safe Spaces, and the Maryland Equity and Inclusion Leadership Program. Go to their Education & Outreach division for [more information](#) or contact Kara Hunt 410.767.7656 / <mailto:kara.hunt1@maryland.gov> or Keith Merkey 410.767.8560 / <mailto:keith.merkey@maryland.gov>.

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, lending, and related issues. Our radio shows: <http://www.gbchrb.org/2rad9899.htm>.

The GBCHRB Distributes Free Fair Housing Brochures, Posters, and Guides. We have Fair Housing information, flyers, brochures, guides, & posters in English, Spanish, Korean, Russian, and for people with disabilities. We also distribute brochures and guides about housing and insurance. 410.929.7640 / or <mailto:wkladky@gbchrb.org>.



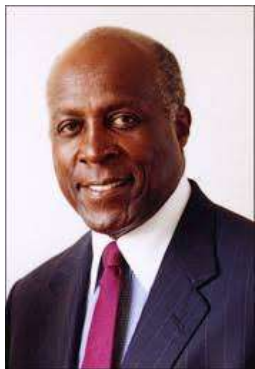
What Do You Think of This Newsletter? Is it good? Bad? How can we improve it? What issues should we cover more? Less? Any good ideas? Tips? Good jokes?! Positive or negative, we want to hear from you! We appreciate constructive criticism! Send comments to <mailto:wkladky@gbchrb.org>.



INTERESTING BOOKS

The Whiteness of Wealth: How The Tax System Impoverishes Black Americans-- And How We Can Fix It by Dorothy A. Brown. Crown, 2021. 288 pages. \$27.00

hardcover. “Important reading for those who want to understand how inequality is built into the bedrock of American society, and what a more equitable future might look like.”—Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be an Antiracist*. This analysis of racism in the American taxation system was conducted by a law professor and expert on tax policy who examined decades of cross-disciplinary research that showed that tax law rewards the preferences and practices of whites while not helping and sometimes penalizing Blacks. As a result, from attending college to getting married to buying a home, Blacks are at a financial disadvantage compared to whites and there is an ever-increasing wealth gap. The author also shows that to address the problem, America’s tax code will have to be revised significantly with different choices.



REST IN PEACE

Vernon Jordan, civil rights leader dies at 85. Jordan was the president of the National Urban League and a civil rights activist with connections to many in American politics, though mostly with Democrats, including presidents from Lyndon Johnson to Barack Obama. He also worked with Republican Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush. A lawyer, Jordan began fighting segregation with a 1961 lawsuit against University of Georgia's integration policy on the behalf of two Black students, Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter. Jordan accompanied them to the UGA admissions office that year through an angry mob of White students. Jordan also worked as a field director for the NAACP and as a director of the Southern Regional Council for the Voter Education Project. In 2001, Jordan received the NAACP's Spingarn Medal for a lifetime of social justice activism. He was chairman of Clinton's 1992 presidential transition team. He also had a stellar career in the corporate world, serving on the board of directors for major American corporations. [Read the March 2, 2021 CNN article.](#)

Theodore Mann, rights lawyer and influential voice on Jewish affairs, dies at 92. Mann specialized in complex commercial litigation in Philadelphia while taking pro bono cases with the ACLU and American Jewish Congress. He handled the early phases of a 1963 Supreme Court case, *Abington School District v. Schempp*, in which the justices ruled 8 to 1 that school-sponsored Bible readings were unconstitutional. Deeply concerned with the divide between church and state, Mr. Mann unsuccessfully argued a [1960 Supreme Court case](#) against a Pennsylvania “blue law,” which allowed only certain stores to be open on Sundays, making business difficult for Jewish shop owners who took off on Saturdays, the Sabbath. He won a [1973 case](#) in which the Supreme Court struck down a state law reimbursing parents for tuition to parochial schools. He was best known as a diplomatic leader of the American Jewish Congress, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and what is now the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry. He was also the founding chairman of Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, a national advocacy organization - named for the Hebrew word for food - that works to end hunger in the US and Israel. [Read the December 14, 2020 Washington Post obituary.](#)

