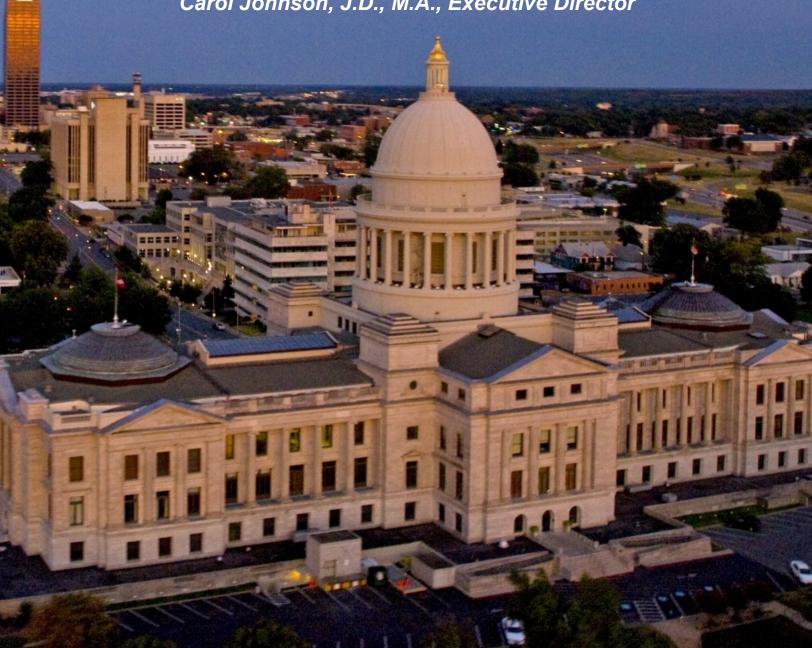


Annual Report to Legislature 2017

Arkansas Fair Housing Commission

Carol Johnson, J.D., M.A., Executive Director



ABOUT THE ARKANSAS FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission is to receive, investigate, conciliate and/or resolve complaints alleging violations of the Arkansas Fair Housing Act which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under the age of 18) and handicap (disability); to cooperate with and provide technical and other assistance to federal, state, local and other public or private entities that are formulating or operating programs to prevent or eliminate discriminatory housing practices; and to establish an education and outreach program to prevent discriminatory housing practices.

THE ARKANSAS FAIR HOUSING ACT

Act 1785 of 2001, codified at Ark. Code Ann. §16-123-201 et seq., is the enabling legislation creating the Arkansas Fair Housing Act and the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission. This legislation allowed Arkansas to become one of 38 states to enact fair housing laws substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act.

With this legislation, the Arkansas General Assembly declared that, "[t]he opportunity to obtain housing and other real estate without discrimination because of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or familial status...is recognized and declared to be a civil right." Ark. Code Ann. § 16-123-203.

In seeking to protect the public's access to fair housing, the Arkansas General Assembly further recognized that "the right to seek housing underlies the general public's ability to secure health, safety, and welfare." Ark. Code Ann. § 16-123-301.

The legislature provided that the Arkansas Fair Housing Act "shall become effective after the statutes and regulations required by this subchapter are adopted as substantially equivalent to federal fair housing laws, as recognized by the appropriate federal agency designated to enforce the provisions of federal fair housing laws." Ark. Code Ann. § 16-123-203.

In July of 2003, Arkansas passed a fair housing law which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recognized as being substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act (also known as Title VIII) and Act 1785 of 2001 became effective in Arkansas.

ABOUT THE ARKANSAS FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION

THE HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION

In January of 2001, Arkansas began to amend its existing fair housing law for the purpose of obtaining substantial equivalency. Over the following two years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided technical assistance and legal analysis to assist Arkansas in developing its fair housing law. During this time, Arkansas created the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission – appointing 13 commissioners and hiring an Executive Director and other staff to investigate complaints filed under its new fair housing law. In July of 2003, Arkansas enacted an amended fair housing law that is substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act.

With the passage of Act 1785 of 2001 (as amended in 2003), HUD recognized the Arkansas Fair Housing Act as being "substantially equivalent" to the federal Fair Housing Act and allowed Arkansas to join other States already participating in HUD's Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP).

In a ceremony held on August 20, 2003, HUD Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples joined Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and HUD FHEO Regional Director Garry Sweeney in celebrating the addition of the State of Arkansas to the Fair Housing Assistance Program.

Approximately 50 people attended the ceremony held at the State Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas, including Little Rock Mayor Jim Dailey, members of the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission, representatives from the Arkansas Realtors Association, the Little Rock Racial and Cultural Diversity Commission, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the HUD Little Rock field office.

The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission held its first formal meeting at the State Capitol on September 16, 2003, and opened its first permanent office on June 1, 2003, at 101 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 114, Little Rock, Arkansas. The Commission meets at least quarterly on the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at 101 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 212, Little Rock, Arkansas.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission consists of thirteen (13) Commissioners – seven (7) of whom are appointed by the Governor; three (3) by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and three (3) by the Senate Pro Tempore. Six (6) of the Commissioner appointees are industry representatives and seven (7) are consumer representatives.

Commissioners serve four-year terms, except that the initial appointees shall serve staggered terms with six (6) serving a two-year term and seven (7) serving a four-year term. No Commissioner may serve more than two (2) four-year terms; however, Commissioners serve until they are reappointed. Each congressional district must be represented by a Commissioner.

Commissioner	Appointment	City/County/
		Congressional District
Sean Williams	Governor	Wynn/Cross/District 1
Leon Jones	Speaker	Fayetteville/Washington/District 3
Rebecca Finney	Governor	Little Rock/Pulaski/ District 2
Annie M. Abrams	Senate	Little Rock/Pulaski/District 2
Tonya Kendrix	Speaker	Hermitage/Bradley/District 4
Craig Carney	Senate	Rogers/Benton/District 4
Christia Jones	Governor	Lonoke/Lonoke/District 3
Sarah Rector	Governor	Little Rock/Pulaski/District 2
Tim Janacek	Governor	Rogers/Benton/District 3

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Commission consists of four Committees – Education, Personnel, Finance and Legislative. Committee charges are detailed below:

<u>Education Committee:</u> The Education Committee is responsible for assisting the Executive Director in providing fair housing education and outreach to Arkansans regarding the Arkansas Fair Housing Act.

<u>Personnel Committee:</u> The Personnel Committee is responsible for providing personnel policy recommendations to the Commission.

<u>Finance Committee:</u> The Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing agency finance reports presented by the Executive Director and assisting the Executive Director as necessary to work toward the budget for each legislative session.

<u>Legislative Committee:</u> The Legislative Committee works with the Executive Director and the legislature to facilitate the progression of the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission.

AGENCY STAFFING

The Commission has thirteen budgeted personnel positions: (1) Executive Director; (1) Administrative Services Manager; (1) Fiscal Support Supervisor; (1) Executive Assistant to the Director; (1) Chief Investigator; (5) Investigators; (1), Grants Analyst; (1) Administrative Assistant III; and (1) Public Information Specialist. Additionally, the Commission is assigned a representative from the Attorney General's Office to provide technical and legal assistance and representation.

The Commission is responsible for providing technical assistance and resource to housing providers, real estate professionals, lenders, architects, developers and others in the industry and to the general public on fair housing/fair lending regulations in addition to enforcing fair housing and fair lending laws during the administrative and adjudicative processes. The Commission conducts numerous education and outreach events throughout the state in furtherance of this objective.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Arkansas Fair Housing Commission Executive Director

Carol Johnson, J.D., M.A., is the Executive Director of the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission, the only state agency in Arkansas specifically charged with protecting the civil rights of Arkansans. The Commission is



a quasi-judicial, regulatory, enforcement agency charged with receiving, investigating and otherwise resolving fair housing and fair lending complaints within the State of Arkansas.

The Arkansas Legislature established the Commission by Act 1785 of 2001, and delegated to the agency regulatory authority to enforce fair housing and fair lending laws within the State of Arkansas. The law was amended in 2003 to make it substantially equivalent to the federal fair housing legislation. The Commission works in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to enforce state and federal fair housing and fair lending laws.

Director Johnson has worked under the State of Arkansas' highest executive leadership of Governors Huckabee, Beebe and now Hutchinson. Since becoming Executive Director in 2005, Director Johnson was instrumental in building the Commission from its infancy stages and transitioning it from a newly formed capacity-building organization under HUD's Fair

Housing Assistance Program to a fully functioning and highly recognized fair housing and fair lending civil rights enforcement agency.

During her tenure at the Commission, Director Johnson has resolved numerous fair housing and fair lending cases and has assisted many Arkansas municipalities in creating and/or amending existing ordinances to comply with zoning requirements, including the City of Hot Springs, the City of Jonesboro, the City of Harrison and the City of DeWitt. Additionally, Director Johnson has worked with numerous housing authorities and other housing providers to lend critical technical support aimed at opening housing access to protect both the public interest and the needs of the housing industry.

Director Johnson has developed a number of innovative and creative education outreach initiatives designed to increase fair housing awareness. In 2010, Director Johnson created the AFHC Fair Housing Ambassador Program—a collaborative effort with colleges and universities throughout the state.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

The program offers college students an opportunity to work directly with the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission at the ground level to assist in spreading the word about this important legislation. AFHC Ambassadors receive a wide range of opportunities for personal and professional development training and the opportunity to participate in fair housing/fair lending events statewide. AFHC Ambassadors also have the rare opportunity to discuss crucial civil rights issues with peers, community representatives and state leaders and, through their participation, help build stronger communities and create attitudes that will foster the change necessary to propel civil rights forward in the State of Arkansas. AFHC Ambassadors serve a vital role in helping to reach younger Arkansans across the state.

In 2011, to advance the objective of affirmatively furthering fair housing within the state, Director Johnson entered into a landmark continuing Memorandum of Understanding with the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA). This program requires developers, contractors and housing providers doing business within the state of Arkansas to receive fair housing training with the Commission as a condition precedent to eligibility for the public funds that ADFA administers. This program has helped to place Arkansas on the cutting edge of creativity in terms of requiring accountability for awareness of fair housing regulations for housing developers who wish to provide services with the state of Arkansas.

Director Johnson's career includes work in public relations and media, including time as a reporter for the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record and internships in the Public Relations Departments of Texas Christian University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen Law School.

A licensed attorney, Director Johnson has worked in various areas of administrative, civil and criminal law, and held a clerkship with the Arkansas Attorney General's Office. Ms. Johnson previously worked with the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission performing *de novo* reviews of Administrative Law Judge decisions and with the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services litigating child dependency-neglect cases. Additionally, Ms. Johnson is a former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Garland County, Arkansas.

Director Johnson has served on numerous boards and committees and recently was elected to the board of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) in 2014. Director Johnson was named an Advocate Award Finalist for the 5th Annual NextGen Public Service Awards for "superior public service and achievement" by the Young Government Leaders (YGL) and GovLoop. Director Johnson was appointed to the Arkansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and serves on numerous additional local, state and national boards. Director Johnson holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas; a Master of Arts degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and a Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law.

IT'S NOT EASY TO TURN OFF THE LIGHTS





The Fair Housing Act requires that most multifamily dwellings built for first occupancy after March 1991 contain accessible light switches, outlets, thermostats, entrances and common areas, as well as usable kitchens and bathrooms. The Act also prohibits discrimination in housing based on disability, race, color, national origin, religion, sex and familial status.

Visit fairhousing.arkansas.gov or call the

Arkansas Fair Housing Commission

501-682-FAIR (3247) 800-840-9108

Fair Housing Is Your Right. Use It!







A quasi-judicial, regulatory civil rights agency, the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission is committed to enforcing fair housing and fair lending laws in Arkansas. As the only state enforcement agency dedicated solely to the protection of civil rights in Arkansas, the Commission's role is vital to the protection of the rights of Arkansans to have open access to housing. The Commission also is commitment to the fair and impartial adjudication of fair housing and fair lending cases.

The enabling legislation for the Arkansas Fair Housing Act (Act 1785 of 2001) is codified at Ark. Code Ann. §§ 16-23-201 *et seq.* and was passed as a direct result of a 2001 recommendation by the Arkansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights regarding a need for civil rights enforcement in Arkansas.

The Arkansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights revisited the issue of statewide enforcement of civil rights in 2012-13 with another series of public hearings which incorporated testimony by various state government officials, public interests groups, legal entities and others.

In a 13-0 vote, the Advisory Committee recommended an amendment to existing legislation to allow for state enforcement of housing, employment and public accommodations, citing specifically that the "Arkansas Fair Housing Commission was listed in 2011 as one of the best operating fair housing agencies in the nation," and recommending expanding the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission's duties to include public accommodations

According to the 2013 estimate U.S. Census Bureau:

- Nearly 24% of all Arkansans are under the age of 18
- Female residents make up 51% of the state population
 - Only 20% of Arkansans have bachelor's degrees
- 25% of Arkansans are minority
- 15% of Arkansans are 65 years or older
- 237,311 Arkansans are veterans
 - Nearly 17% of Arkansans have an identified disability
 - More than 19% of Arkansans live below the poverty level

Nearly 24% of all Arkansans are under the age of 18

Arkansas Fair Housing Act (Act 1785 of 2001 as amended in 2003)

Ark. Code Ann. §§ 16-23-201 et seq.

The Arkansas Fair Housing Act is substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 as amended) which prohibits discrimination against any person in the rental, sale and financing of housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability. This prohibition against such discriminatory actions extends also to:

- The design and construction of housing for the disabled;
- The appraising of dwellings;
- The providing of insurance for dwellings; and
- ♦ The lending for dwellings (including unfair and predatory lending).

The Commission operates as a quasi-judicial, regulatory enforcement agency which, like the Arkansas Worker's Compensation Commission, provides an administrative venue for the adjudication of fair housing and fair lending complaints in addition to traditional judicial litigation.

A state agency, the Commission is funded primarily with federal funds and some general revenue and maintains a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to enforce fair housing/fair lending complaints statewide via a noncompetitive award process. Under this Cooperative Agreement, HUD refers all Title VIII cases originating in Arkansas to the Commission for complaint processing. This collaboration between the state and federal entities provides a more a better complaint processing system for Arkansans by facilitating state enforcement (rather than federal enforcement) of activities occurring within Arkansas; by facilitating local interaction with housing providers, developers, lenders, management agents and housing authorities; and by facilitating a more expedient case processing system.



The right to equal opportunity in housing is ensured by federal law under the Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended).

In 2003, Arkansas took broad steps to ensure that those same protections were provided under state legislation joining the majority of the nation in having this type of legislation.

The passage of the Arkansas Fair Housing Act, allowed the state to collaborate with HUD for fair housing/fair lending enforcement to affirmatively further fair housing for the state's nearly three million residents.

The Arkansas Fair Housing Act was certified by HUD as substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act in 2003, resulting in housing discrimination cases having the benefit of state complaint processing. At the same time, the process assures that the substantive and procedural strength of the federal Fair Housing Act is not compromised.

Of benefit to the state, is HUD's referral of complaint processing to the state in which the alleged offense occurred allowing for comprehensive state control over the investigative, conciliatory and enforcement activities and benefitting all parties to a fair housing or fair lending housing complaint. State enforcement professionals often have a greater familiarity with local housing stock and trends and their close proximity to the site of the alleged discrimination leads to greater efficiency in case processing.

While certification results in a shift in fair housing enforcement power from the federal government to the state or locality, the substantive and procedural strength of the federal Fair Housing Act is not compromised. Prior to certification, an agency must demonstrate to HUD that it enforces a law that is substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act.

THE ARKANSAS FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION is recognized by HUD as

a "substantially equivalent" agency and, accordingly, receives funds annually to support the enforcement of the Arkansas Fair Housing Act. As per the cooperative agreement between the Commission and HUD, HUD refers to the Commission all complaints which fall under the jurisdiction of the State of Arkansas.

The Commission "graduated" from interim to full certification in 2008 and currently investigates all allegations of Title VIII fair housing and fair lending complaints occurring within the state of Arkansas.

Since the inception of the Commission, Title VIII fair housing and fair lending complaints in Arkansas have been constantly rising. Cases that once were only prosecuted at the federal administrative and judicial levels, now are being processed and adjudicated at the state level.

The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission 2017 Investigation Report (charted to the right), notes the state processing of fair housing/fair lending complaints based on the seven "classes protected" as enumerated by statute.

The Arkansas Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents of legal custodians; pregnant women; and people securing custody of children under the age of 18); and disability. Retaliation against a person attempting to exercise or assisting another in the exercise of a fair housing and/or fair lending right also is a prohibited practice under the Act.

In FY2017, the Commission processed a total of 201 cases (those that were filed and those resolved) involving allegations of fair housing and fair lending violations occurring statewide, including those based on retaliation and harassment.

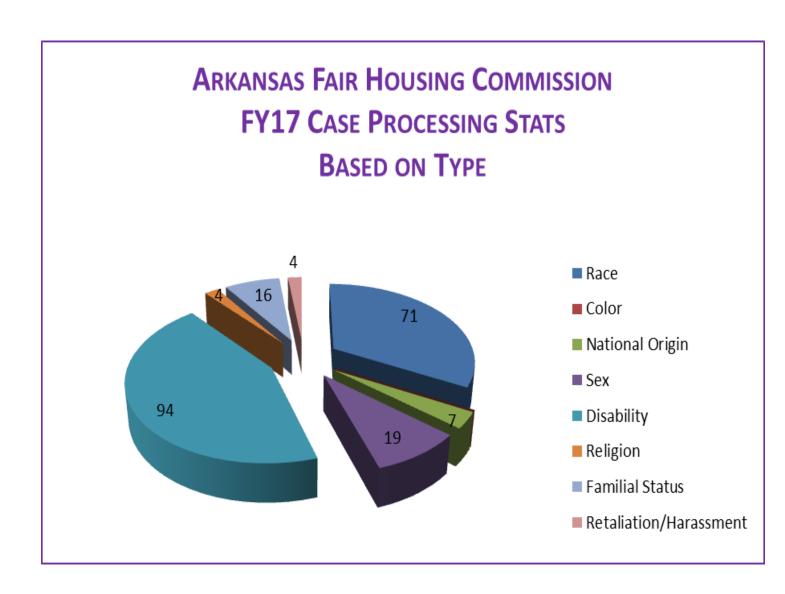
Noted below is a breakdown of fair housing/fair lending cases that were resolved based on the alleged discriminatory conduct. *Please note that the total number charted below may represent a number greater than the total processed complaints as some allegations involved more than one of the protected bases.

Arkansas Fair Housing Commission Fiscal Year 2017 Case Processing Stats		
Race - 71	Disability - 94	
Color - 0	Familial Status - 16	
National Origin - 7	Sex - 19	
Religion - 4	818/Harassment - 4	



FY2017 ENFORCEMENT AND CASE PROCESSING

Notably, case processing activities involving disability-related and race-related allegations of discriminatory conduct continues to be the two largest categories of fair housing complaints. Within the category of disability-related complaints, there continues to be a number of allegations involving barriers to accessible housing for disabled Arkansans, particularly in the areas of design and construction and reasonable modifications to housing units.



FY2017 ENFORCEMENT AND CASE PROCESSING

Since its inception, the *Arkansas Fair Housing Commission* has worked diligently to protect the housing and lending rights of Arkansans and was noted as one of the "best operating Fair Housing Agencies nationally," (Garry Sweeny, HUD Region VI Director, during the AFHC Annual Fair Housing Month Activities at the Governor's Mansion in April of 2011).

In enforcing the provisions of Title VIII, the Commission assists in systemic changes to help open access to housing by providing all parties with the necessary technical assistance needed to improve housing opportunities.

The Commission assists in **effecting policy change** by working with municipalities and housing providers to develop and implement policies, regulations and codes that are consistent with fair housing and fair lending laws, i.e., the City of DeWitt, the City of Jonesboro and the City of Hot Springs. The Commission provided technical expertise in the following cases:

- The City of Little Rock Housing Authority (now the Metropolitan Housing Alliance) amended its
 policy related to documentation necessary to prove familial status as a result of a fair housing
 case file with the Commission.
- The City of DeWitt amended its discriminatory zoning ordinance which prohibited a paraplegic from constructing an awning to protect her from the elements as she entered and exited her home as a result of a fair housing case filed with the Commission.
- The City of Hot Springs amended its city ordinance regarding the definition of familial status to comply with fair housing laws as a result of a fair housing case filed with the Commission.
- The City of Jonesboro amended its city ordinance regarding the definition of familial status to comply with fair housing laws as a result of a fair housing case filed with the Commission.

The Commission also assists in *providing technical assistance* to the general public, housing providers, home seekers, housing developers and the legal community through the creation and implementation of:

- Comprehensive training opportunities;
- · Conciliation/Mediation efforts; and
- Adjudication (Administrative/Judicial)

The Commission has successfully resolved a number of fair housing and fair lending cases since its inception:

 In a case involving Regions Mortgage, the Commission negotiated the market interest rate on a conventional home loan where a buyer was not allowed to take out a veteran's loan when he was, in fact, eligible and was charged higher points

and fees connected to the conventional loan offered by the bank;

 Where a disabled resident was not allowed to live without a caregiver when there was no medical documentation necessitating one, the Commission was able to recover economic damages for the Complainant;

• The Commission assisted a tenant who was evicted because of her HIV status where she had been subjected to harassment and intimidation when her HIV status was discovered;



- The Commission charged a sex discrimination case that subsequently was litigated by the DOJ in which several tenants alleged they were asked to provide sexual favors in exchange for free housing and had been subjected to numerous unwanted advances by their landlord;
- The Commission also is active in the enforcement of fair lending cases and has received a number of fair lending cases as a result of unfair lending practices and predatory lending schemes; and
- The Commission recovered economic damages in a fair lending case where the lender refused to accept disability-related income for an applicant.
- The Commission recovered \$25,000.00 in economic damages in a complaint against Foots v. FBT Bank &

Mortgage where Complainant alleges Respondent gave her the run around concerning her home equity loan application by purposefully delaying her loan process and pulling so may hard credit check until her credit score dropped below the requirement to qualify for the loan.

- The Commission conciliated public relief where a statewide newspaper published a facially-
- discriminatory advertisement in violation of far housing laws. In conciliation, the newspaper published four quarter-page fair housing advertisements in its Sunday edition over a four-month period and printed a retraction of the discriminatory advertising.
- The Commission assisted a tenant whose children had been subjected to discriminatory policies based on familial status;
- The Commission helped a tenant who was subjected to an overly restrictive "visitor" policy be able to have a visitor of another race at her home.
- A housing authority was required to provide Spanish-language services where
 this assistance was need to secure and enjoy housing at the federally-funded property.
- The Commission conciliated a number of fair housing cases based on a failure to make a reasonable accommodation for a service or emotional support animal.



• The Commission conciliated a case against a Little Rock Management Company that



owned an managed a number of multi-family housing developments in Arkansas and surrounding states upon allegations that they were subjecting tenants to discrimination in the terms and conditions of rental based on race and sex. The management company settled the complaint for \$25,000 and agreed to certain policy changes at the Little Rock property.

- In a fair lending case, the Respondents paid damages of \$25,000 where the complainants stated she was denied an opportunity to purchase a home in violation of fair housing laws.
- The Complainant in a disability-related case received a designated handicapped parking space where it was alleged management refused to provide her the necessary accommodation.
- University students involved in a national origin

fair housing complaint were returned the double deposit charged by a Fayetteville landlord who was basing deposit amounts based on the students' county of origin. Sixteen university student renters were returned their "doubled" deposits and management agreed to change its rental policy.

 An housing provider doing business in the State of Arkansas was required to comply with the Design and Construction Accessibility Requirements of the Fair Housing Act by providing accessible routes between two apartment buildings to allow persons with a

mobility impairment an equal opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the dwelling. Additionally, the housing provider agreed to monetary damages as relief in the public interest to ensure that housing is accessible to all Arkansas current and/or potential residents—even those with a disability.

 A Senior Residence Homes in Sherwood was required to install grab bars as a reasonable accommodation request for an elderly and disabled tenant and rent concessions as part of the conciliation agreement;





 The Commission assisted a Spanish-speaking family residing in public housing who was unable to understand all the documents she was required to sign and understand. As part of the conciliation agreement, Respondents translated all documents related to the rental



process for Spanish-speaking applicants and tenants. Additionally, Respondents adopted a language identification flash card and now offers translation services to applicants and tenants.

- A housing provider was required to allow tenants to have emotional support animals live with them in the dwelling.
- The Commission awarded damages in a racial discrimination case against an apartment complex where the apartments refused to allow residence to allow residence to a qualified applicant in violation of state and federal fair housing laws.

FAIR HOUSING OPENS
DOORS!

FY2017 ENFORCEMENT AND CASE PROCESSING

In FY 2017, the Commission continued to work towards securing fair housing and fair lending rights for Arkansans.

The Commission received 630 calls alleging fair housing/fair lending infractions statewide and performed a preliminary evaluation of those complaints to determine whether the agency had jurisdiction to investigate those complaints, i.e., whether the complainant alleged actions by a housing provider, lender, appraiser, developer, real estate agent or other entity which facially violated state or federal fair housing/fair lending laws.

The Commission receives complaints of fair housing and fair lending discrimination from a number of sources, including direct calls to the Commission and calls referred from various local, non-profit, state and federal entities.

As a result of calls made directly to the Commission and/or those referred to the Commission from the HUD, the Office of the Arkansas Attorney General, the Office of the Arkansas Governor and/or other local, state and federal partners, the Commission processed more than 200 fair housing/fair lending complaints during the fiscal year.

COMPLAINT PROCESSING

Inquiries involving a possible fair housing or fair lending violation may be made to the Commission or to HUD. As per the Cooperative Agreement between HUD and the Commission, HUD refers most inquiries and/or complaints based in Arkansas and made initially to HUD to the Commission for processing. An *inquiry* is contact whereby the public seeks information regarding the Commission or its activities. An *inquiry* may also be made to ascertain whether an housing provider's action falls within legal boundaries. Inquiries regarding conduct falling outside the Commission's jurisdiction are referred to the appropriate agency.

Once made, an *inquiry* may become a *complaint*. A *complaint* is an inquiry that involves allegations which, if true, would constitute a violation of fair housing/fair lending laws. The Commission conducts intake to jurisdiction—whether the allegations as alleged constitute a violation of the Act—and timely filing—whether the complaining party has filed the complaint within the statute of limitations. A complaining party must file a complaint with the Commission within one year of the date of the last alleged discriminatory act. That filing period is extended to two years if the complaining party obtains private legal counsel and pursue a remedy in a judicial setting.

In some instances, the Commission refers cases to HUD subsequent to intake for additional processing based on possible violations of other rules and regulations—for instance, cases involving housing providers which receive federal funding and cases in which program violations may be apparent. Additionally, cases involving hate crimes may also be referred to other governmental agencies. In one instance, an Arkansas case was referred to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) after investigation revealed allegations of violence against a family with an interracial child.

When a claim is determined to have sufficient grounds to proceed after an *inquiry* is made, a *complaint* is filed, an investigation conducted and an appropriate resolution is pursued.

The Commission will attempt *conciliation* between the parties at all phases of the investigative process. A *conciliation agreement* is an enforceable agreement between the parties which seeks to satisfy the needs of each party and the public interest. The conciliation agreement must be approved by the Commission as satisfying the public interest.

FAIR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT AND CASE PROCESSING

If the parties reach a mutually agreeable solution, a complaint may be withdrawn with resolution and the case is closed to further investigation. Conversely, a case may also be withdrawn without resolution. Prior to a case being withdrawn without resolution, all parties will have an opportunity to present any documents, statements, witnesses and other relevant evidence during the investigative process. Cases withdrawn without resolution may proceed to a judicial adjudication if the complaining party elects to proceed with outside counsel, provided the alleged fair housing/fair lending violation falls within the two-year statute of limitations period.

In some instances, the Commission may issue an administrative dismissal of a case where the complaining party fails to cooperate in the investigation process or where there is a lack of jurisdiction. The Commission will prepare a Final Investigative Report upon completion of the investigative process.

The Commission will make a determination of whether reasonable cause exists to believe that a violation of fair housing/fair lending laws has occurred. The Commission will issue a decision of either: (1) *No Cause*, indicating a conclusion that no reasonable cause exists to believe that a fair housing/fair lending violation has occurred; or (2) *Cause Found*, indicating a conclusion that reasonable cause exists to believe that a fair housing/fair lending violation has occurred. If the Commission finds that reasonable cause exists to determine that a fair housing/fair lending violation has occurred, the Commission will issue a *Charge*. A *Charge* allows a complaint to be adjudicated by the Full Commission.

The Commission will notify all parties that a *Charge* has been issued and the parties may elect to have the case heard before the Full Commission or be transferred to a court of competent jurisdiction.



Many cases were resolved without hearing via a Conciliation/Mediation or other Administrative Resolution process—providing a cost benefit to affected parties (litigation and attorney's fees and court costs) and assisting in alleviating strain on the federal and state court system.

MISSION: The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission's mission is to receive, investigate, conciliate and/or resolve complaints alleging violations of the Arkansas Fair Housing Act which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under the age of 18) and disability; to cooperate with and provide technical and other assistance to federal, state, local and other public or private entities that are formulating or operating programs to prevent or eliminate discriminatory housing practices; and to establish an education and outreach program to prevent discriminatory housing practices.

The Commission receives hundreds of calls annually for housing-related complaints — including those calls which do not ultimately materialize into a fair housing complaint. A call may fail to materialize into a fair housing complaint when it does not clearly articulate a violation covered by fair housing rules and regulations.

In 2017, the Commission received 467 calls regarding housing-related and potential fair housing-related cases, representing a slight increase over calls received during the previous fiscal year.

The increase in housing-related calls due to the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission's Education Outreach efforts designed to increase knowledge and awareness of fair housing rights, obligations and responsibilities.

AFHC Fiscal Year 2017 Housing-related Inquiries

Total Inquiries

630

Awareness of fair housing rules and regulations helps ensure that housing is accessible to Arkansans throughout the State.

The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission is a resource for the housing providers, lenders, management entities and the general public.



LEARN SOME POSSIBLE SIGNS SO YOU CAN HELP STOP IT.

- "We don't take kids."
- "We don't take teenagers."
- "I can't assign you a handicap parking space."
- "The apartment I told you about on the phone has been rented."
- "We only take people who speak English."
- "The ad was wrong the rent is really \$75 more."

THE ONLY WAY TO STOP HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS FOR YOU TO REPORT IT.

Visit www.fairhousing.arkansas.gov or call the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission at 501-682-FAIR (3247) 800-840-9108





The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, family status or disability. For more information, visit www.fairhousing.arkansas.gov or www.hud.gov/fairhousing.



The Commission works to enhance the quality of life for Arkansans, opening access to housing and upholding civil liberties for all residents. A longstanding and active member of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA), the Commission is committed to promoting fair and equal access to housing.

DID YOU KNOW???

Nearly 24% of all Arkansans are under the age of 18

Female Residents make up 51% of the state population

Only 20% of Arkansans have bachelor's degrees

25% of Arkansans are minority

15% of Arkansans are 65 years or older

237,311 Arkansans are veterans

Nearly 17% of Arkansans have an identified disability

More than 19% of Arkansans live below the poverty level

Fair Housing/Fair Lending and Civil Rights in Arkansas

Within its borders, Arkansas houses all the classes protected by fair housing (and other civil and human rights) legislation:

Race, color and national origin | • 25% are minority • 4.5% are foreign born residents

Religion | • 4.5% are foreign born residents

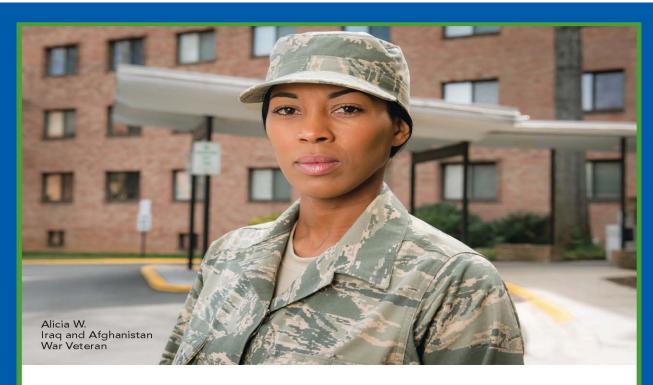
Sex | • 51% are female

Familial Status | • 24% are children under the age of 18

Disability | • 17% have an identified disability • 15% are over the age of 65

Common Myths:

- **Discrimination is now nearly non-existent**—the fact is that many Arkansans still experience various forms of discrimination in a pervasive and consistent manner, albeit on a much different level than previously and which may not be as overt and readily apparent.
- Housing discrimination often is solely based on a person's race, color or national origin many of the classes protected by the Act (sex, familial status, disability and religion) are without regard to the race, color or national origin of the person being subjected to the discriminatory action.
- Discrimination only occurs with people of lower socio-economic class—prejudices result
 from a person's value or believe system often occurring regardless of whether that belief system
 is real or perceived. For example, a person of moderate means may be taken for a person of low
 means simply because of their race or national origin.



HOUSING DISCRIMINATION. IT'S UNLAWFUL, UNFAIR AND UN-AMERICAN.

She fought overseas for her country and shouldn't have to fight housing discrimination based on her race here at home. The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status or disability. If you suspect housing discrimination, contact HUD or Arkansas Fair Housing Commission.

Fair Housing Is Your Right. Use It.

Visit www.fairhousing.arkansas.gov or call the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission 501-682-FAIR (3247) 800-840-9108







The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status or disability. For more information, visit

www.fairhousing.arkunsas.gov or www.hud.gov/fairhousing.

FISCAL INTEGRITY

In 2005, the Commission had a federal fair housing/fair lending budget of only approximately \$100,000 and a limited staff of four to enforce fair housing/fair lending laws statewide.

Through its enforcement and outreach efforts, the Commission has substantially increased federal support for Arkansas' fair housing and fair lending initiatives. Subsequently, the Commission's level of federal funding support has continued to increase substantially annually.

The Commission secured a \$215,510 competitive federal grant in FY 2011 to educate housing providers, contractors, developers, lenders and others in the real estate and housing market about the expansion of HUD regulations to include protections for those in the LGBT community and marital status and to support its Fair Housing Ambassador Program.

Consequently, the Commission brought in nearly \$800,000 federal dollars to the State of Arkansas in FY 2011 to be used to help improve the quality of life for all Arkansans and currently has approximately 1,500,000.00 in federal dollars which comprises approximately the majority of the agency's appropriated operating budget.

FAIR HOUSING NEED

The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission brings a valuable service to the State's nearly three million residents in providing fair housing and fair lending education and enforcement.

Inherent in the need for the enforcement of fair housing and fair lending laws is the underlying testifying annually before the Arkansas General Assembly in support of the need for state civil and human rights enforcement is the inherent question of:

- Why Arkansas needs civil and human rights enforcement;
- ▶ How the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission is working to meet that need; and
- How the General Assembly can continue support the civil and human rights needs of Arkansans

FAIR HOUSING IMPEDIMENTS

REAL IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING/FAIR LENDING EXIST IN ARKANSAS..... It is well documented that barriers to open housing access continues to create segregated communities within Arkansas.

Consistently, the State of Arkansas notes barriers to fair housing in the Consolidated Plan submitted to the U. S. Department of

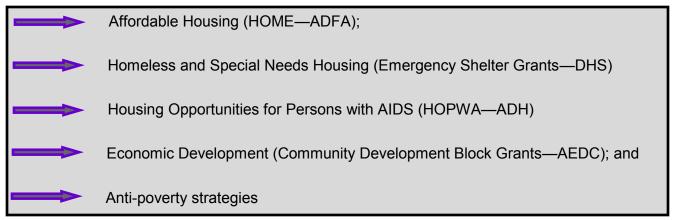
Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of its funding obligation.

The Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA), the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC), the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) are required to affirmatively further fair housing with receipt of HUD funding. The Commission serves on the Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee.

The State of Arkansas Annual Update to the Consolidated Plan/Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing identities some major fair housing impediments as: (1) the impact of the subprime mortgage lending crisis and accompanying increased foreclosure; (2) the low number of minority mortgage loans, despite the fact that African Americans and Hispanics account for the second and third highest percentages of the state's population, respectively; and (3) predatory lending practices. The need for fair housing/fair lending enforcement, education and outreach continues to be key in helping to ensure open housing access.

The Commission will continue to work with ADFA, AEDC, DHS and ADH through the Consolidated Plan process to affirmatively further fair housing within the state of Arkansas in addressing statewide fair housing impediments.

By working cooperatively with these agencies redressing housing disparities, the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission is assisting opening housing access for Arkansans, specifically in the areas of:



FAIR HOUSING CASE LAW

Litigating Fair Housing Cases Under the Disparate Impact Theory

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project, et. al

On June 25, 2015, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that housing policies and practices may be challenged under the Federal Fair Housing Act based on disparate impact. Based on this legal theory, a policy need not be facially discriminatory to have harmful effect on classes of persons protected under the Act—it need only have an adverse impact on a class of persons to violate fair housing laws.

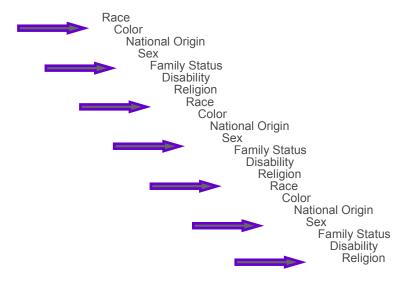
This long-awaited ruling was one of the most highly anticipated rulings in the area of fair housing and the placement of tax credit developments. Originally filed in 2008, The Inclusive Communities Project (ICP) filed a disparate impact claim against the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) alleging that it was disproportionately awarding most of the tax credits in racially segregated neighborhoods. More specifically, ICP claimed that TDHCA was preserving racial segregation in the manner in which it was awarding the tax credits. This claim contended that although TDHCA's policies appeared race neutral, they in fact had a discriminatory effect on poor, minority communities.

The lawsuit was brought so that TDHCA would change its rules and policies and therefore distribute awards of low income housing tax credits in more suburban areas. The District Court found that ICP had established its claim of disparate impact and provided that TDHCA create new selection criteria for the awarding of the credits to assure a more equal distribution of the credits. TDHCA appealed the district court ruling, but the Fifth Circuit upheld the District Court and found that the disparate impact claims are recognizable under the Fair Housing Act ("FHA"). Prior to this ruling, HUD issued new regulation, the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), which set out the federal government's interpretation of disparate impact liability under the Fair Housing Act. This regulation indicated that the plaintiff had the burden of showing that the challenged practice had a discriminatory effect before the burden then shifts to the defendant to show that the practice is in fact necessary. For this reason, the Fifth Circuit also held that it was not the burden of TDHCA to prove there were "less discriminatory methods for allocating the tax credits".

FAIR HOUSING CASE LAW

TDHCA filed a writ of certiorari (request to be heard by the Supreme Court) to determine if disparate impact cases are recognizable under the Fair Housing Act.

Justice Anthony Kennedy delivered the Court holding that disparate impact claims are cognizable under the Fair Housing Act. He began his analysis by reviewing the historic development of disparate impact claims in federal law and concluded that Congress specifically intended to include disparate impact liability in a series of amendments to the Fair Housing Act that were enacted in the year 1988. Justice Kennedy also argued that "[r] ecognition of disparate-impact liability under the FHA also plays a role in uncovering discriminatory intent: It permits plaintiffs to counteract unconscious prejudices and disguised animus that escape easy classification as disparate treatment." However, Justice Kennedy also held that housing authorities and private developers should have an opportunity to defend against disparate impact claims by stating and explaining "the valid interest served by their policies." Justice Kennedy also cautioned that "a disparate-impact claim that relies on a statistical disparity must fail if the plaintiff cannot point to a defendant's policy or policies causing that disparity."



OBEDICATION TO ACCESS



Governor Huckabee signed Act 1785 of 2001 into law creating the Arkansas Fair Housing Act and the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission.

Since passage of the Arkansas
Fair Housing Act in 2001, the
State has taken an active role in
ensuring the fair housing and fair
lending rights of all Arkansans



Fair Housing Education/Outreach

The Commission has a statutory obligation to educate Arkansans about the rights and responsibilities afforded them by the Arkansas Fair Housing Act. To further that statutory mission, the Commission provides technical and other assistance to federal, state, local, and other public or private organizations to heighten awareness about the Fair Housing Act.

The Commission implements a statewide effort which consists of trainings, presentations, focus groups, town -hall meetings an annual conference and listening sessions developed to meet the specific needs of communities, public/ private organizations and routinely collaborates with faith-based organizations, local, state and federal entities, such as the Arkansas Realtors Association, the Arkansas Real Estate Commission, ADFA, AEDC, DHS and ADH, to host community events to share fair housing/fair lending information.

The Commission works to meet the needs of the general public, community stakeholders and housing providers by producing and disseminating fair housing public service announcements, television, radio, and print advertisements, posters, pamphlets and brochures.

§16-123-346

The Commission shall establish a statewide education and outreach program....designed to provide a centralized, coordinated effort for the development and dissemination of fair housing media products....

Annual Fair Housing/Fair Lending Conferences



Arkansas Fair Housing Commission
2017 Annual Fair Housing/Fair Lending Conference:

"Affirming Our Oneness"

April 2017—Little Rock, AR

Approximately than 300 registered for this four-day event which featured various fair housing/fair lending seminars offered free-of-charge to those wanting to learn more about housing rights and responsibilities. This annual conference is nationally recognized and is the Commission's largest single education/outreach event each year and provides continuing legal education for attorneys and continuing education for realtors, architects, social workers and other industry professionals.

Arkansas Fair Housing Commission
2017 Annual Fair Housing/Fair Lending Conference:

"Affirming Our Oneness"

April 2-5, 2017—Little Rock, AR

2017 Conference speakers included: the Bryan Greene, U.S. Housing and Urban Development; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; First Liberty Institute; the Arkansas Department of Health; the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; Judge Alice Gray (6th Judicial Circuit); LULAC; West Virginia University School of Public Health; the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; National Urban League; the Arkansas Urban League; the Arkansas State Conference of the NAACP; the Arkansas Realtists Association; Arkansas Department of Human Services; Arkansas Access to Justice; Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance; the University of Kentucky, Lexington; Interfaith Alliance; the NAACP; Central Arkansas Reentry Coalition; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Region VI Office; WE ACT for Environmental Justice; the National Resource Defense Council; the New Orleans Housing Authority; the William H. Bowen School of Law and many others.



The Commission's
Opening Session
on April 2, 2018
featured a discussion of the passage of the Arkansas Fair Housing
Act on April 3,
2017, at Mosaic
Templars Cultural
Center. Panelists
included: Sherman
Tate, Roderick
Smothers, and
Bob Balhorn. Pic-













2017 Arkansas Fair Housing Conference: "Affirming Our Oneness" Little Rock, AR



AFHC 2017 Annual Report to the Legislature 44



AFHC 2017 Annual Report to the Legislature 45

Statewide Fair Housing/ Fair Lending Trainings

The Commission provides fair housing/fair lending training throughout the year across the state.

These educational opportunities incorporate Management Best Practices, Design and Construction and Legal Updates.

In 2017 the Commission held fair housing/fair lending trainings in Bryant, Springdale, Jonesboro, North Little Rock, Texarkana and Conway.

283 participants attended these trainings and represented Housing Authorities, Architectural Firms, Construction Firms, Developers, Attorneys, Multifamily Development Teams, Property Owners, Property Management Teams, Lenders and the General Public.

In 2011, the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission and the Arkansas Development Finance Authority signed a memorandum of understanding to affirmatively further fair housing by providing fair housing education, training and outreach to ADFA program participants to include architects, property owners, managers, developers and consultants.



Fair Housing/Fair Lending Legal Updates Training, Pulaski Tech College, North Little Rock, AR

Fair Housing Opens Doors!

AFHC 2017 Annual Report to the Legislature 46

Commission Trainings

Fair Housing/Fair Lending Presentations and Trainings

The Commission regularly teaches the following three 8-hour courses: Fair Housing: Management and Best Practices; Fair Housing: Design and Construction; and Fair Housing/Fair Lending Legal Updates.

Each course provides an overview of federal and state fair housing/fair lending laws; updates on reasonable accommodations and modifications; information on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; and fair housing and fair lending compliance.

The Commission hosts trainings and presentations on fair housing/fair lending throughout the year and will develop hourly, half-day or full-day training sessions to meet the needs of any organization or agency.

Every presentation is tailored to the specific needs of the organization/industry. Trainings, though typically mandated as part of a fair housing/fair lending settlement or conciliation agreement or as an industry requirement for funding or continuing education, are available to the general public.

For more information visit our website at www.fairhousing.arkansas.gov.

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lleElDoradoFortSmithHotSpringe
elloDeQueenMagn

Arkansans atomission's Tour!

isParagouldLittleRockSearcy JonesboroNLittleRockBatesvil

Town Hall Meetings

Searcy—July 21

Jonesboro—July 22

Fayetteville—August 19

Fort Smith-August 20

Texarkana—September 9

Sheridan—September 11

Pine Bluff—September 16

West Memphis—September 17

Little Rock—September 22

Hot Springs—September 25

Focus Groups

Batesville—July 22

Paragould—July 23

Jonesboro-July 23

Fayetteville—August 20

Rogers-August 20

Fort Smith—August 21

De Queen-September 9

Magnolia-September 10

Texarkana—September 10

El Dorado—September 11

Monticello-September 16

Helena-West Helena-September 17

Pine Bluff—September 17

West Memphis—September 18

Conway—September 22

Little Rock—September 23

NLR/Jacksonville—September 24

Hot Springs—September 25

The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission

Four Corners Tour 2014

In Partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Join us as we discuss neighborhood housing in your city!



Arkansas Fair Housing Commission 101 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 212 Little Rock, AR 72201 Toll Free Arkansas: 800.340.9108

Phone: 501.682.3247 Fax: 501.682.3271

> Carol Johnson, J.D., M.A Executive Director

NORTHEAST

Monday, July 21, 2014

Searcy Town Hall Meeting
Carmichael Center
801 S. Elm Street
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Light refreshments will be provided

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Batesville Focus Group Natalie's Café 3050 Harrison Street 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided

Jonesboro Town Hall Meeting

E. Boone Watson Center 1005 Logan Ave. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Jonesboro Focus Group Jonesboro Municipal Center 300 S. Church Street 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 am Breakfast will be provided

Paragould Focus Group
Paragould Community Center
3404 tinwood Drive
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided

NORTH WEST

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Fayetteville Town Hall Meeting
Fayetteville City Hall
113 W. Mountain
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Light Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

Rogers Focus Group Rogers City Council Chambers 301 W. Chestnut 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Breakfast will be provided

> Fayetteville Focus Group Fayetteville City Hall -113 W. Mountain 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided

Fort Smith Town Hall Meeting Courtyard by Marriott 900 Roger's Avenue 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Light Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Fort Smith Focus Group Courtyard by Marriott 900 Rogers Avenue 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Breakfast will be provided

SOUTHWEST

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

DeQueen Focus Group

Weyerhaeuser Building U of A – Cossatot 183 College Drive 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided

Texarkana Town Hall Meeting

Arkansas Convention Center, 5200 Convention Plaza 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Light refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Texarkana Focus Group

Arkansas Convention Center 5200 Convention Plaza Drive 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Breakfast will be provided

Magnolia Focus Group

Magnolia Chamber of Commerce 211 West Main Street 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided

Thursday, September 11, 2014

El Dorado Focus Group

City Hall Conference Room 101 E. Padgett Rd 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be provided

Sheridan Town Hall Meeting

Sheridan Community Center 1511 South Rose Street 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided

SOUTHEAST

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Monticello Focus Group

Sadie Johnson Community Building 707 Hwy. 278 East 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided

Pine Bluff Town Hall Meeting

Holiday Inn Express Pines Mall 2903 Pine Mall Drive 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Pine Bluff Focus Group

Holiday Inn Express Pines Mall 2903 Pine Mall Drive 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Breakfast will be provided

Helena-West Helena Focus Group

City Council Chambers 702 Cherry Street 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided

West Memphis Town Hall Meeting

West Memphis Civic Center 228 Palk Ave 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided

Thursday, September 18, 2014

West Memphis Focus Group

City Board Room 205 South Redding St. 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided







Batesville, Arkansas

NORTHEAST

Monday, July 21, 2014 **Searcy Town Hall** Carmichael Center 801S.ElmStreet 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 22, 2014 Batesville Focus Group

Natalie's Café 3050 Harrison Street 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Jonesboro Town Hall

E. Boone Watson Center
1005 Logan Avenue
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Jonesboro Focus Group

Jonesboro Municipal Center 300 S. Church Street 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 23, 2014 Paragould Focus Group

Paragould Community Center 3404 Linwood Drive 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Jonesboro, Arkansas







Fort Smith, Arkansas

NORTHWEST

Tuesday, August 19, 2014 **Fayetteville Town Hall** Fayetteville City Hall 113 W. Mountain 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 20, 2014 **Rogers Focus Group** 301 W. Chestnut 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, August 20, 2014 **Fayetteville Focus Group**Fayetteville City Hall

113 W. Mountain

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Wednesday, August 20, 2014 Fort Smith Town Hall Courtyard by Marriott 900 Rogers Avenue 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 21, 2014 **Fort Smith Focus Group** Courtyard by Marriott 900 Rogers Avenue 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.





Magnolia, Arkansas
(right to left) Stamps Mayor David Bright and Magnolia Mayor Parnell Vann



El Dorado Arkansas

Mayor Frank Nash

SOUTHWEST

Tuesday, September 9, 2014 **DeQueen Focus Group**Weyerhaeuser Building U of A

183 College Drive

Room: 401

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 9, 2014
Texarkana Town Hall
Arkansas Convention Center
5200 Convention Plaza
5:00 p.m.to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 10, 2014 **Texarkana Focus Group**Arkansas Convention Center

5200 Convention Plaza

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Magnolia Focus Group

Magnolia Chamber of Commerce
211 West Main Street
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 11, 2014

El Dorado Focus Group

City Hall Conference Room

204 N. West Avenue

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 11, 2014
Sheridan Town Hall
Sheridan Community Center
1511 South Rose Street
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.





SOUTHEAST

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Monticello Focus Group

Sadie Johnson Community Bldg.
707 Hwy. 278 East
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 **Pine Bluff Town Hall**Holiday Inn Express
2903 Pine Mall Drive
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 **Pine Bluff Focus Group**Holiday Inn Express
2903 Pine Mall Drive
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.



Magnolia, Arkansas
Past Commission Wilmar Moss

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 **Helena-West Helena**Focus Group

City Council Chambers

702 Cherry Street

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17, 2014
West Memphis Town Hall
Eugene Woods Community Center
212 West Polk Avenue
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 18, 2014

West Memphis Focus Group
City Board Room
205 South Redding St.
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.







Commissioner Annie Abrams and LR City Director Erma Hendrix

CENTRAL

Monday, September 22, 2014 **Conway Focus Group** Conway Chamber of Commerce 900 Oak Street 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Monday, September 22, 2014 **Little Rock Town Hall** Central Arkansas Library 100 Rock Street 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23, 2014 **Little Rock Focus Group** AR Studies Institute – Butler Center 401 President Clinton Avenue Room 124 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 24, 2014 North Little Rock/Jacksonville Focus Group First Electric Cooperative 1000 South JP Wright Loop Road 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 25, 2014 **Hot Springs Focus Group** Hot Springs City Hall **Board Chamber** 133 Convention Blvd. 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 25, 2014 **Hot Springs Town Hall Meeting** Hot Springs City Hall **Board Chamber** 133 Convention Blvd. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.





NORTH CENTRAL

Tuesday, October 7, 2014 **Harrison Town Hall**North Arkansas College, South Campus
John Paul Hammerschmidt Conference Center
1515 Pioneer Drive
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 8, 2014 **Harrison Focus Group**North Arkansas College, Center Campus

Durand Center – First Federal Bank Room

303 North Main St.

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.



Harrison, Arkansas
Former Mayor Jeff Crocket (pictured fifth from the left)









Jacksonville, Arkansas





Jonesboro, Arkansas



Helena/West Helena, Arkansas State Rep. Chris Richey (Pictured right)



Pine Bluff, Arkansas



WE NEED YOU



Hot Springs National Park Arkansas



El Dorado, Arkansas





Jacksonville, Arkansas



Monticello, Arkansas



WE NEED YOU



West Memphis, Arkansas

Mayor William H. Johnson



Conway, Arkansas



El Dorado, Arkansas



DeQueen, Arkansas

Mayor Billy Ray McKelvy





Texarkana, Arkansas



Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas



JANUARY

Fair Housing Presentation during the MLK events

Re-entry Press Conference at the State Capitol

Fair Housing: Housing Arkansas Re-entry Focus Group (Pine Bluff)

Fair Housing: Housing Arkansas Re-entry Town Hall Meeting (Pine Bluff)

Fair Housing: Fair Housing University Tour (UAPB)

Fair Housing: Housing Arkansas Re-entry Town Hall Meeting (Texarkana)

Fair Housing: Housing Arkansas Re-entry Focus Group (Texarkana)

Fair Housing: Fair Housing University Tour (UA Texarkana)

Fair Housing Technical Assistance: State of Arkansas Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee Meet-

ing

FEBRUARY

Fair Housing Presentation: Saving Neighborhoods Workshop

Fair Housing Training: Fair Housing: Management and Best Practices (Bryant)

Fair Housing Representation: International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA)

MARCH

Fair Housing Training: Fair Housing Design and Construction (Jonesboro) Fair Housing: Fair Housing University Tour (Arkansas State University)

APRIL

Fair Housing Presentation: Paragould Country Club

Fair Housing Presentation: Jefferson Community Development Corporation

Fair Housing Presentation: Hot Springs Board of Realtors Fair Housing Presentation: Fort Smith Landlord's Association

Fair Housing Technical Assistance: Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Annual Fair Housing/Fair Lending Conference

Fair Housing Presentation: National Association of Residential Property Managers

Fair Housing Technical Assistance: State of Arkansas Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee Meet-

ing

MAY

Fair Housing: Housing Arkansas Re-entry Town Hall Meeting (Fort Smith)

Fair Housing: Housing Arkansas Re-entry Focus Group (Fort Smith)

Fair Housing: Fair Housing University Tour (UA Fort Smith)

Fair Housing: Housing Arkansas Re-entry Town Hall Meeting (Fayetteville)

Fair Housing: Housing Arkansas Re-entry Focus Group (Fayetteville)

Fair Housing: Fair Housing University Tour (UA Fayetteville)



Fair Housing: Housing Arkansas Re-entry Town Hall Meeting (Springdale)
Fair Housing Training: Fair Housing: Management and Best Practices (Springdale)

JUNE

Fair Housing Training: Fair Housing: Management and Best Practices (North Little Rock)

JULY

Developed the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission Strategic Plan Fair Housing Technical Assistance: State of Arkansas Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

AUGUST

Fair Housing Training: Fair Housing Design and Construction (Texarkana)

SEPTEMBER

Fair Housing: Governor Asa Hutchinson Restore Hope Re-Entry Summit

Fair Housing Presentation: REFORM, Inc. (Pine Bluff)

Fair Housing Training: International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA)

OCTOBER

Fair Housing Presentation: Central Arkansas Pride Festival Little Rock, AR

Fair Housing Booth: Government Careers Information Fair-UALR Bowen School of Law

Fair Housing Sponsor: LULAC

Fair Housing Sponsor: ArkanSalsa Fest

Fair Housing Presentation: Associated Management, Ltd.

Ensuring Fair Housing for People with Criminal Records: A Conversation with HUD

Fair Housing Booth: Our House: Outreach Career Fair

NOVEMBER

Fair Housing Presentation: Youth, Teen and Young Adult Empowerment Summit (Pine Bluff)

Fair Housing Training: Fair Housing: Management and Best Practices (Conway)

DECEMBER

Fair Housing Presentation: Pulaski County

The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission

"The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission provides fair housing/ fair lending enforcement and education to help open access to housing throughout Arkansas.



As Executive Director of the only agency in Arkansas specifically dedicated to the enforcement of housing and lending rights in Arkansas, I understand the critical need for open access to housing and welcome every opportunity to assist in these endeavors. Thank you for your concerted efforts in promoting fair housing and fair lending statewide."

Carol Johnson, J.D., M.A.

MISSION: The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission is to receive, investigate, conciliate and/or resolve complaints alleging violations of the Arkansas Fair Housing Act which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under the age of 18) and handicap (disability); to cooperate with and provide technical and other assistance to federal, state, local and other public or private entities that are formulating or operating programs to prevent or eliminate discriminatory housing practices; and to establish an education and outreach program to prevent discriminatory housing practices.

Arkansas Fair Housing Commission

101 East Capitol Avenue Suite 212 ◊ Little Rock, AR 72201 501.682.FAIR (3247) ◊ 800.840.9108

www.fairhousing.arkansas.gov

Facebook ◊ Twitter