



MIAMI VALLEY FAIR HOUSING CENTER NEWSLETTER

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JIM MCCARTHY, PRESIDENT/CEO

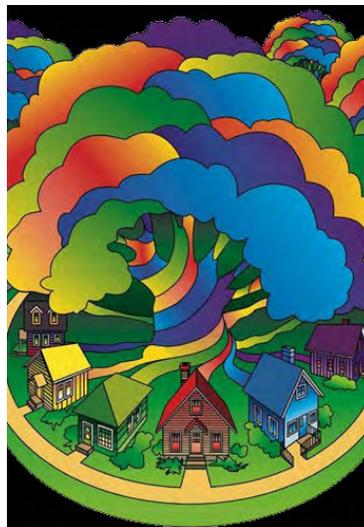
HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary to be Keynote Speaker at April Fair Housing Luncheon

Sara K. Pratt, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Programs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO), will be the keynote speaker at MVFHC's annual celebration of Fair Housing Month, to be held **Tuesday, April 5, 2011** at the Sinclair Conference Center.

Ms. Pratt, who has served in her present position since September 2010, oversees HUD's enforcement of the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights laws, the Fair Housing Assistance Program, the Fair Housing Initiatives Program and HUD's enforcement of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act. She has worked as an attorney, trainer, and fair housing and civil rights expert for thirty-four years.

Before her return to HUD, Ms. Pratt staffed the National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, co-chaired by former HUD Secretaries Jack Kemp and Henry Cisneros, helping to prepare a report on the future of fair housing, issued in December 2008. She assisted with the development of the report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, "Residential Segregation and Housing Discrimination in the United States," issued in January 2008. She was a member of the faculty of the National Fair Housing Training Academy and the National Fair Housing Alliance's Fair Housing School and served on the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Fair Housing Task Force. Her recent publications also include "Disparate Impact under the Fair Housing Act: A Proposed Approach" (December 2009), co-authored with Robert Schwemm.

Pratt has been an expert witness in a number of fair housing cases, including *United States ex rel. Anti Discrimination Center v. Westchester County, NY*, *United States v. Village of Island Park*, and *National Fair Housing Alliance v. Prudential Insurance Company*.



Sara Pratt As Director of Enforcement at HUD between 1993 and 1999, Ms. Pratt participated in a number of initiatives relating to discrimination in housing and lending including leading FHEO's enforcement of the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights laws. She worked personally on the development of the FFIEC Policy Statement on Fair Lending. Under her direct supervision, her office reviewed and analyzed fair lending issues and developed and settled HUD's first case involving predatory lending.

From May 1999 to December 2000, Ms. Pratt served as Director of Enforcement and Compliance for the National Fair Housing Alliance. In the past she has been outside counsel for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, for which she provided fair lending advice and consultation. From 1991-1993 she served as Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Fair Housing in HUD's office of General Counsel. She also practiced civil rights law in Louisville, KY, held a variety of positions with the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and has served as a national and international consultant on fair housing matters. Ms. Pratt is editor and primary author of *Damages for Embarrassment and Humiliation in Housing Discrimination Cases* (published by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, 1982-1983).

Register online at www.mvfairhousing.com

Fair Housing 2011: Changing the Landscape

April 5, 2011 at Sinclair Conference Center. Schedule & Workshop Descriptions

Schedule of Events:

8:00 a.m. Workshop check-in and continental breakfast

8:30 a.m. Workshops

11:30 a.m. Check-in for luncheon

11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Fair Housing luncheon, keynote speaker Sara K. Pratt, and the Marie Kindrick Fair Housing awards

Fair Housing, Accessibility, and Visitability for REALTORS®

This is an interactive fair housing workshop for REALTORS® presented by a team of experienced professionals, all who have a disability that might need some accommodation in the process of seeking, purchasing and moving into a new home. Class participants will be divided into teams of five and will learn how to use a manual wheelchair, to deal with overcoming deafness, to ask for accommodations for developmental disabilities such as cognitive and speech disabilities. Participants will also learn what accommodations a blind person needs and how REALTORS® can be of assistance in these situations,

Fair Housing, Advertising, and the Internet for REALTORS®

This is a timely and important workshop that will explore the problems, challenges and opportunities related to marketing properties through internet advertising and how REALTORS® can avoid fair housing liability in this area of their work. A 2008 NAR study on advertising residential units for sale showed trends that highlight the importance of this course. For example, 87% of home seekers now use the Internet to search for homes while only 47% use printed materials such as newspapers. Fair housing cases involving discriminatory advertisements on the Internet have increased sharply in the last three years. The National Fair Housing Alliance in its 2009 Fair Housing Trends Report said, "Another trend is with the use of the Internet to initiate most housing transactions, discriminatory ads are popping up online.

"The Department also has concluded that it is illegal for web sites to publish discriminatory advertisements."

Immigrant-friendly Community Initiative

Why are our local communities getting smaller at the same time that our country is receiving an unprecedented number of new immigrants? Recalling that immigrants contributed mightily to the building of our country, how might new immigrants help develop our communities today? What would our communities be like if we designed policies and services that helped integrate new immigrants into our communities, helped them become civically engaged and helped them gain their citizenship?

This workshop is designed to solicit your thoughts on these questions, develop new questions and set the stage for developing strategies for creating immigrant friendly communities.

Register for this event online at www.mvfairhousing.com

HUD Strengthens Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence

In October 2010, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan announced new, stronger affordable housing regulations that protect victims of domestic abuse.

"This rule recognizes the need to protect victims of domestic abuse from being evicted just because they were victimized. No one should be afraid of losing their home if they report abuse" said Donovan. "The Obama Administration has strengthened the existing interim regulation to further protect victims and ensures that current or former victims of domestic violence will not be turned down from HUD programs."

The *Violence Against Women Act*, which was enacted in 2005, provided legal protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These protections apply to families receiving rental assistance under HUD's public housing program, Housing

Choice Voucher (HCV) program, and multi-family project-based Section 8 program.

To read the final regulatory requirements under the *Violence against Women Act (VAWA)*, visit [HUD's website](#)

Revised ADA Standards effective March 2012

The Department of Justice published revised regulations for Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) in the Federal Register on September 15, 2010. These regulations adopted revised, enforceable accessibility standards called the [2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design](#) "2010 Standards".

On March 15, 2012, compliance with the 2010 Standards will be required for new construction and alterations. In the period between September 15, 2010 and March 15, 2012, covered entities may choose between the 1991 Standards (without the elevator exemption for Title II facilities), the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (Title II facilities only), and the 2010 Standards.

Celebrating life & health

When: April 16, 2011 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: Sinclair's Ponitz Center (Building 12)

This event is a free Health Fair designed so that most attendees can receive multiple free health screenings in one day. MVFHC recognizes that health comes in many forms – physical, mental, and financial.

Each year MVFHC partners with the HomeOwnership Center of Greater Dayton to distribute information about resources in the community related to homeownership retention and stability.

This year the 2 organizations expect to distribute information to nearly 5000 attendees of the event. Visit www.levinfamilyfoundation.org/ for more information.

Moraine Home Fair

When: March 19, 2011 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Where: Payne Recreation Center, 3800 Main Street

Local and area contractors will be on hand to show products and services. Moraine's Building and Zoning Inspector will be available to answer any questions about permit or property maintenance issues. Information will be available on the City's Home Improvement Loan Program offered to Moraine residents.

Also on hand will be other local businesses, non-profits like MVFHC, refreshments and door prizes. For more information call 535-1038 or e-mail twenzler@moraineoh.org.

Mark your calendars for these UPCOMING EVENTS!



March 19, 2011	Moraine Home Fair at Payne Rec Center
April 5, 2011	Fair Housing 2011: Changing the Landscape
April 16, 2011	Levin Family Foundation: Celebrating Life & Health
June 4-7, 2011	NFHA 2011 National Conference in Wash D.C.
August 20, 2011	MVFHC Waikiki Party

MVFHC Mission Statement

The mission of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center (MVFHC) is to eliminate housing discrimination and ensure equal housing opportunity for all people in our region.

Specifically, the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center seeks to eliminate housing discrimination against all persons because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, or any other characteristic protected under state or local laws. In furthering this goal, MVFHC engages in activities designed to encourage fair housing practices through educational efforts; assists person who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination; identifies barriers to fair housing in order to help counteract and eliminate discriminatory housing practices; works with elected and government representatives to protect and improve fair housing laws; and takes all appropriate and necessary action to ensure that fair housing laws are properly and fairly enforced throughout the Miami Valley.

MVFHC Vision Statement

The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center recognizes the importance of "home" as a component of the American dream. We envision a country free of housing discrimination where every individual, group and community enjoys equal housing opportunity and access in a bias-free and open housing market. We envision a country where integrated neighborhoods are the norm, and private and public sectors guarantee civil rights in an open and barrier-free community committed to healing the history of discrimination in America.

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