



# MIAMI VALLEY FAIR HOUSING CENTER NEWSLETTER

Published by the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc.

SPRING 2018

JIM MCCARTHY, PRESIDENT/CEO

## Celebrating 50 Years of Fair Housing

Join the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center and the Dayton REALTORS® on April 5th to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Fair Housing Act. Once again we will be in the Great Hall of the Sinclair Conference Center. Bernard Kleina will be the keynote speaker. Mr. Kleina served as Executive Director of HOPE Fair Housing Center in Illinois for over 36 years and is a founding member of the National Fair Housing Alliance. Bernard is also the artist who created the Chicago Freedom Movement photo exhibit which will be on display between April 6th to April 28th at the Sinclair Community College Library Loggia.

The workshop this year is titled “Fair Housing Survey—1968-2018” and includes a tour of the exhibit of color photos from 1965 and 1966 showing the civil rights push in Chicago for what was then called “Open Housing.” The class will detail Ohio fair housing and its passage three years in advance of the federal law.

Visit our [website for registration and additional information](#) .

### Workshop and Luncheon Schedule

8:00 a.m.	Workshop registration & continental breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Workshop session
11:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Luncheon, Keynote Presentation and Marie Kindrick Awards



Bernard Kleina

## Fair Housing Update: Filing a fair housing complaint

The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center (MVFHC), the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) and HUD are ready to help with any problem of housing discrimination. To initiate an administrative action, you have one year after an alleged violation to file a complaint with HUD or the OCRC. MVFHC staff can help facilitate that process.

### Where to Find Help:

Call MVFHC at 1-937-223-6035 or look online for a complaint form at [www.mvfhc.com](http://www.mvfhc.com).

Call OCRC at 1-888-278-7101 or get a complaint form at <http://crc.ohio.gov/>

Call HUD in Ohio at (800) 955-2232 or download HUD’s complaint form from this site: [https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/housing\\_discrimination](https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/housing_discrimination)

### What to Tell:

Your name and address

The name and address of the person your complaint is against (the respondent)

*Continued on page 4 ...*

## The Chicago Freedom Movement

This April 2018 marks two important events that are linked: April 4, 2018 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and one week later, April 11, 2018 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of “The Civil Rights Act of 1968.” This law defined housing discrimination as the “refusal to sell or rent a dwelling to any person because of his race, color, religion, or national origin”. Title VIII of this Act is commonly referred to as the *Fair Housing Act of 1968*.

Important events that led up to these things happened in Chicago. In 1965-1966, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. moved his crusade for Civil Rights to Chicago, in a campaign named The Chicago Freedom Movement. This campaign focused on housing equality and the elimination of slums.

With the support of Chicago activists, Dr. King for the first time raised attention to the issue of “Open Housing” which later became known as “Fair Housing.” He did this in a series of nonviolent freedom marches in all-white neighborhoods during the summer of 1966. Photographer and Civil Rights activist, Bernard Kleina, documented the demonstrations and open housing marches. Widely praised as the only photographer to have captured full color snapshots of Dr. King, his photographic images depict a relentless struggle for equality that coincided with a growing resistance of working-class whites who feared the impact that open housing would have on their neighborhoods.

This collection of rare, historic photographs will be on display in the upper Loggia at Sinclair Community College’s Library from April 6, 2018 through April 28, 2018. An important bonus to the exhibition will be a tribute to Coretta Scott King who did her undergraduate work Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio before attending Boston College where she met Dr. King.

*The information in this article was collected by John Zimmerman, VP of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center from resources from HUD and various papers on civil rights history.*

## Coretta Scott King and the Miami Valley

### Early Years and Ohio

Coretta Scott was born April 27, 1927, on a farm in Heiberger, Alabama. Coretta, her sister, Edythe, and brother, Obie, had to pick cotton during the Depression to help the family make ends meet. Scott King graduated valedictorian from Lincoln High in 1945. She followed her older sister to Antioch College in Ohio, where Edythe had been the first full-time black student to live on campus. Coretta studied music with Walter Anderson, the first non-white chair of an academic department in a historically white college.

### Coretta Scott King Education and Discrimination

She became politically active, due largely to her experience of racial discrimination by the local school board, joining the Antioch chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the college's Race Relations and Civil Liberties Committees. The local school board denied her request to perform her second year of required practice teaching at Yellow Springs’ public schools. So, for her teaching certificate, Coretta Scott was forced to appeal to the Antioch College administration, which was unwilling or unable to change the situation in the local school system and instead employed her at the college's associated laboratory school for a second year.

### Dr. King

When she graduated, she decided she wanted to pursue music instead of teaching. She received a scholarship to study violin and voice at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where she met her future husband, Martin Luther King Jr., who was studying theology at Boston University.

*The information in this article was collected by John Zimmerman, VP of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center. Information was retrieved from Wikipedia and "Coretta Scott King Dies at 78". ABC News. January 31, 2006. Retrieved 2007-09-10. Found at <http://abcnews.go.com/US/print?id=1560208>. Also visit the Coretta Scott King Center for Cultural and Intellectual Freedom located on the campus of Antioch College and online at <https://www.antiochcollege.edu/coretta-scott-king-center>.*

## Relman, Dane & Colfax wins injunction requiring Trump Administration to provide housing choice to low-income families

On December 23, 2017 a federal judge ordered the Trump Administration immediately to reinstate an Obama Administration regulation providing thousands of low-income families who use Housing Choice Vouchers the opportunity to move from impoverished, racially segregated neighborhoods to areas that provide better schools, better jobs, and greater access to community amenities.

Judge Beryl Howell of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted a preliminary injunction against the Department of Housing and Urban Development, after finding that it lacked authority to suspend the Small Area Fair Market Rent Rule and had no good reason for the suspension. The Firm and its co-counsel sued HUD and Secretary Carson in October on behalf of two individual plaintiffs who want to use the Rule's benefits to move from their current homes in Chicago and Hartford, and the Open Communities Alliance, a Connecticut-based civil rights organization.

"This case is about the rule of law," Judge Howell's opinion states in its opening paragraph. The 47-page opinion goes on to meticulously demonstrate how HUD misapplied its own regulation to claim authority it does not possess and drew unwarranted conclusions from evidence that does not support HUD's action.

"Judge Howell clearly recognized that HUD's suspension of this vital rule was unlawful, and that it harmed families who want and deserve real housing choice now," said Sasha Samberg-Champion of Relman, Dane & Colfax, who argued the preliminary injunction motion on December 19. "By setting aside HUD's action as arbitrary and capricious, and granting our request for preliminary injunction, she is providing relief for tens of thousands of households who are the Rule's intended beneficiaries."

The Small Area Fair Market Rent Rule was adopted to expand the purchasing power for Voucher households by increasing so-called "fair market rent" standards in high-cost areas. Historically, FMRs have been calculated crudely, based on average market rents across broad metropolitan areas. This approach results in subsidy levels that exclude Voucher families from high opportunity areas and concentrate them in areas characterized by concentrated poverty and racial segregation.

After years of study, the Obama Administration promulgated the Rule in 2016, requiring the use of FMRs calculated by zip code, to more accurately measure housing costs in 24 metropolitan areas that collectively serve about 10 percent of the country's voucher holders. Those areas met stringent criteria to ensure that small area FMRs would do the most good and would not have adverse side effects.

In flagrant violation of the Administrative Procedure Act, the Trump Administration abruptly announced-in letters to the affected public housing agencies in August 2017-that it would not require the PHAs to use small area FMRs for at least two years, effectively suspending the Rule. It provided no prior notice or opportunity for comment. While the agency claimed to be acting on new evidence that the Rule wouldn't work, Judge Howell found that the evidence it pointed to did not support its conclusion.

Pursuant to the Rule, and Judge Howell's injunction, the affected public housing agencies, or PHAs, are required to begin using small area FMRs beginning on January 1, 2018.

The Firm represents Crystal Carter and Tiara Moore, single mothers living in Hartford, Connecticut and Chicago, Illinois, who, because of HUD's action, will be unable to move to safer neighborhoods where their children can attend good schools. Recent research studies have indicated that children moving to such neighborhoods have better health outcomes, improve academic achievement and have higher earnings as adults. Open Communities Alliance, a Hartford-based civil rights nonprofit whose mission is to provide greater opportunities and more choices for people living in low-opportunity areas in Connecticut, is also a plaintiff, alleging that its mission has been frustrated by suspension of the SAFMR Rule.

The litigation team at Relman, Dane & Colfax includes Sasha Samberg-Champion, Sara Pratt and Michael Allen. Co-counsel are NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Poverty & Race Research Action Council; Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; and Public Citizen Litigation Group.

A copy of Judge Howell's opinion can be found [here](#).





## Need Continuing Education Credits? Sign up for a Webinar!

Miami Valley Fair Housing, in partnership with the [Greater Dayton Apartment Association](#) will offer one-hour fair housing webinars featuring MVFHC vice president John Zimmerman. Each class qualifies for Continuing Education Credit (CEC) from the National Apartment Association.

The cost of each webinar is \$10, payable via PayPal once you have registered online. [Click here for more webinar information and registration.](#)

### - 2018 Webinars -

- March 14 Fair housing Hot Topics: Service Animals, Reserved Parking, Harassment and Domestic Violence
- May 9 Fair Housing and Online Marketing
- July 11 Fair Housing and Welcoming Immigrants
- September 12 Fair Housing and Welcoming Families with Children
- November 7 Fair Housing and the Issue of Hoarding

*Filing a fair housing complaint continued from page 1...*

The address or other identification to the housing involved

A short description to the alleged violation (the event that caused you to believe your rights were violated)

The date(s) to the alleged violation

HUD also provides:

A toll-free TTY phone for the hearing impaired:  
**1-800-927-9275.**

Interpreters

Tapes and braille materials

Assistance in reading and completing forms

*The information in this article was collected by John Zimmerman, VP Miami Valley Fair Housing Center from resources from HUD, OCRC and Miami Valley Fair Housing Center. To view more information go to <https://portal.hud.gov> and use these search words: "Fair Housing-It's Your Right."*



March 11

Daylight Savings Time begins

March 16 thru March 18

[Dayton Home and Garden Show](#)

April 5

Fair Housing Month Celebration commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the passing of the Fair Housing Act.

April 25

[37th Annual Greater Dayton Apartment Association Trade Show](#)

### 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, the State of Ohio, and nationally.

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 our region, the State of Ohio, and nationally.

### 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.

### MIAMI VALLEY FAIR HOUSING CENTER, INC.

505 Riverside Drive

Dayton, OH 45405

Phone: 937-223-6035

E-mail: [info@mvfairhousing.com](mailto:info@mvfairhousing.com)

Visit us online

[www.mvfairhousing.com](http://www.mvfairhousing.com)



Copyright 2018 Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc.