

# **WASHINGTON STATE FAIR HOUSING UPDATE**

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## **ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE**

### **[HUD ISSUES GUIDANCE ON LGBT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS](#)**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced a new policy that provides lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals and families with help when facing housing discrimination.

### **[SOCR RELEASES TRANSGENDER CIVIL RIGHTS BROCHURE](#)**

The Seattle Office for Civil Rights has released "[Transgender Civil Rights – Protecting Gender Identity and Gender Expression](#)." The new brochure outlines civil rights protections for transgender people, and contains answers to some of the most common questions about gender identity and civil rights.

### **[NWFHA HELPS DOMESTIC PARTNERED COUPLE RAISE AWARENESS OF REGIONAL LESBIAN/GAY/TRANSGENDER HOUSING DISCRIMINATION](#)**

A domestic partnered couple residing in Richland, Washington, filed a housing discrimination complaint with the Washington State Human Rights Commission against the Richland Housing Authority in April 2009 after Mitch (a transgendered person) was not permitted to add Michelle (a lesbian) to his section 8 housing voucher as a family member. After filing the complaint, the couple requested Northwest Fair Housing Alliance (NWFHA), a non-profit fair housing advocacy organization, to represent them in the complaint process. The complaint was resolved in a conciliation last month.

### **[FREE FAIR HOUSING WORKSHOPS OFFERED IN SEATTLE](#)**

Housing owners, property managers, housing advocates, tenants – Join us for a free fair housing workshop! The bimonthly sessions are co-sponsored and taught by staff from several fair housing enforcement agencies. Three workshops are available: A fair housing basics for those who have had little or no training, an advanced fair housing seminar with interactive hypothetical scenarios, and a fast-paced advanced "fair housing jeopardy" game. Participants receive extensive free fair housing materials, in print and CD format.

### **[FAIR HOUSING TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR CONDO ASSOCIATIONS](#)**

To educate condo associations on fair housing laws, the Seattle Office for Civil Rights has designed a custom-made training for condo boards. This free training covers typical scenarios faced by condo associations, the rights of condo owners, and situations that are best handled by a professional management company.

### **[DISCRIMINATION BASED ON NATIONAL ORIGIN IS AGAINST THE LAW](#)**

Over the last few months SOCR has closed several cases involving discrimination based on national origin. Although both cases involved employment discrimination, they serve as a reminder that discrimination based on national origin in housing, employment or public place is against the law.

### **[HUD CHARGES RENTON APARTMENT COMPLEX WITH HOUSING DISCRIMINATION](#)**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that it has charged a King County, Washington, landlord with violating the Fair Housing Act. HUD contends that Summerhill Place LLC, the owners of Summerhill Apartments in Renton, WA, its management company GRAN Inc., and on-site manager Rita Lovejoy, engaged in a pattern of adverse treatment of African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and families with children, in violation of the Fair Housing Act.