



MEMPHIS

West Tennessee Fair Housing Celebration

Fair Housing is Your Right: Use It!

**Friday, April 10, 2015
8:00 AM—3:30 PM**

**Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law
University of Memphis
One North Front St., Memphis, TN**



Program Agenda

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Registration and Breakfast
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Opening and Welcoming Remarks
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	<p>Olmstead Act and Implications for Fair Housing</p> <p>Deborah Cunningham, Executive Director of Memphis Center for Independent Living</p> <p>Christina Cliff, Consumer Advocate of Memphis Center for Independent Living</p>
10:30 AM - 10:45AM	Break
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<p>Update on Greenprint Fair Housing Component</p> <p>John Gemmill, Field Office Director for Memphis Area for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</p> <p>John Zeanah, Administrator, Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability</p>
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	Lunch (provided)
12:45 PM - 1:45 PM	<p>Keynote Presentation</p> <p>Introductory Remarks</p> <p>Beverly Watts, Executive Director for Tennessee Human Rights Commission</p> <p>Fair Housing Enforcement Updates</p> <p>Bryan Greene, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</p>
1:45 PM - 2:30 PM	<p>Discrimination in Rental Housing</p> <p>Sapna V. Raj, Managing Attorney, Memphis Area Legal Services</p>
2:30 PM - 3:15 PM	<p>Fair Lending and Other Discrimination Issues affecting Home Ownership</p> <p>Webb Brewer, Attorney at Brewer & Barlow PLC</p> <p>Teresa Bernhardt, Attorney at Bernhardt Law Firm</p>
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Closing



Bryan Greene, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for FHEO
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,

Bryan Greene is the General Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He has devoted his professional career to fighting housing discrimination. From his start as a fair housing investigator in HUD's Boston Regional Office to his current position as the General Deputy Assistant Secretary, where he serves as the highest-ranking career-executive in HUD's Office of Fair Housing, Greene has always worked to promote diverse, inclusive communities. In his current position, Greene oversees the policy direction and operational management of HUD's 520-person Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. Under his leadership, HUD has pursued large-scale high-profile cases that address systemic discrimination and provide widespread relief. Greene oversees HUD's investigation of nearly 1,800 complaints annually, and the administration of the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP), which provides over \$28 million to state and local agencies for the investigation of over 7,000+ complaints each year. Greene also oversees the administration of HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), which provides more than \$40 million to nonprofit organizations for private enforcement and fair housing outreach.

During his tenure at HUD, Greene has served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Programs, as its Director of Fair Housing Policy and Legislative Initiatives, and as a Special Assistant to senior officials. Greene was the 2007 recipient of the Presidential Rank Award, the highest federal honor bestowed upon federal senior executives for outstanding service. Greene earned his degree in Government from Harvard University. While a student, he worked part-time at the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination, investigating complaints of discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

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Deborah Cunningham, Executive Director
Memphis Center for Independent Living

Deborah Cunningham is a graduate of the University of Memphis where she received her master's degree in counseling psychology. She has been involved in the field of Independent Living and civil rights for persons with disabilities for 28 years. In 1990, she introduced Memphians to ADAPT, a national grassroots organization dedicated to the advancement of the civil rights of persons with disabilities by arranging for 400 members of national ADAPT to participate in a week of non-violent civil rights demonstrations in downtown Memphis. She has served on the TN Independent Living Council and the TN Commission on Aging and Disability. After almost 20 years of legislative and community based advocacy, Cunningham, along with MCIL, have secured home and community-based long-term care options for senior and those with disabilities in Tennessee. Currently, she is the Executive Director for the MCIL, where she works to improve health care policies, modification programs for individuals with disability and many special projects including the Project Civil Action settlement with the US Department of Justice.

Christina Clift, Consumer Advocate
Memphis Center for Independent Living

Christina Clift attended college at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she studied journalism and political science. She began working at the Memphis Center for Independent Living since the summer of 2003. Clift currently works as the Nursing Home Transition Team Supervisor and as the Consumer Advocate. She also has served on and chaired the Memphis Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities. Her Motto is that people with disabilities should be able to live the life they want.

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John Gemmill, Field Office Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

John Gemmill was a steelworker, print shop owner, salesman and economic developer before joining the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1998. He was appointed as Field Office Director of the Memphis HUD office in December 2008. In that capacity he represents the Department to elected officials and trade organizations and coordinates local program area offices to accomplish Departmental objectives. He served the City of Birmingham for ten years, first in its Office of Economic Development and, later, as Director of Mayor Arrington's Community Enterprise Division. There, he managed the city's successful Enterprise Community and EPA Brownfield Pilot program. Just before joining HUD, Gemmill coordinated the city-wide Empowerment Zone community planning process that led to Birmingham's designation as a Strategic Planning Community. At the Alabama HUD office he assisted with community economic development and revitalization projects throughout the state and with secretarial initiatives, including homeownership, and faith and community based organizations. Gemmill completed his undergraduate education at Antioch College, in Yellow Springs, Ohio, has a Masters of Public and Private Management from Birmingham Southern and a PhD in Public Policy from Auburn University.

John Zeanah, Administrator
City of Memphis & Shelby County Office of Sustainability

John Zeanah, AICP, is the Program Manager of the Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan with the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability. Before joining the Office of Sustainability, Zeanah worked for Memphis City Schools in the Comprehensive Planning office as Senior Comprehensive Planning Analyst. Prior to his work with Memphis City Schools, Zeanah worked in the Comprehensive Planning and Economic Development sections of the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development. He holds a master's in city and regional planning from the University of Memphis and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

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Sapna V. Raj, Esq., Managing Attorney
Memphis Area Legal Services, Memphis Fair Housing Center

Sapna V. Raj is the Managing Attorney at the Memphis Fair Housing Center, Memphis Area Legal Services. After serving as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York for some years, she moved to Memphis and joined the Fair Housing Center. She was counsel on numerous predatory lending lawsuits filed against more than 40 defendants that included lenders, mortgage brokers, appraisers and closing agents. Raj supervises the Fair Housing Center which investigates and litigates claims of housing discrimination. She also supervises the Supportive Services for Veterans Families grant which provides assistance to veterans who are homeless or are in danger of becoming homeless and the Home Preservation Project which has offered foreclosure prevention assistance to more than 4500 homeowners since 2008.

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Webb Brewer, Esq., Attorney
Brewer & Barlow, PLC

Webb Brewer has devoted most of his thirty-year legal career to taking on powerful interests on behalf of people often marginalized by the legal system. Within a year of graduating from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, Brewer acted as lead counsel in a federal employment discrimination trial and was part of a massive lawsuit against governmental entities for creating and perpetuating racially segregated housing in Memphis. For more than twenty years, he was the Litigation Director at Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc. During his tenure at MALS, Brewer developed a national reputation for his success in ground breaking "impact" litigation. Some of his litigation has helped shape the Memphis area over the last three decades.

Teresa Bernhardt, Esq., Attorney
Bernhardt Law Firm

Teresa M. Bernhardt is a well-established attorney who has practiced law in the Memphis area for over fifteen years. She is married and has three grown children. She graduated from Virginia Tech University in 1983 and in 1997 from the Northern Illinois University College of Law, *magna cum laude*, and was assistant editor for the NIUCOL law review. She was admitted to practice in the State of Tennessee and the Western District of Tennessee in October of 1997 and admitted to practice law in the state of Illinois and the Northern District of Illinois in November and December of 1997, respectively. She is licensed to practice law in both Tennessee and Illinois, and is a licensed title insurance agent for Mississippi and Tennessee. She has over 15 years of experience in residential and commercial real estate closings, business formations, transactions and general business law services. She speaks Spanish fluently and can easily communicate with Spanish speaking clients and customers. Bernhardt is actively involved in the community and has participated in a diverse group of charitable organizations. Some of these participations include: Chairman of the Board of Mi Techo, Inc.; Member of the Memphis Bar Association (Past Chairman of the MBA Real Estate Section for 3 years); Member of the Tennessee Bar Association; Board Member and Executive Committee Member at Large of The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis; Former Women's Ministry Leader of TLC Church; Current Women's Discipleship Leader for Community Church Memphis; Founder and Chairman of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Memphis which merged with the Hispanic Business Alliance, Former Board Member, Vice President, and Executive Committee Member of the Hispanic Business Alliance a/k/a the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Memphis; Past Bilingual Education Committee Member for United Housing, Inc.; Past Member of the Memphis Area Association of Realtor's Housing Initiatives Committee; Alumni of Leadership Germantown, Class of 2003; Alumni of Leadership Memphis, Class of 2006.



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