



Special Issue 2003
Volume 1, Issue 2

Fair Housing News



35th
Anniversary
of the
Fair
Housing
Act



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

**WELCOME
HOME**

APRIL 2003

Mel Martinez
Secretary

Carolyn Y. Peoples
Assistant Secretary
for FHEO

www.hud.gov/fairhousing

Housing Discrimination Hotline:
1-800-669-9777 (voice)
1-800-927-9275 (TTY)

Special Issue: Fair Housing Month

April marks the 35th Anniversary of the signing of the federal Fair Housing Act. It's also when our nation celebrates Fair Housing Month.

This year's theme, *Welcome Home*, heralds a new day when the collaborative efforts of HUD and its housing partners realize increased housing

opportunities for every individual. Throughout the month President Bush and HUD Secretary Mel Martinez will emphasize the nations commitment to increase housing opportunities for everyone.

This issue of Fair Housing News features some of the events we have planned to honor this occasion.

HUD Recognizes Lee Porter with Fair Housing Lifetime Achievement Award

Lee Porter, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Council of Northern New Jersey (FHCNNJ), is the first recipient of the Samuel J. Simmons lifetime achievement award.

Porter has served as the executive director of the FHCNNJ since 1971. Under her leadership, the FHCNNJ has become one of the most respected fair housing organizations in the nation. Among its many accomplishments, the FHCNNJ has successfully handled thousands of housing discrimination complaints, established one of the first Community Housing Resource Boards in the nation, and has successfully facilitated communication between fair housing advocates and the real estate industry in the northern New Jersey area.

Porter has also lent her expertise to numerous fair housing enforcement and

research projects of state, federal, and local governments, as well as those of private institutions. This has included work with HUD's Housing Market Practice Surveys, HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program, the Urban Institute, and the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights.

Porter will be presented with the Samuel J. Simmons Lifetime Achievement Award in a ceremony at the HUD Headquarters Building in Washington, DC on April 23, 2003.



Lee Porter

Samuel J. Simmons Lifetime Achievement Award

The Samuel J. Simmons Lifetime Achievement Award is named for the first assistant secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at HUD, and given to those who have exhibited the following:

- Active leadership over a long period of time in the struggle for civil and human rights.
- A life of public service to all peoples in need.
- A demonstrated belief in the principle that greatness is not defined by what you get but by what you give.

HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC
20410

If you feel your housing rights have been violated, you can file a fair housing complaint by:

Calling: 1-800-669-9777
TTY: 1-800-927-9275

OR

Fill out an online form at:

www.hud.gov/fairhousing



Fair Housing Month Events

The following events will take place at HUD headquarters in Washington, DC.

April 2: 10:30 a.m. Secretary Mel Martinez will kick off HUD's Fair Housing Month celebration with keynote speaker Lynda Johnson Robb (daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson), followed by the signing of a historic joint memorandum of understanding between HUD and the leadership of national real estate organizations representing African American, Hispanic and Asian associations.

April 16: 5:00 p.m. New York theatrical production of *The Color of Justice* performed by *Theaterworks/USA*. The play depicts events surrounding *Brown v. Board of Education* and Thurgood Marshall's battle against school segregation, the forerunner of the Fair Housing Act. Remarks will be given by Ralph Boyd, Assistant Attorney General of the Department of Justice.

April 23: 10:30 a.m. Awards Program honoring persons who have made significant contributions to furthering fair housing. The new Samuel J. Simmons Lifetime Achievement Award, representing the Office of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity's highest award, will be given in recognition of an individual who has demonstrated and sustained commitment to removing barriers to housing and homeownership and creating housing opportunities and freedom of choice to all people.

April 30: 10:30 a.m. 35th Honoring the Past: A gathering of former assistant secretaries of the Office of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity to share experiences during their respective tenure. The program will include the presentations of service awards and

conclude with a private reception hosted by current assistant secretary, Carolyn Y. Peoples.

For more information on Fair Housing Month activities visit our Web site at www.hud.gov/fairhousing.

All HQ events will be held in the cafeteria

The following is a schedule of appearances of Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples.

March 31, 2003

Ohio Civil Rights Commission (Columbus)
Contact: Carolyn Murphy 614-469-5737

April 10, 2003

Nebraska Comm. on Human Rights (Lincoln)
Contact: Sandy Moody 402-441-7625

April 15, 2003

Palm Beach, FL County Office of Equal Opp.
Contact: Harry Lamb, Jr. 561-355-4883

April 17, 2003

Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council
Contact: Wanda Nieves 215-622-7900

April 24, 2003

City of Westminster, MD
Contact: Karen Blanford 410-848-5069

April 25, 2003

Southern Arizona Hsg. Center Tucson, AZ
Contact: Richard Ray 520-798-1568

April 29, 2003

Fair Housing Summit St. Louis, MO
Contact: Eddie Wartts 314-539-6324

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