

Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center
4th Annual Fair Housing Conference
“Opening Doors : Opening Minds”
Beau Rivage Casino Resort
April 21, 2008

Tentative Agenda

8:00a.m. – 8:30a.m. Conference Registration and 40 for 40 breakfast

Location – Second Floor of the Beau Rivage, Convention Hall

8:30a.m. – 9:30a.m. Opening Plenary

Opening Doors Plenary Discussion: Panelists will discuss the doors that are opened when housing discrimination is limited, including educational opportunities, economic growth and health benefits.

Welcome

Charmel Gauden

Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, Executive Director

Moderator

William “Bill” Stallworth

Biloxi City Council & Director of East Biloxi Coordination Center

Ella Holmes-Hines

Gulfport City Council

Location – Magnolia A

9:45a.m. – 10:45a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Workshop I

Fair Housing 101: Attendees of this session will be provided with an overview of Fair Housing Laws.

Moderator:

Cindy Singletary

Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, Vice President, Board of Directors

Presenters:

Charmel Gaulden, Esq.

Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, Executive

Kate Scott

Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center,

Location – Magnolia A

Workshop II

Defining Reasonable: An overview of Reasonable Accommodations and Reasonable Modifications.

Attendees will learn the difference between reasonable accommodations and reasonable modifications and explore the new Joint HUD-DOJ Reasonable Modification Statement.

Moderator

Christine Woodell

Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, President, Board of Directors

Panelists:

Marilyn Moore Lemons,

FHEO Office Director

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

Jackson Field Office

Lucia Blacksher, Esq.

Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center

11:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Renter's Rights Participants will learn about the rights renters hold under both federal

and Mississippi laws.

Workshop I.

Moderator:

Panelists:

Charmel Gaulden,
Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, Executive Director

Jeremy Eisler, Esq.
MS Legal Services

John Joplin, Esq.
Mississippi Center for Justice

Workshop II

Fair Housing Accessibility, More Than Just Widening a Door: With all of the new construction on the Gulf Coast it is imperative that architects, builders and developers are well educated in the 1991 Accessibility First Fair Housing Law. This session will give valuable insight to Fair Housing accessibility issues and the benefits available to landlords, individuals and the community as a whole when compliance is achieved.

Moderator

Kelly Rayburn,
WLOX, Reporter

Presenter

Christine Woodell
Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, President, Board of Directors

Reese Roberts,
Developer

Marilyn Moore Lemons,
FHEO Office Director
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Jackson Field Office
Location – Magnolia B

12:15p.m. - 1:45p.m. Luncheon

Introduction

Christine Woodell,

Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, President, Board of Directors

Location – Magnolia A

2:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. Concurrent Session

Workshop I

Closing the Door: Economic Opportunities created by access to housing. Attendees of this session will learn about the need to have both affordable housing and housing protections to build wealth and increase opportunities for workers.

Moderator

Sarah Walker,
Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, Board of Directors

Panelists

Kimberly Miller
Oxfam America

Dr. Dena Witmann,
Back Bay Mission

Location – Magnolia A

Workshop II

Health and Home Go Hand & Hand Exploring the impact housing has on an individual's health outcomes.

Presenters

Dr. Perharon Dixon

Reilly Morse, Esq.
Mississippi Center for Justice

Location – Magnolia B

3:15p.m. - 4:15p.m. Concurrent Session

Dream Deferred: Panelists will discuss the effects foreclosures have on both communities and individuals and solutions for homeowners who may need assistance.

Moderator

Beth Meyer

Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, Hurricane Housing Specialist

Panelists

Debby Goldberg

National Fair Housing Alliance, Hurricane Relief Project, Special Project Director

Jerry Reynolds

ECD/Hope Community Credit Union, Counseling Supervisor

Housing as a Human Right: Rebuilding on the Gulf Coast

Moderator

Ann Wilson,

Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, Board of Directors

James Crowell,

NAACP- Biloxi Chapter, President

Roberta Avilla

Interfaith Disaster Taskforce

Leo Escalado

NAVASA, National Association of Vietnamese American Service Agencies

Vicky Cintros

MIRA, Mississippi Immigrant Rights

4:30p.m. – 5:30p.m. Closing Plenary

Opening Minds: Panelists will discuss the effect of 40 years having federal Fair Housing legislation.

Moderator

Charmel Gauden,
Executive Director
Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center

Panelists

James Perry

Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, Executive Director

Lucia Blackshear

Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, Staff Attorney

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