

Fair Housing Center



of Metropolitan Detroit

# Fair Housing News

Volume 40, No. 1 - Summer 2017

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[www.fairhousingdetroit.org](http://www.fairhousingdetroit.org)

## 40 Years of Championing the Cause for Fair Housing and Civil Justice

Since its organization in April 1977, FHCMD has been a critical influence for fair housing across the country. Thanks to the help of our donors, supporters and volunteers, we've reached tens of thousands of home seekers, attorneys, property owners and management companies with the message of fair housing.

**Help us Celebrate our 40th Year.**

*Reserve your tickets now for the 20th Annual Leadership Awards Reception.*

September 27th, 2017  
Reception Begins at 5:30 PM  
Tickets \$65 each

**For Tickets:**

Go to [www.fairhousingdetroit.org](http://www.fairhousingdetroit.org)  
or call (313) 963-1274

2017 Annual Meeting - Open to Public  
October 25, 5:30-8:00 PM

The annual meeting will be held at City Hall Artspace Lofts, located at 13615 Michigan Avenue in Dearborn. This is an open meeting and all are welcome. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by calling (313) 963-1274. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

### DAVID J. CROSS, ESQ. JOINS THE BOARD

David J. Cross, Esq. joins FHCMD as our newest board member. Attorney Cross co-founded the firm Simpson Morton & Cross, PLLC in 1992, where he remains a principal. Previous legal experience includes work for both the Michigan Court of Appeals and the State Appellate Defender's Office. Mr. Cross is President of the Endeavor Real Estate Development Group, Inc. He will be taking over for Mirriam Livingstone, who will be leaving our board. Thank you both for your service to FHCMD!



*David J. Cross, Esq.*

**With Your Support, Another 40 Years is Possible.**

Demand for our services is increasing.

Please help us continue this important work by making a donation of any amount.

Go to [www.fairhousingdetroit.org](http://www.fairhousingdetroit.org) to make your pledge online.

*Thank You!*

## Faces of FHCMD

*The People & Playmakers in our Fight for Fair Housing*

### Meet Brian Hommel Summer Intern

Brian Hommel joined us this summer from Wayne State University.

Brian worked with Margaret Brown, Esq., Executive Director FHCMD, and also with the FHCMD litigation team, which is comprised of attorneys David Cross, John A. Obee, Noel J. Saleh, and Gayle S. McGregor.



*Intern Brian Hommel (l) works with cooperating attorney, Stephen Thomas, Esq.*

### Welcome Chuck Shanaman Coordinator of Investigations & Testing

In January, we welcomed Chuck Shanaman to the center. Prior to joining us, Mr.

Shanaman was an active volunteer, helping to document fair housing issues for FHCMD. Chuck has a background in services for disabled youth and adults, and is the former Special Education Work Study Program Teacher/Consultant for Berkley Public Schools. .

### FHCMD Receives Grant Examining the Relationship between Housing Discrimination and Health

What Determines Where People Live? A Health Equity Framework for Housing" is a 5-year study that will examine contemporary housing policies, markets, and lending practices and their association with multiple social determinants of health (e.g. educational opportunities, physical environment exposures). The intent of the study is to gather and translate research findings into intervention and policy recommendations to reduce health inequities in the Detroit area.

FHCMD's Margaret Brown and Engela Bertolini will work with the Healthy Environments Partnership (HEP) team on the project. Funding for the study was provided through a grant given by the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

### Georgetown University Law School On Assignment at FHCMD

As part on an ongoing program with Georgetown University Law School, students visit FHCMD for a week-long assignment to learn about the mission and history of fair housing in Detroit .

The participants this term were Qi Wang, Drayden Peters, Brian McWalters, and Kai, Zhu.



*Pictured with (l-to-r): Ted Boggues, Qi Wang, Drayden Peters, Margaret Brown, Brian McWalters, Kai, Zhu, and Chuck Shanaman.*

The Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit (FHCMD) extends its thanks and appreciation to the plaintiffs, testers, witnesses and attorneys who have assisted the cause of fair housing by participating in the following litigations. It is understood that in all cases reported in this newsletter the defendant, unless noted otherwise, denies the allegations of discrimination made by the plaintiff and, in “settled” cases, the parties have agreed to resolve the case without a determination by a jury or court. Some of the tests and investigations conducted by FHCMD were paid for with funds made available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For the details about each case, please visit our website.

## **NEW FILINGS & SETTLEMENTS**

### **CURRAN & CHRISTIE, INC.**

On December 1, 2016, FHCMD filed a lawsuit against Curran & Christie, Inc. ("Curran & Christie") and Century 21 Real Estate LLC ("Century 21"). The parties have agreed to resolve all of their differences without a determination by a jury. Century 21 has been dismissed from the lawsuit. Curran & Christie has also been dismissed from the lawsuit and it is understood that Curran & Christie denies all allegations of discrimination made by FHCMD. Curran & Christie and FHCMD have agreed to work together to accomplish shared goals of fair housing opportunities for all. Curran & Christie has also arranged for a monetary contribution to support the mission of FHCMD. Cooperating attorney for FHCMD was Stephen A. Thomas. The Honorable Arthur J. Tarnow presided over this matter in U.S. District Court in Detroit.

### **MEER**

The parties have agreed to resolve all of their differences without a determination by a jury. It is understood defendants deny all allegations of discrimination made by the plaintiff. The parties have agreed to work together for three (3) years to accomplish shared goals of fair housing opportunities for all. JSL made a monetary contribution to support the mission of FHCMD. Cooperating attorney Chui Karega for FHCMD; Mark S. Stemm for JSL. Hon Gershwin A. Drain presided over this matter in the U. S. District Court in Detroit.

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## **POETRY CONTEST ANNOUNCED**

“Poets for Housing Fairness “ Poetry Contest!

As part of our 40th Anniversary celebrations, we are looking for poets to help us honor housing fairness. The first, second, and third place winners will present their works at our annual Leadership Awards on September 27th. For more information, please visit our website.

### **Educational Workshops and Training are Available**

FHCMD continues its tradition of providing face to face fair housing training to community organizations and management companies. If you or your staff could benefit from training by one of our fair housing experts, please contact us at 313.963.1274.

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## Faces of FHCMD

*The People & Playmakers in our Fight for Fair Housing*

### The 20th Annual Leadership Awards

Honoring Professor Peter Hammer, Esq., Stephen Henderson,  
Mayor Brian Hartwell, Esq., and  
Jim Pierson, *The Marvin Thomas Award*

Reception to be held Wednesday, September 27th, 5:30-8:00 PM  
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Detroit Conference Center  
1600 East Warren Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48207

*Identification required to enter the building.*

#### Thank You to Our Sponsors

Our sponsors make this event possible. Thank you to those that have already signed up with a commitment:

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If you are interested in helping out,  
please contact Margaret Brown at  
(313) 963-1274 x 5

*Pictured left to right are award recipients  
Peter Hammer, Esq., Mayor Brian Hartwell,  
Esq., Stephen Henderson, and Jim Pierson*

