



CHEROKEE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

GAR CONFERENCE REPORT FORM

Committee/Class Attended: The Fair Housing Act 50 years later Date: 2/7/18

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Association Executive Report Submitted To: Karen Cunningham

Date: 2/9/18

Items Discussed:

A panel was present but most notably missing was someone from the LGBT Community. A couple of scenarios of Fair Housing is Prohibitive Practice: nothing available when there is and Steering: taking a client where you think they should go or fit into. HOA's can be held accountable if someone makes a complaint that they are being harassed in a neighborhood and HOA does nothing to help. Last year there were 28,188 complaints of Fair Housing- 55% of these were about disabilities. 19% was about race. One speaker highlighted on the Hispanic community. It is not so much about a language barrier but agents need to understand their culture. Family is very important and elders have a large say and opinion about housing options. Agents need to be accepting and understanding of this. Major barrier of Hispanics is access to credit. The term "credit invisible" was used. The Asian community has a similar issue. They are taught to save money and buy everything in cash resulting in "cash rich, credit poor". "No Other" campaign was launched. Census Bureau had no category for Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders; this group had to check "other". The No Other campaign called attention to this and they now have their own category to be counted.

Next panelist spoke on subject of color and affordable housing. Recommends the book The Color of Law. Atlanta was the first city with public housing which is now Centennial Park. In 1974 Inman Park was Red Lined. No banks would lend in this area. You could only buy if you had cash. Early on, NAR was on the wrong side of housing. They supported Freedom of Contract (if someone did not feel like selling home to certain individuals, they shouldn't have to. A point was made that Atlanta is becoming economically segregated. Too little affordable housing is being introduced to the market. Last panelist was a REALTOR who is now in a wheelchair. This portion was more about him overcoming his disability in the work environment. A very touching and optimistic story. His father helps him show houses because most houses are not equipped with access for his wheelchair. He studies the pictures and floorplans so he can answer all questions

his clients might have. He does not identify as having a disability but a REALTOR with capabilities. He vowed he will walk again and works out 2 hours a day. Very inspirational!

Thoughts (Relevancy to CAOR):

With this being the 50th anniversary of Fair Housing, we should make this a big deal to our community and help educate and celebrate. Ideas of blasting to print media and social media. Possibly setting up a tent or table at upcoming downtown (Canton, Woodstock, Ball Ground) event that will already be drawing crowds.

Cammy Strickland

Signature