

# **Virtual Fair Housing Conference**

**Investing in Our Future:  
Fair Housing and Race-Conscious Policies**

**April 20, 2022 - 9:30 am to 1:30 pm PDT**

**Presented by:  
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California**



# Conference Program

**Moderator: Jorge Andres Soto**

Associate Vice President of Advocacy & Government Affairs - National Fair Housing Alliance

**9:30-9:45 am: Opening remarks**

**Caroline Peattie**

Executive Director - Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California

**9:45-10:00 am: Session 1**

**Andrés Ramos** - Legislative Counsel, Public Advocates

**Fred Freiberg** - National Field Consultant, Fair Housing Justice Center

**Fair Housing Investigations — Two-Party Recording in the California Legislature**

**10:00-11:00 am: Session 2**

**Erwin Chemerinsky**

Dean - University of California, Berkeley School of Law

**Legal Perspectives on Race-Conscious Housing Policies**

The Supreme Court will be deciding whether race-conscious admissions programs at Harvard and the University of North Carolina are lawful, deciding the future of affirmative action in higher education and possibly reversing decades of precedent allowing race to be used as one factor in evaluating applicants. Against this backdrop, Dean Chemerinsky will discuss the future of race-conscious policies in the housing arena.

**11:00 am-12:00 pm: Session 3**

**Nikitra Bailey**

Senior Vice President of Public Policy - National Fair Housing Alliance

**Utilizing Race-Conscious Housing Policies to Drive Inclusive Economic Growth**

Race-conscious policies and practices favoring Whites created today's housing and economic disparities, and only race-conscious solutions can remedy them. This session will discuss existing lawful tools to advance housing equity through the use of Special Purpose Credit Programs (SPCPs) and Targeted First Generation Downpayment Assistance (DPA). Utilizing these tools provides governments and industry opportunities to fund equity investments that will drive economic growth for everyone.

# Conference Program

**12:00-12:15 pm: Break**

**12:15-12:45 pm: Session 4 - Panel**

**Julian Glover**

Race, Culture & Social Justice Reporter - ABC7 News

**Featured Panelists:**

**Paul Austin**, FHANC Client

**Dominique Colon**, FHANC Client

**Liza Cristol-Deman**, Attorney at Law - Brancart & Brancart

**Undervalued | Undefeated: Combatting Appraisal Discrimination in Black & Brown Neighborhoods**

Appraisal discrimination continues to gain media coverage as more families come forward to share their stories and the Biden administration rolls out its PAVE Action Plan to address systemic devaluations of Black and brown neighborhoods. ABC7 News Race and Social Justice Reporter Julian Glover has uncovered several cases of appraisal bias in the Bay Area. Glover will engage the Austin and Curtis families in conversation about their experience of appraisal discrimination, on-going legal action, and administrative complaints. Fair Housing civil rights attorney Liza Cristol-Deman of Brancart & Brancart will provide perspective on homeowners' legal recourse.

**12:45-1:30 pm: Session 5**

**Margaretta Wan-Ling Lin**

Executive Director - Just Cities/The Dellums Institute for Social Justice

**Fair Housing in a Time of New Jim Crow and Green Gentrification**

How can the values and tenets of Fair Housing be applied as a tool for 21st century urban housing injustices Margaretta will speak to the role of Fair Housing in addressing the two greatest racial housing injustices of our times: 1) legal racial discrimination confronting survivors of mass incarceration; and 2) racialized displacement of long-time lower income residents in the wake of New Urbanism and tech explosions.

## Featured Speakers



**Jorge Andres Soto** is responsible for advancing NFHA’s public policy priorities and directing the organization’s federal and congressional advocacy. Through local and national coalition-building, Mr. Soto designs strategies to advocate for policies that help protect individuals from housing discrimination, strengthen access to justice for victims of housing discrimination, and remove obstacles to housing opportunity. He leads NFHA’s efforts on issues concerning the federal budget and appropriations, housing and housing-related legislation, and executive nominations. Mr. Soto also staffs the Fair Housing Task Force of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, which NFHA co-chairs with NAACP LDF.



**Andrés Ramos** joined Public Advocates in February 2021. Prior to joining Public Advocates, Andrés worked in the Office of the Legislative Counsel, where he drafted legislation for members of the California Legislature and provided advice to legislators and legislative staff on constitutional issues and other legal matters. Prior to that, Andrés worked in a wide array of capacities during law school, including interning at the California Attorney General’s office in San Francisco, clerking in the Office of General Counsel for AFSCME in Washington, DC, working in the California State Assembly for then-Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, and interning at Public Advocates in Sacramento. He is passionate about advocating for the needs of disadvantaged communities and has channeled that passion into political and community activism, working on various candidate and issue campaigns in his local community and throughout Sacramento County.



**Fred Freiberg** is one of the nation’s leading experts on the use of testing as an investigative tool to enforce civil rights laws. Mr. Freiberg currently serves as a part-time National Field Consultant for the Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC). Mr. Freiberg previously served as Executive Director of the FHJC. Prior to 2004 and worked for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice where he directed a national testing program that he helped to establish in the Division’s Housing and Civil Enforcement Section in 1992. Mr. Freiberg was the first Executive Director of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council from 1977 to 1981. From 2016 to 2019, he consulted with Newsday on the largest investigation into real estate practices conducted by any media outlet in the nation. He is featured in the resulting story “Long Island Divided” and in the video documentary “Testing the Divide”.



**Erwin Chemerinsky** is Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley School of Law. Prior to assuming this position he was the founding dean of the University of California, Irvine School of Law, and a professor at Duke Law School, University of Southern California Law School, and DePaul Law School. He is the author of 14 books and over 200 law review articles. He frequently argues appellate cases, including in the United States Supreme Court. In January 2021, he was named president-elect of the Association of American Law Schools.

## Featured Speakers



**Nikitra Bailey** recently joined the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) as the senior vice president of public policy, where she leads the organization's public policy programs and initiatives. Prior to joining NFHA, she served as an executive vice president at the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL). She directed CRL's mortgage policy advocacy and served as the principal strategist for coalition partnerships, helping to secure passage of the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). She is the author of numerous reports and articles on the impact of predatory lending on people of color and women and has served as an expert witness to Congress. She co-leads the Black Homeownership Collaborative's work stream on fair housing and consumer protection. She holds a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.



**Julian Glover** joined the ABC7 News team as South Bay Reporter and fill-in anchor in December 2019. In January 2021 he was named to a new position with the station, leading its coverage of Race, Culture & Social Justice. The creation of this position is a demonstration of ABC's commitment to covering pressing issues affecting marginalized communities in a more comprehensive and culturally competent manner. Since taking on the position, his reporting on discrimination in the appraisal process has gone viral, garnering national attention. His work on "To Be the First": ABC's documentary on Vice President Kamala Harris and her rise from the Bay Area to the White House has been acquired by Hulu for international distribution.

### Featured Panelists:



**Paul Austin**  
FHANC Client



**Dominique Colon**  
FHANC Client



**Liza Cristol-Deman**  
Attorney at Law  
Brancart & Brancart



**Margaretta Wan-Ling Lin** has served as a leader in racial and love-based justice movements for decades, including working on the outside and inside of government. Her work on air housing has included leading the design and enactment of the nation's north star laws and public policies on Fair Chance Housing, foreclosure prevention and mitigation, anti-displacement, and immediate dignified housing for unhoused residents. She is currently the founding director of Just Cities, a racial justice planning and policy organization co-founded by Congressman Ron Dellums. She teaches love-based racial justice in policy and planning at the UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy and Department of City and Regional Planning. She received her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, and a Masters in Asian Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

# Thanks to our Sponsors



Marin  
Community  
Foundation



Note: This material is based on work supported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under FHIP EOI Grant FE01210037. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of HUD.

**Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California**

Tel: (415) 457-5025 • TDD: (800) 735-2922 • [www.fairhousingnorcal.org](http://www.fairhousingnorcal.org)

