



SUCCESSFULLY HOUSING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CONFERENCE

Tuesday, March 4, 2025
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM PST

Fairview Sonoma County
100 Golf Course Drive
Rohnert Park, CA 94928



Presented by: Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California

In partnership with: City of Rohnert Park, Disability Services & Legal Center,
Disability Rights California, and Marin Center for Independent Living

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

CONFERENCE ON REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS MARCH 4, 2025 - ROHNERT PARK

CONFERENCE AGENDA

- 9:30-9:45 **Introduction & Logistics**
Caroline Peattie, Executive Director
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC)
- 9:45-10:00 **Fair Housing Law Overview**
Julia Howard-Gibbon, Supervising Attorney
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC)
- 10:00-11:00 **Fair Housing Protections for People with Disabilities and Reasonable Accommodations**
Maria Callahan, Director of Investigations & Staff Attorney
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC)
- 11:00-11:10 **Break**
- 11:10-12:10 **Workshop 1: Small Group Discussion Led by Facilitators (Application Process)**
- 12:10-1:00 **Lunch (Buffet lunch provided)**
- 1:00-2:00 **Workshop 2: Small Group Discussion Led by Facilitators (Tenancy & Eviction Process)**
- 2:00-2:30 **Panel Discussion: Questions/Conclusion**
- Julia Howard-Gibbon, Supervising Attorney - FHANC
 - Maria Callahan, Director of Investigations & Staff Attorney - FHANC
 - Savannah Wheeler, Housing & Policy Attorney - FHANC

TABLE FACILITATORS

- Kassandra Beas, Bilingual Housing Caseworker - Legal Aid of Sonoma County
- Adam Brown, Attorney at Law/Executive Director - Disability Services & Legal Center
- Maria Callahan, Director of Investigations & Staff Attorney - FHANC
- Lauren DeMartini, Housing Regional Counsel - Bay Area Legal Aid
- Tiffany Hickey, Staff Attorney - Disability Rights California
- Julia Howard-Gibbon, Supervising Attorney - FHANC
- Kat Raymond, Housing Counselor & Investigations Coordinator- FHANC
- Marco Rodriguez Gil, Bilingual Housing Counselor - FHANC
- Sriraksha Srivatsav, Housing Counselor & Investigations Coordinator – FHANC
- Savannah Wheeler, Housing & Policy Attorney - FHANC

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CONFERENCE PRESENTERS' & FACILITATORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Kassandra Beas has been a Bilingual Housing Caseworker with Legal Aid of Sonoma County for over a year. As a caseworker, she has helped tenants facing eviction and assisted clients seeking reasonable accommodation. Before coming to Legal Aid, she worked at her university's Food Bank to help combat food insecurity on campus. Kassandra graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara, with a bachelor's in psychology and minor in Spanish.

Adam Brown is an attorney and has been the Executive Director at Disability Services and Legal Center (DSLCL) since 2006. He has been employed by DSLCL since 1997, managing the Disability Law Clinic and serving as Legal Director for the agency. Also, he has taught Administrative Law/Disability Practice at Empire College School of Law since 2006 and has been a Professor of Law and Ethics at Bergin University of Canine Studies since 2016. Prior to joining DSLCL, he was employed by the Massachusetts Office on Disability and the Disability Rights Center, Inc.

Maria Callahan is the Director of Investigations & Staff Attorney at Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC) where she works with clients who have experienced housing discrimination, including assisting tenants with disabilities seeking reasonable accommodations and modifications. After graduating from William & Mary Law School in 2020, Maria was a post-graduate fellow at Mental Health Advocacy Services where she resolved clients' fair housing issues through demand letters, reasonable accommodation requests, and negotiations with third parties. During law school Maria interned with the California Women's Law Center, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia. She received her bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Lauren DeMartini is a Housing Regional Counsel at Bay Area Legal Aid, representing low-income tenants in unlawful detainers, subsidy terminations, and fair housing cases. Lauren has represented tenants in Contra Costa County, Santa Clara County, and the City and County of San Francisco. A 2011 graduate of New York University School of Law, Lauren worked as a fellow at ACLU of Northern California prior to joining BayLegal.

Julia Howard-Gibbon is the Supervising Attorney at Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC) where she supervises staff attorneys and housing counselors in representing clients with housing discrimination matters, including assisting tenants with disabilities seeking reasonable accommodations and modifications. Prior to becoming the supervisor, she was a Staff Attorney at FHANC for more than two years. Since receiving her undergraduate degree in Women's Studies from UCLA in 2005, she has fought for the rights of tenants and those being excluded from housing, including people with disabilities. Prior to law school she was a tenant organizer in Washington D.C. where she became inspired to become a public interest attorney. After graduating law school in 2012, she was an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow at the New York Legal Assistance Group where she represented tenants who had been impacted by Superstorm Sandy, many of whom faced significant discrimination on the basis of disability, ethnic origin, race, familial status, and source of income. She later became a Staff Attorney in the Civil Justice Practice at Brooklyn Defender Services, assisting clients facing eviction or denial of housing based on arrest or immigration status.

Tiffany Hickey is an attorney with the Housing Stability Project (HSP) at Disability Rights California (DRC) who specializes in housing law. Tiffany is committed to empowering marginalized communities, including low-income tenants, tenants with limited English proficiency, and people with disabilities. At DRC, she focuses on advocating for clients' rights, educating and empowering tenants, and promoting housing equity. Previously, Tiffany worked as an eviction defense attorney in San Francisco's Tenant Right to Counsel Program. Tiffany's passion for housing justice drives her work in helping clients navigate legal challenges and fight for their rights.

Kat Raymond is a Housing Counselor & Investigations Coordinator at Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC) where she counsels clients facing housing discrimination, including assisting tenants with disabilities seeking reasonable accommodations and modifications. She attended Gonzaga University, where she graduated in 2020 with a degree in Political Science and Spanish. During her college years, she worked at a social security law firm, advocating for low-income communities seeking social security and disability support. After college, she spent three years with Teach for America, teaching 8th grade in Richmond, California. It was during this time that she witnessed firsthand the unfair housing issues faced by several students and families. This experience sparked her interest in housing law and advocacy.

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Marco Rodriguez Gil is a Bilingual Housing Counselor at Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC) where he counsels clients facing housing discrimination, including assisting tenants with disabilities seeking reasonable accommodations and modifications. He earned a B.S. in Business Administration from San Francisco State University. Before joining FHANC, Marco managed small businesses and spent several years volunteering at various nonprofits.

Sriraksha Srivatsav serves as a Housing Counselor and Investigations Coordinator at Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC). She is an attorney from India with four years of experience, specializing in civil rights advocacy, legal research, and impact litigation, with particular expertise in anti-discrimination law and social justice. Sriraksha holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from UC Berkeley School of Law, where she earned a certificate in Public Interest & Social Justice and received Pro Bono Honors with highest distinction.

Savannah Wheeler is a Housing & Policy Attorney at Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC) where she represents clients facing housing discrimination, including assisting tenants with disabilities seeking reasonable accommodations and modifications. She is a 2021 graduate of Berkeley Law, where she completed internships with several organizations focused on housing, consumer, and economic justice issues, including the East Bay Community Law Center's Consumer Justice Clinic. Before law school, Savannah worked in New Orleans at the Justice & Accountability Center of Louisiana, an organization that provides statewide expungement legal services and advocacy to assist clients with removing barriers to housing, employment, and education caused by a criminal record.

CONFERENCE MODERATOR

Caroline Peattie is the Executive Director of Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC) and has been with the organization since 1996. Prior to her association with FHANC, Caroline was the Executive Director of Sentinel Fair Housing in Oakland. She graduated from Wesleyan University with a B.A. in philosophy and earned a Masters in the Management of Human Services at the Florence Heller School of Social Welfare at Brandeis University. She is on the board of the National Fair Housing Alliance and has been working in the fair housing field since 1987.

BUFFET LUNCH MENU*

Veggie Lasagna, Chicken Marsala, Caesar Salad, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Roasted Veggies, Dinner Rolls

*If you gave us a special dietary request ahead of time, we will call you first.



Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC) serves several Bay Area counties (Marin, Sonoma, and Solano), providing fair housing counseling, investigation, intervention, help with reasonable accommodation requests, and legal referrals to persons experiencing housing discrimination. FHANC conducts outreach activities and offers programs that educate the community about fair housing and the value of diversity, conducts trainings for housing providers/tenants, and offers pre-purchase and foreclosure prevention counseling and education.

Please contact FHANC at (415) 457-5025 / TDD: (800)735-2922 for more information or visit www.fairhousingnorcal.org. Se habla español. The event venue is wheelchair accessible.

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