



VOL. 2 ISSUE 1
JUNE 2023

FAIR HOUSING NEWS

Fair Housing Advocates of
Northern California
Newsletter



2023 FAIR HOUSING CONFERENCE

FHANC's 2023 conference, "Fair Housing: A Closer Look - Building Inclusive Communities through Policy and Advocacy," was held virtually on Friday April 21, 2023, with 7 speakers and over 200 attendees. The sessions addressed strategies for advancing fair housing and racial equity through policy and advocacy, with sessions on reparations, appraisal discrimination & inequality, source of income discrimination, and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) implementation. The event brought together community members, non-profits, advocates, real estate professionals, municipal leaders, and staff.

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**2023 FAIR HOUSING
CONFERENCE**

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FHANC HIGHLIGHTS

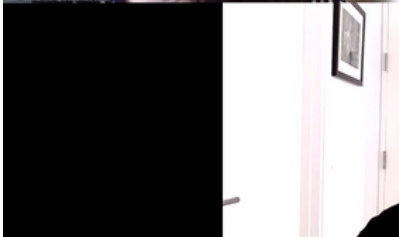
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Clockwise, from top left: Azadeh Housseinian, Julia Howard-Gibbon, and Diane Houk speak during the 2023 Conference.

Clockwise, from top left: FHANC Supervising Attorney Julia Howard-Gibbon along with Conference speakers Elizabeth Korver-Glenn, Jillian White, and Gabriel Diaz.



Above: Conference speakers Lisa Holder (left) and Valerie Feldman (right).

2023 Fair Housing Conference, cont.

FHANC thanks conference sponsors Marin Community Foundation, US Bank, California Association of REALTORS®, Mechanics Bank, Luther Burbank Savings, Marin Sanitary Services, Marin Association of REALTORS®, North Bay Association of REALTORS®, City of Fairfield, NES Health, Northern Solano County Association of REALTORS®, Solano Association of REALTORS®, Contra Costa Association of REALTORS®, WestAmerica Bank, Marin Interfaith Council, and Audrey Perrott, Realtor®, Century 21 Select Real Estate, Inc.

To view the conference session recordings, visit the webpage at: <https://www.fairhousingnorcal.org/fairhousingconference2023.html>

Foreclosure Prevention

FHANC's mortgage fitness department is dedicated to keeping homeowners in their homes. Our number one priority is stabilizing the primary mortgage and forestalling foreclosure. This can take many forms - forbearance, loan modification, accessing the California Mortgage Relief program, and more. We look at what type of loan the household has, if their hardship has ended, and if they can afford their payment. Each case is different, and we look forward to speaking with you and evaluating your best options!



Foreclosure Prevention cont.

Clients have been hampered by issues such as inheriting a home from a loved one and grappling endlessly with a lender that refuses to complete their successor-in-interest paperwork, thereby blocking all pathways out of foreclosure. This was the case for one homeowner, a single mother of two small children. We helped her through the successor process and the mortgage relief program. She expressed her gratitude and relief through a note to her counselor: "... I am so very grateful you took my file; your tenacity and wisdom are unmatched." Another single father of two in a similar situation stated, "Thank you. From the bottom of my heart, I am so utterly relieved...you know you are a blessing and an angel in this world, and I just thank you so much."

New Staff

Savannah received a B.S. in Conservation and Resource Studies and a J.D. from UC Berkeley. Before law school, she worked in education and at an organization that assists those impacted by the criminal legal system in New Orleans. Savannah enjoys cooking in her spare time.



SAVANNAH WHEELER
Staff Attorney



AUDREY PERROTT
Development Director

Audrey earned a BA in history from UC Berkeley and a Certificate in nonprofit management and advancing social and economic value creation from Georgetown University. Audrey has more than 30 years of experience working for nonprofit organizations and housing authorities and more than 10 years of fund development experience. Audrey enjoys traveling and serving in the community.

New Board Members

FHANC welcomed two new board members this year:

Lou Enge,

Executive Director, NAMI Marin

Philip Chapman,

Community Housing Rights Activist

Please see our website for board member bios.

Project Sentinel's Fair Housing Symposium and the Kerstin Arusha Award

Project Sentinel awarded FHANC's Executive Director Caroline Peattie the Kerstin Arusha Award at the agency's 12th annual Fair Housing Symposium on April 28 for outstanding contributions in fair housing. Arusha is remembered for founding a fair housing and anti-predatory lending law firm, leading groundbreaking litigation in protecting tenants with disabilities, home child care providers, and many others. FHANC's Supervising Attorney Julia Howard-Gibbon spoke on appraisal discrimination at the symposium.



Above: FHANC Executive Director with Carole Conn, Executive Director of Project Sentinel, after being awarded the Kerstin Arusha Award.

DID YOU KNOW?

Following a historic settlement with Fannie Mae focused on rebuilding communities of color, **FHANC has expanded fair housing services in Solano County!** As of July 1, 2023, all county residents can now access fair housing, foreclosure prevention, and pre-purchase services. In addition, residents can access downpayment assistance we offer through our partner, Community Housing Development Corporation (<https://communityhdc.org>).

Visit https://bit.ly/Solano_Expansion to read more.



Above: FHANC Supervising Attorney Julia Howard-Gibbon presented on appraisal discrimination along with Liza Cristol-Deman from Brancart & Brancart.

Grants

Corporate and Foundation Grants Received

In the first half of 2023, FHANC received grants from the following funders: Bank of Marin, Marin Community Foundation, and Wells Fargo Foundation.

Thank you!



Above: FHANC Executive Director Caroline Peattie and FHANC Development Director Audrey Perrott stand with members from the San Rafael branch of Bank of Marin staff after receiving a \$5,000 grant.

Donations

FHANC relies on donations from individual donors to support our investigation, education, training, and advocacy programs. Whether you make a one-time gift or recurring EFT monthly donations, your support enables us to carry out our mission of ensuring equal housing opportunity and educating our communities on the value of diversity in our neighborhoods. A gift of \$25 enables staff to empower a renter through one-on-one counseling so they know their rights.

Donate now: <https://www.fairhousingnorcal.org/donate-main.html>.