



**AGENDA**

**12:30-1:00**

*Registration*

**1:00-1:10**

*Opening Remarks*

Kenyen R. Brown

United States Attorney

Southern District of Alabama

Dr. James Lowe, President

Bishop State Community College

**1:10-1:55**

*Fair Housing Education  
and Enforcement*

John D. Trasviña, Assistant Secretary

U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

Washington, D.C.

**1:55-2:30**

*Affirmative Fair Housing Cases*

Deidre L. Colson, Assistant U.S. Attorney

Gary A. Moore, Assistant U.S. Attorney

**2:30-2:45**

*Break*

**2:45-3:00**

*Fair Housing Cases Through The Years*

Henry H. Brewster, Jr., Esquire

Mobile, Alabama

**3:00-3:15**

*Federal And State Fair  
Housing Issues And Trends*

Teresa Bettis, Executive Director

Center for Fair Housing, Inc.

Mobile, Alabama

**3:15-3:30**

*The Housing Industry Perspective*

Stillman D. Knight, Jr. President & CEO

The Knight Company, Alexandria, Virginia

Chair, National Association of Home

Builders Multifamily Council

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary

U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

**3:30-4:30**

*Panel Discussion/Q&A Session*

**Moderator:** Faith Cooper, Executive Director

Central Alabama Fair Housing Center

Montgomery, Alabama

**Panelists:** Mr. Knight, Mr. Brewster, and Mrs. Bettis

**4:30**

*Closing Remarks*

Kenyen R. Brown

A CIVIL RIGHTS SUMMIT

**FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS, REMEDIES,  
AND RESOURCES**

April 27, 2011

**JOHN D. TRASVIÑA**

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

**FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**



John Trasviña was nominated by President Obama to be Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity in April 2009 and confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate in May. The Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity administers and enforces federal anti-discrimination laws and establishes policies that make sure all Americans have equal access to the housing of their choice.

Before joining the Obama Administration, Assistant Secretary Trasviña served as President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. There he led the "law firm for the Latino community" by advancing litigation and public policy in the areas of civil rights, immigration, education and related issues.

A native of San Francisco, Assistant Secretary Trasviña's family roots in Mexico date back to the late 1600's with the arrival of Sgt. Major Juan Antonio Trasviña y Retes, one of the founders of Chihuahua, Mexico. John's grandfather was Mexican consul in posts throughout the Western states in the 1920s. His parents, Juan and Carmen Trasviña, have been active in school, community and union activities for the past 40 years.

Mr. Trasviña is a graduate of Lowell High School, Harvard University and Stanford Law School. Prior to his service in the Obama Administration, he was U.S. Senator Paul Simon's General Counsel and Staff Director for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution. In 1997, President Clinton appointed Mr. Trasviña as Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices. As Special Counsel until 2001, he led the only federal government office devoted solely to immigrant workplace rights and was the highest ranking Latino attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice.

After returning to California, he taught immigration law at Stanford Law School and was Director of the Discrimination Research Center in Berkeley. In addition, he was a member of the San Francisco Elections Commission, president of the Harvard Club of San Francisco, and a board member of the La Raza Lawyers Association, Latino Issues Forum, Campaign for College Opportunity, and Lowell High School Alumni Association.



**KENYEN R. BROWN**  
**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**  
**SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**

A graduate of the University of Alabama and the University of Tennessee Law School, Kenyen R. Brown has devoted his career to public service. Upon graduating from law school in 1995, Mr. Brown moved to Montgomery, Alabama, to work as an Assistant District Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. He moved to Mobile shortly thereafter, accepting a position as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, where he prosecuted drug offenses and general crimes. Immediately prior to his recent appointment, Mr. Brown spent the last ten years working for the ethics committees of the United State Senate and the House of Representatives, culminating in service as Senior Counsel and Director of Education and Training for the Senate Ethics Committee, and more recently as Acting Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the House Ethics Committee.

President Barack Obama nominated Mr. Brown on August 6, 2009, to serve as United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama. He was confirmed by the Senate on November 21, 2009.



**DEIDRE L. COLSON**  
**ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Ms. Colson graduated *magna cum laude* from Louisiana State University and received her law degree from George Mason University School of Law. Prior to law school, she held the position of legislative assistant and case worker to former U.S. Congressman Larkin Smith. Ms. Colson joined the United States Attorney's office in 2008, as a healthcare fraud attorney in the Civil Division. She has recently litigated fair housing issues, and is actively involved in the Southern District of Alabama's series of Civil Rights Summits. Prior to her employment with the United States Attorney's office, she worked in private practice for approximately eight years on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and served as a law clerk for two years for the Honorable David C. Bramlette, III, a federal district court judge for the Southern District of Mississippi.



**GARY ALAN MOORE**  
**ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Mr. Moore is an honors graduate of the University of South Alabama and Cumberland School of Law. He interned in the office of U. S. Senator James B. Allen (D-Ala.). Following a decade of private law practice, he served as Assistant District Counsel with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for 16 years, and joined the U. S. Attorney's Office in 2004. His civil practice docket includes injury and death case defense, environmental and maritime matters (affirmative and defensive), and most recently affirmative civil rights issues. Mr. Moore serves on the City of Fairhope's Planning & Zoning Commission and its Economic and Industrial Development Board. He has been active with ACT-II (All Congregations Together) in Baldwin County which has been engaged in a variety of housing issues over the years.



**STILLMAN D. KNIGHT, JR.**  
**PRESIDENT & CEO**  
**THE KNIGHT COMPANY**

A graduate of the University of South Alabama in 1969, Mr. Knight has worked in the multifamily housing industry his entire career. Mr. Knight is currently president and chief executive officer of the Knight Company located in Alexandria, Virginia, a member of the Baldwin County Home Builders Association in Fairhope, and was recently named chair of the National Association of Home Builders Multifamily Council for 2011. His company has been listed among the top 50 apartment developers in the nation. Starting with the Mitchell Corporation in Mobile, he has built more than 14,900 multifamily units over the years, has managed teams as large as 1,800 and budgets in excess of \$11 billion. As the HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Programs from 2003-2005, Mr. Knight was responsible for a loan management portfolio of 33,000 project loans, the annual production/origination of \$8 billion in FHA mortgage insurance, contract administration of 25,000 subsidy contracts, annual production of 6,000 homes for the elderly and the disabled, and the supervision of a staff of two thousand. Mr. Knight, through his company, currently develops and manages apartment complexes throughout the Southeast.



**TERESA BETTIS**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**CENTER FOR FAIR HOUSING, INC.**  
**MOBILE, ALABAMA**



Teresa Bettis, Executive Director, for the Center for Fair Housing, has over 11 years experience with Fair Housing laws. Beginning in 1999, Mrs. Bettis served as the Center's Compliance Officer, being promoted to Executive Director in May of 2001. Currently, she oversees the daily operations of the Center, and provides fair housing training, technical assistance, and policy development to housing industry professionals, local governments and advocates. She is a supporter of communities without a voice, the disabled and underserved.

Mrs. Bettis continues to be involved with community and economic development, including the rebuilding efforts post Hurricane Katrina. In addition to her work provided through the Center for Fair Housing, Mrs. Bettis serves on the board for the Gulf Coast Fund, and is a member of the Mobile County Housing Committee, and the Housing and Environmental Justice Initiative. Additionally, she is working with a small group of Alabama Stakeholders regarding the potential of an Alabama focused National Policy Strategy Network.

**HENRY H. BREWSTER, JR.**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**



A graduate of the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, and the Catholic University Columbus School of Law, Washington, D.C., Mr. Brewster has devoted his legal career to affirmative civil rights litigation. Upon graduating from law school in 1980, Mr. Brewster moved to Mobile, Alabama, working as a staff attorney for Legal Services Corporation of Alabama until 1987. Thereafter, Mr. Brewster began private practice as a partner/member of Stein, Brewster & Pilcher, LLC; Stein and Brewster, LLC; and Henry Brewster LLC. An Alabama State Bar member since 1981, Mr. Brewster's legal practice is currently focused on housing and public accommodation litigation, constitutional rights, consumer rights and employment discrimination. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Center for Fair Housing, Inc. (formerly the Mobile Fair Housing Center, Inc.), and has served as counsel since 1993. He is a current board member of "15 Place", a homeless day center, and serves as an IHN/Family Promise Coordinator (homeless guest program) and Assistant Committee Chairman for Boy Scout Troop #147.

**FAITH COOPER**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**CENTRAL ALABAMA FAIR HOUSING CENTER**  
**MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**



Faith Cooper has served as the executive director of the Central Alabama Fair Housing Center (CAFHC) since its creation in 1995. CAFHC is a current recipient of a HUD fair housing enforcement grant. The Center conducts fair housing enforcement, testing, and education/outreach activities throughout 29 counties in central Alabama. Prior to her work at CAFHC, Ms. Cooper was a staff attorney with the Legal Services Corporation of Alabama in Montgomery, where she handled cases involving federally-subsidized housing and other housing-related issues. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law.

**UPCOMING EVENT(S)**  
**JUNE 28, 2011**

**ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY RIGHTS**

**DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED**  
**VOTING RIGHTS**

**HATE CRIMES AND CIVIL PROTECTIONS**  
**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN THE WORKPLACE**  
**FAIR CREDIT/LENDING ISSUES**

**FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,**  
**PLEASE CONTACT US AT:**

**U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
**SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**  
**63 SOUTH ROYAL STREET, SUITE 600**  
**MOBILE, AL 36602**  
**251.441.5845**



## HISTORY OF FAIR HOUSING

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which was meant as a follow-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The 1968 act expanded on previous acts and prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, (and as amended) handicap and family status. Title VIII of the Act is also known as the Fair Housing Act (of 1968).

The enactment of the federal Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968 came only after a long and difficult journey. From 1966-1967, Congress regularly considered the fair housing bill, but failed to garner a strong enough majority for its passage. However, when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson utilized this national tragedy to urge for the bill's speedy Congressional approval. Since the 1966 open housing marches in Chicago, Dr. King's name had been closely associated with the fair housing legislation. President Johnson viewed the Act as a fitting memorial to the man's life work, and wished to have the Act passed prior to Dr. King's funeral in Atlanta.

Another significant issue during this time period was the growing casualty list from Vietnam. The deaths in Vietnam fell heaviest upon young, poor African-American and Hispanic infantrymen. However, on the home front, these men's families could not purchase or rent homes in certain residential developments on account of their race or national origin. Specialized organizations like the NAACP, the GI Forum and the National Committee Against Discrimination In Housing lobbied hard for the Senate to pass the Fair Housing Act and remedy this inequity. Senators Edward Brooke and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts argued deeply for the passage of this legislation. In particular, Senator Brooke, the first African-American ever to be elected to the Senate by popular vote, spoke personally of his return from World War II and inability to provide a home of his choice for his new family because of his race.

With the cities rioting after Dr. King's assassination, and destruction mounting in every part of the United States, the words of President Johnson and Congressional leaders rang the Bell of Reason for the House of Representatives, who subsequently passed the Fair Housing Act. Without debate, the Senate followed the House in its passage of the Act, which President Johnson then signed into law.

The power to appoint the first officials administering the Act fell upon President Johnson's successor, Richard Nixon. President Nixon tapped then Governor of Michigan, George Romney, for the post of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. While serving as Governor, Secretary Romney had successfully campaigned for ratification of a state constitutional provision that prohibited discrimination in housing. President Nixon also appointed Samuel Simmons as the first Assistant Secretary for Equal Housing Opportunity.

When April 1969 arrived, HUD could not wait to celebrate the Act's 1st Anniversary. Within that inaugural year, HUD completed the Title VIII Field Operations Handbook, and instituted a formalized complaint process. In truly festive fashion, HUD hosted a gala event in the Grand Ballroom of New York's Plaza Hotel. From across the nation, advocates and politicians shared in this marvelous evening, including one of the organizations that started it all -- the National Committee Against Discrimination In Housing.

In subsequent years, the tradition of celebrating Fair Housing Month grew larger and larger. Governors began to issue proclamations that designated April as "Fair Housing Month," and schools across the country sponsored poster and essay contests that focused upon fair housing issues. Regional winners from these contests often enjoyed trips to Washington, DC for events with HUD and their Congressional representatives.

Under former Secretaries James T. Lynn and Carla Hills, with the cooperation of the National Association of Homebuilders, National Association of Realtors, and the American Advertising Council these groups adopted fair housing as their theme and provided "free" billboard space throughout the nation. These large 20-foot by 14-foot billboards placed the fair housing message in neighborhoods, industrial centers, agrarian regions and urban cores. Every region also had its own celebrations, meetings, dinners, contests and radio-television shows that featured HUD, state and private fair housing experts and officials. These celebrations continue the spirit behind the original passage of the Act, and are remembered fondly by those who were there from the beginning.

(U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development website [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) )