



CONTRA COSTA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**CONTRA COSTA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® DIVERSITY COMMITTEE  
HOSTS FAIR HOUSING PRACTICES WORKSHOP ON APRIL 20, 2011**

***Annual Event Includes Speakers and Breakout Sessions***

**WALNUT CREEK, CA, March 28, 2011**—The Contra Costa Association of REALTORS® Diversity Committee is hosting its annual Fair Housing Workshop on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Shadelands Arts Center at 111 N. Wiget Lane in Walnut Creek. The Fair Housing Workshop lets Contra Costa County REALTORS® and residents hear directly from the area's top experts on fair housing and related issues.

Fair Housing refers to the wide array of laws, executive orders, and regulations administered at Federal, State and local levels to ensure fair and equal housing opportunities for all. The Fair Housing Act charges the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the lead agency for promotion and enforcement of Fair Housing principles and law.

Speakers from the federal, state, and local levels will discuss a range of issues impacting fair housing efforts including: anti-discrimination policies in brokerage firms, loan modification scams, and other housing-related transactions. A \$15.00 fee (plus service charge) includes breakfast and attendees may register at: <http://ccarfairhousing.eventbrite.com>

Guest speakers at the Fair Housing Event and Workshop include:

- **Chuck Hauptman, District IX Director of the California Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Department** will evaluate annual progress in fair housing enforcement at the national, state and local levels.

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- **Charles Akhidenor, Elk Grove Housing District Administrator of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing** will address fair housing issues from the state level, including good practices with anti-discrimination policies within brokerage firms.
- **Shannon B. Jones, Shannon B. Jones Law Group** will explore the legal aspects of fair housing including loan modification fraud and short sale scams, and how seniors and minorities are affected.

Workshop and event break-out sessions will address:

- **Revisiting “Protected Classes” and Fair Housing Practices**
- **From Brokers to Agents to Consumers—Implementation and Enforcement of Anti-discrimination Policies**
- **Loan Modification Scams—Are Minorities and Seniors Being Targeted?**
- **Protecting Consumers from Predators—Can We Prevent a Minority-focused Housing Meltdown in the Future?**

“Fair housing is about treating everybody fairly regardless of his/her race, color, religion, sex (gender), age, national origin, marital status, familial status and disability in housing related transactions,” remarked Ellen Osmundson, Founding Chairperson of CCAR’s Diversity Committee. “As housing is a necessity for all people, this annual Fair Housing Workshop is designed to bring out the awareness of how diverse a people we are and that we need to treat everyone of our clients with the same level of high standards and utmost care.”

The event will be sponsored by businesses that have committed to promoting fair housing practices. They include J. Rockcliff Realtors, Prudential California Realty, Wells Fargo Bank, Property I.D., Bank of America, Land of Gold Realty, CL Designs Home Staging, JC Financial, Bank of the West and Avenir Mortgage Planners. As seating is limited, attendees are strongly encouraged to register early at: <http://ccarfairhousing.eventbrite.com>

“April is National Fair Housing Month,” notes Fred Weston, President of the Contra Costa Association of REALTORS®. “This is one of the most important ways we assert our own commitment to fair housing, both in theory and in practice.”

### **About Contra Costa Association of REALTORS® and the Contra Costa Association of REALTORS® Diversity Committee**

The Contra Costa Association of REALTORS® Diversity Committee promotes diversity awareness and fair housing practices through educational and networking events among Members, as well as outreach and educational events in the community.

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The Contra Costa Association of REALTORS® is one of the leading providers of technology based tools to REALTORS® in the nation. CCAR also conducts ongoing classes, training and seminars spanning a wide range of topics and information that are available to both REALTORS® and the public. CCAR is located at 1870 Olympic Blvd, Ste 200, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Please visit CCAR's website at [www.ccartoday.com](http://www.ccartoday.com) for more information or call CCAR PR Strategist, Meghan Pariso at 925.295.9218.

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