



# WASHTENAW COUNTY LEGAL NEWS

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## FHC announces settlement of two family housing discrimination cases

*Board President Ann Routt said, 'Denying people housing because they have children is unacceptable.'*

By Frank Weir

### Legal News

The Fair Housing Center of Southeastern Michigan (FHC) has announced the successful settlement of two lawsuits based on "familial status discrimination."

One case arose out of Ann Arbor, the other, Ypsilanti. Both were litigated by Jonathan Weber of Ypsilanti, a cooperating attorney for FHC.

Ann Arbor litigant Dawn Simpson accepted \$15,000 to settle her case against the owner of Arbor Apartments, located on Packard Road, and Mitch Abrams and Sue Dible accepted \$20,000 to settle a familial status discrimination case against Scott's House Apartments on Perrin in Ypsilanti.

The FHC announcement noted that federal law prohibits discrimination in housing against families with children under the age of eighteen.

"In addition to prohibiting the denial of housing to families with kids, the Fair Housing Act also prevents housing providers from imposing any special requirements or conditions on tenants with children," an FHC spokesperson said.

"For example, landlords may not locate families with children in any single portion of a complex, place an unreasonable restriction on the total number of persons who may reside in a dwelling, or limit their access to recreational services provided to other tenants."

Ann Routt, board president of the FHC said, "It's 2009. It's hard enough to find decent work and a place to live in this depressed economy.

"Denying people housing because they have children is unacceptable. These cases are a victory for families in Michigan."