

Fair Housing Council
of Orange County

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL OF ORANGE COUNTY SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR
4th ANNUAL FAIR HOUSING LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

SANTA ANA, CALIF., February 12, 2004...The Fair Housing Council of Orange County announced today that the non-profit agency is now accepting nominations from the housing industry for its Fair Housing Leadership Awards to be presented at the Fair Housing Leadership Awards Luncheon on April 30, 2004. April is National Fair Housing Month and the Fair Housing Council is celebrating this important month by honoring individuals and organizations who have taken positive action to affirmatively further fair housing in Orange County. The event is scheduled to take place from 11:30am to 2pm on April 30, at the Turnip Rose, Grand Newport Plaza, in Costa Mesa, Calif.

This is the 4th Annual Fair Housing Leadership Awards Luncheon and the agency will present awards in six categories to recognize a broad scope of organizations and businesses in the housing industry for their work to foster diversity and promote fair housing. The Fair Housing Council will present Fair Housing Leadership Awards to organizations or individuals in the following five categories: Advertising; Home Building Industry (including builders, developers and construction companies); Lending Industry (including banks, mortgage companies, lenders and title companies); Real Estate Sales; the Rental Housing Industry (including property managers and owners, property management companies, rental property developers, multi-family housing providers and community-based agencies that support fair housing) and the Nonprofit Housing Industry. The award recognizes and honors individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions that support the spirit and letter of Fair Housing laws which they have demonstrated through deeds, business policies, or other means.

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Fair Housing Council's Leadership Awards 2-2-2

All members of the housing industry in Orange County are encouraged to nominate an organization or individual or make a self-nomination by submitting the company name, contact information and supportive documents to the Fair Housing Council of Orange County, 201 S. Broadway, Santa Ana, Calif. 92701. Selection criteria for nominations and nomination forms are available by calling the Fair Housing Council at 714/569-0825. Participants are encouraged to submit brochures, marketing materials, advertisements and other documents in support of their nomination and self nominations are encouraged. ***The deadline to return nomination forms is March 26, 2004.*** The Fair Housing Council also seeks sponsors for the Fair Housing Leadership Awards Luncheon and the deadline to support the event is March 12, 2004. For more information or to obtain forms, contact the Fair Housing Council of Orange County at 714/569-0825.

About the Fair Housing Council of Orange County

The Fair Housing Council of Orange County is a private non-profit organization formed in 1965 in the wake of the civil rights movement that resulted in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The agency incorporated in 1968, the same year that Congress extended civil rights protections to cover housing with the adoption of the Fair Housing Act. Under the direction of a 14-member volunteer board of directors and with a paid staff of 15, it works to fulfill a mission of reducing and eventually eliminating housing discrimination in Orange County. Contracting with all of Orange County's local governments to provide fair housing services for their residents, the agency provides comprehensive community education, individual counseling, mediation, low-cost advocacy and handles more than 1,000 issues concerning housing discrimination in the county each year. The Fair Housing Council also recently expanded its services to include comprehensive educational programs for housing providers, property managers, lenders, real estate professionals and consumers. The Fair Housing Council provides about 275 community outreach presentations annually. For more information, call 800/698-FAIR or 714/569-0823.

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