



Fair Housing Council
of Orange County
Fostering Diversity in Housing

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NEWS RELEASE

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****Editor's Note: Photos of winners available upon request***

FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL OF ORANGE COUNTY ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF FAIR HOUSING LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Six Leaders in the Housing Industry Receive Accolades For Their Work to Promote Fair Housing in OC

SANTA ANA, CALIF., May 4, 2005...The Fair Housing Council of Orange County announced the winners of its prestigious Fair Housing Leadership Award at the 5th Annual Fair Housing Leadership Awards Luncheon held on April 22 at the Turnip Rose in Costa Mesa, Calif. The Fair Housing Leadership Award honors individuals and organizations who have taken positive action to foster diversity and eliminate housing discrimination in Orange County. Fair Housing Leadership Awards were presented to six organizations in various segments of the housing industry for making significant contributions that support the spirit and letter of Fair Housing laws which they have demonstrated through deeds, business policies, or other means. Fair Housing Leadership Awards were presented to the following organizations and individuals:

- **Satellite Management Company** – Rental Housing Industry
- **Standard Pacific Homes** – Home Building Industry
- **Apartment Magazine** – Advertising Industry
- **Darlene Powell, Mental Health Association of OC** – Nonprofit Category
- **David Silver-Westrick, Orange County Association of Realtors** – Real Estate Industry
- **The First American Corporation** – Lending Industry

Assemblyman Todd Spitzer, 71st District, was the keynote speaker at the event and in addition to recognizing the winners for their outstanding accomplishments in promoting fair housing in Orange County, he highlighted the importance of incorporating fair housing into every day business practices. "Fair housing is vitally important if we are going to ensure that everyone has equal access to housing and the opportunity to live free from discrimination," he said. "Congratulations to all the winners of the Fair Housing Leadership Awards for your outstanding work to promote fair housing in Orange County. "

Satellite Management Company was selected as the winner of the Rental Housing category for being a longstanding supporter of the Fair Housing Council and a member of its Partners' program. Not only does all staff receive fair housing training on a continual basis, they also ensure that all brochures display the fair housing logo and their properties also accept Section 8 housing and low income housing for seniors. -

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Satellite also conforms to a 2 plus1 occupancy standard and its communities consist of diverse populations. Satellite is also diverse at all employment levels and they continually work to achieve diversity among their residents.

Standard Pacific Homes won the Leadership Award in the Home Building category for being an equal opportunity homebuilder dedicated to designing and building housing that is adaptable to individuals of all ages by offering a range of accessible features for those with physical challenges. The Mille Fleurs at Woodbury project, offers Universal Design Elements and a variety of standard and optional conveniences to accommodate individuals with changing lifestyles and physical challenges including: accessible path to dwelling; maximum of 1- ½ inch vertical change in level at thresholds, 32” wide interior doors; strike edge clearance at 18” interior and 24” exterior doors; removable base cabinets at sink and accessible kitchens, roll in showers in lieu of standard tub or shower, and many more accessible amenities. In addition, they display the equal housing opportunity logo on all of their marketing and advertising materials.

Apartment Magazine was selected as the winner in the Advertising category for consistently encouraging housing providers to abide by fair housing laws and assisting them in maintaining fair housing compliant media campaigns. Apartment Magazine has been active supporter of Fair Housing through sponsorship of events, running fair housing ads in their magazine, and they are a member of the Fair Housing Advertising Task Force. In addition, they sponsor seminars to educate the housing industry on fair housing issues. They also ensure they use the equal housing opportunity logo in all of the ads that run in the magazine and they review all ads to ensure they comply with fair housing laws. They are also quick to call the Fair Housing Council if they have a question or fair housing issue.

Darlene Powell of the Mental Health Association of Orange County was selected as the winner of the Fair Housing Leadership Award in the Nonprofit category. Powell currently works with assisting individuals with mental disabilities with their housing needs and issues. She is a strong supporter of fair housing and has gone far beyond the boundaries of her job to help the Fair Housing Council with their disabled clients so they can obtain and keep their housing. Powell has a good working knowledge of fair housing laws, continually refers clients to fair housing council and assists clients with filing reasonable accommodation and modification requests to ensure they don't lose their housing.

David Silver-Westrick of the Orange County Association of Realtors was selected as the winner in the Real Estate Sales category for his commitment to fair housing through his professional and community involvement. As a seasoned real estate professional, Silver-Westrick has held the position of President of the Orange County Association of Realtors, and in that position, has led the formal adoption of the Fair Housing Resolution, reaffirming the association's commitment to fair housing. In addition, he led the Board in the

creation of a new committee, the Equal Opportunity and Cultural Diversity Committee and he pioneered

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the “Pro Bono Real Estate Program which will help individual’s access housing in Orange County by providing grants for down-payment assistance. In addition, as chairman of the California Association of Realtors Region 32 Council, he raised nearly \$20,000 to support the Housing Affordability fund to combat the growing crisis of housing affordability

The First American Corporation was selected as the winner of the Fair Housing Leadership Award in the Lending category for its long standing record of supporting and advocating Fair Housing and its work to ensure that every person has the right to achieve the dream of homeownership. They are a long standing member of the Fair Housing Council’s Partners Program and they also, through their emerging markets department, are targeting and serving many underserved populations, such as African-American, Latino, Asian, new immigrant and low income home buyers. They are also lowering the closing or settlement costs that may prohibit many low to moderate income buyers from securing a home. In addition, they are committed to giving 1 percent of their pretax earnings to nonprofit organizations that promote housing development, financial literacy, neighborhood revitalization and homebuyer education.

April is National Fair Housing Month and the Awards Luncheon is just one way the Fair Housing Council of Orange County celebrates this important month. The Fair Housing County sincerely thanks all sponsors for making the event possible. Sponsors of the event included Platinum Sponsors: The First American Corporation and the Orange County Association of Realtors; Gold Sponsors: Irvine Company Apartment Communities, Los Angeles Times, Orange County Register – Rental Division, PI&I Management, Standard Pacific Homes, Villa del Sol; Silver Sponsors: Apartment Association of Orange County, Arnel Property Management Co., Building Industry Association of Orange County, Gerson, Baker & Associates, Lyon Apartment Communities, Sares Regis Group, South Coast Apartment Association, Wells Fargo; and Bronze Sponsors: KTG Y Group and Satellite Property Management.

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 14, it works to fulfill a mission of protecting the quality of life in Orange County by ensuring equal access to housing opportunities, fostering diversity and preserving dignity and human rights. 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 is also a HUD certified counseling agency and provides about 275 community outreach presentations annually. For more information, call 800/698-FAIR or 714/569-0823 or visit www.fairhousingoc.org. ###