

November 23 – Land Use - L21

Local Nuisance and Crime-Free Ordinances: Legal Issues and Policy Considerations

SPEAKERS' BIO

David Wesner – City Attorney, City of Danville, Illinois

David Wesner received his BA from the University of Illinois and his JD from Ohio Northern University. He was the first full-time on-staff attorney for the City of Danville. He has served as its Corporation Counsel since 2008. In that capacity he serves as the head of the City's Legal Department. He has written many articles for the Municipal Lawyer Magazine published by the International Municipal Lawyers' Association. He implemented the City's Administrative Adjudication hearing system for the prosecution of code violations within the City. He also serves as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the City of Hoopston, Illinois.

Sandra Park is a Senior Staff Attorney in the ACLU Women's Rights Project. At the ACLU, Sandra engages in litigation, policy advocacy, and public education at the federal, state, and local levels to advance gender equality and the rights of women and girls. Sandra has advocated for survivors of gender-based violence throughout her legal career. Much of her current work focuses on discrimination faced by victims of domestic and sexual violence in housing, police access, schools, and the military. She also represented plaintiffs in a groundbreaking lawsuit challenging patents granted on two human genes related to breast and ovarian cancer, resulting in a unanimous 2013 U.S. Supreme Court ruling invalidating gene patents (*Association for Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics*). She writes and speaks regularly on human rights, sex discrimination, and the intersection of patent regulation and civil liberties.

Sandra was selected as a Movement Maker by Move to End Violence, a ten-year initiative of the NoVo Foundation to build the social justice movement in the U.S. to end violence against girls and women, and previously chaired the Committee on Domestic Violence at the New York City Bar Association. Before joining the ACLU, she worked as a Skadden Fellow at the Legal Aid Society of New York and clerked for U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein of the Southern District of New York. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College and NYU School of Law.

Melody Taylor-Blancher is the Region 3 Director for the Mid Atlantic Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She serves as principal advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity in all matters relating to fair housing, economic opportunity, civil rights, and nondiscrimination in the implementation of HUD programs in the region.

Before relocating to the Philadelphia region, Melody worked as the principal advisor and manager to the Department's National Fair Housing Training Academy at HUD Headquarters in Washington, DC. The Academy is the first and only federally funding fair housing civil rights training component nationwide. Melody contributed extensively to the development of fair housing, lending and leadership curricula created to train fair housing advocates and practitioners nationwide.

Melody's training, contributions and commitment to fair housing spans a period of 18 years. She has had the unique experience of working as a public servant and with private fair housing organizations as an advocate. Most notably, Melody started her fair housing career with the National Fair Housing Alliance serving as the project manager on national insurance and lending testing initiatives. The results of the testing efforts assisted the agencies and its partners in securing multi-million dollar settlements that created comprehensive investment vehicles in minority neighborhoods in several major metropolitan cities.

Barbara Delaney specializes in fair housing and civil rights issues and has an array of experience working with non-profit, state & federal fair housing agencies. She has over 15 years of civil rights experience in policy development, strategic planning and financial management for private and government programs. She has advocated on behalf of countless victims of discrimination and provided training, compliance and consultation for the housing industry and community groups.

She currently serves as the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Philadelphia Center Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development where she is responsible administering HUD's Civil Rights Laws and Regulations.

Prior to joining HUD she was responsible for oversight the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) at the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights from 2001-2008.

She was the Director of Compliance Programs at The Equal Rights Center in Washington D.C. from 1998-2001. In that position, she was responsible for grants management, developed fair housing policy and procedures for real estate companies coordinated various research audits, reviewed and analyzed rental, sales and new construction accessibility tests. Other fair housing initiatives include insurance and mortgage lending testing with the National Fair Housing Alliance.

Prior to her fair housing work she managed a five year research project that examined the

effects of negative cultural messages on minority populations for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.