

## Ads alarm housing backers

BOSTON (AP) - Fair housing advocates have filed suit against several real estate agencies, accusing them of using discriminatory advertising online.

The Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston said phrases such as "professionals only," "no undergrads please!" and "no security deposit required with good credit and stable employment" violate federal and state laws.

The laws make it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, family status or national origin.

The complaint filed Tuesday in federal court said the ads tend to restrict housing opportunities for people with children or rental subsidies.

"Further, because a disproportionate number of persons with rental subsidies and families with children are people of color, these advertisements have had the effect of discriminating against people based on race, color and national origin," the nonprofit group said.

The suit seeks an injunction against the practice and unspecified money damages.

Defendants denied wrongdoing, and said they first heard of the complaint when contacted by The Boston Globe.

"I know all about discrimination," said Marc Roos, owner of Marc Roos Realty in Boston, who described himself as an Iranian immigrant who is a U.S. citizen. "The last thing I want to do is anything discriminatory."

Eric Boyer, who operates Boston Apartment Rentals and an accompanying Web site called bostonapartments.com, said he never would knowingly allow a discriminatory ad. Representatives of two of the other defendants, A&S Realty and Apartment Depot, wouldn't comment.

In 2001, the Globe itself agreed to settle a complaint by the Fair Housing Center, which claimed it published ads that included such phrases as "single pref" and "no Section 8," a reference to a rent-subsidy program.

The Globe agreed to tighten its housing ad policies and paid the center \$30,000 to support fair housing education programs, and \$25,000 for damages and attorneys fees and charges.

## Appointments

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Douglas moved to Las Vegas in 1982. From 1982-84 he worked as staff attorney and directing attorney for Nevada Legal Services in Clark County. From November 1984 through December 1995, he served as Deputy District Attorney for the Clark County District Attorney's Office.

Since 1996, Douglas has served as a District Court Judge for the State of Nevada, primarily handling civil and criminal motion practice, evidentiary hearings, and jury and non-jury trials.

Boggs McDonald will fill the vacant position in District F created last week by the resignation of Commissioner Mark James. James, who resignation is effective on Friday, reportedly quit citing family reasons.

"Because Lynette is currently an elected official and working directly on many of the most pressing issues facing Southern Nevada, I believe she will be able to hit the ground running on the Clark County Commission," Guinn said.

"This commission is far too important to appoint a caretaker."

Boggs McDonald, who could not be reached for comment, will resign her City Council seat on April 20 and will be sworn in for the seat on the county commission the same day.

She intends to run in November to keep the seat, ac-



Michael Lawrence Douglas

ording to Guinn. "Having an experienced person who intends to run for the post in the fall election was also very important in my decision," he said. "Lynette gives us the best chance to retain District F as a Republican seat."

Boggs McDonald made history on June 28, 1999, becoming the first woman to lead a City Council ward. On April 3, 2001, she was elected to a four-year term in the Ward 2 primary election, receiving 70 percent of the vote.

In 2002, Boggs McDonald, a Republican, failed in bid to capture a Con-

gressional seat. Rep. Shelley Berkley, a Democrat, won the seat.

The Councilwoman also announced that she has stepped down from the board of directors at Station Casinos Inc.

"I resigned immediately from Stations Casinos because the Governor and I didn't want any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest," Boggs McDonald said in a prepared statement.

"I am honored to be chosen by Gov. Guinn to serve on the County Commission," she said.

"I am looking forward to working on the issues that face the residents of Clark County and my constituents in District F."

Boggs McDonald is a business graduate of the University of Notre Dame, attended the University of Oregon Graduate School of Journalism and received a Master's of Public Administration degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

## Mitchell

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sternation" before he dismissed the case in favor of the newspaper and its reporters. "This is to be expected. This is just round one. This is a one-daily paper town and it's easy to see why some would be intimidated," said Michael Mitchell.

"I'm under the impression that the congressman will continue to protect those rights of the elderly and infirmed," stated Gibson.

Michael Mitchell said the family plans to appeal the ruling.

Sean Yoes writes for the Baltimore Afro.



Photo credit: Hazel Trice Edney/NNPA

NNPA Chairwoman Sonny Messiah-Jiles and NNPA Foundation Chairman Brian Townsend pose with presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, Sen. John Kerry after a breakfast dialogue with Kerry and leaders of the Democratic National Committee.

## Soldiers

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making sure that the story that might otherwise go untold is always told," Brooks told the publishers. "I appreciate that you've been there to make sure you have chronicled our history every time. And thanks for putting me in such wonderful company."

Other honorees included NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund President and Director-Counsel Elaine Jones, recipient of the NorthStar Community Service Award, and National Council of Negro Women President Dorothy Height, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jones encouraged publishers to form new partnerships, with other races and ethnic groups as well as across professions.

She cited the Kemba Smith case as an example. Emerge magazine first published Smith's story, noting that she had received a 24.5-year sentence for her minor role in a Virginia drug ring. Once the magazine made her case known, LDF took over her legal affairs. Unable to win a victory in court, LDF got President Clinton to grant Smith clemency before he left office.

Dorothy R. Leavell, publisher of the Chicago New Crusader and a former NNPA president, presented Heights the NNPA's "living legend" award. Leavell said, "For more than half a century, Dorothy Heights' leadership has lifted the hopes of Black women and lived out the dream of her friend and mentor Mary McLeod Bethune." Bethune founded the NCNW in 1935 to take on the major national issues affecting Blacks.

Cheryl Cooper, executive director of the National Council of Negro Women, accepted the award for Heights, 92, who was unable to attend the event. Height had earlier in the week received the Congressional Gold Medal award.

"She wants you to know she has been a supporter of the Black Press since her early years," said Cooper. "Dr. Heights says she has always believed that the Black Press was the voice of Black Americans crying out in the wilderness of racism and freedom and justice."

Earlier that day, Howard University professor and new NNPA Foundation board member Clint Wilson had encouraged the publishers to continue that legacy during a ceremony to honor deceased publishers at Howard University.

"The founding editors of the Black Press left us a legacy and a blueprint that are admittedly somewhat different from those followed by the general audience press," he said.

"For this we do not apologize because the Black Press is ours and we are guided by our own sense of mission and purpose."

During the week, NNPA publishers made rounds on Capitol Hill and held a session with presumptive Demo-

cratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry.

Kerry implored the publishers to look at his record of fighting for civil rights, including his post-Vietnam service congressional testimony about the disproportionate number of Blacks who'd died in that war. Publishers asked Kerry to look at their record as deliverers of news.

"Our pages, we have editorial content and we have advertising. And one without the other won't work," said NNPA Chairwoman Sonny Messiah-Jiles.

Kerry agreed. "We're going to be able to fight back over the next months and you all are going to be a part of that," Kerry said. "We need you to help us to communicate and help us energize."

Like Jones, he also emphasized coalition politics.

"This is the fight of a lifetime. It's the election of a generation," he says. "And the only way that we're going to succeed at putting your agenda, our agenda, the American agenda back on the table is by working together and believing in each other and holding hands and joining hearts and getting ready to march from now until November. And then when we win, for the next four years, put the real agenda of our nation back on the table."

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