September 24, 2008

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Freedom of Information Act Office
451 7th Street, SW, Room 10139
Washington, DC 20410-3000

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request - Trends

Dear Freedom of Information Act Officer:

This request is pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA" or "the Act"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. On behalf of our client, the National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, we request that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") provide any and all records, documents, and information sufficient to show:

For each fiscal year beginning with Fiscal Year 1988 through Fiscal Year 2007,

- The total number of complaints filed with HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity alleging a violation of the Fair Housing Act
  - For each such complaint, please indicate whether the complaint was processed by HUD or by a state or local enforcement (FHAP) agency.
  - Please indicate the number and percentage of such complaints that were filed based on:
    - Race
    - Color
    - Religion
    - National origin
    - Sex
    - Familial status
    - Disability
    - Intimidation, coercion and interference
- The total number of complaints closed by HUD
  - For these complaints, documents sufficient to show:
    - The total number closed as an administrative closure by HUD
    - The total number closed as conciliated or settled by HUD
    - The total number closed with a determination of no reasonable cause by HUD
    - The total number in which a charge was issued by HUD
    - The total number closed as an administrative closure by a FHAP agency
    - The total number closed as conciliated or settled by a FHAP agency
    - The total number closed with a determination of no reasonable cause by a FHAP agency
    - The total number in which a charge was issued by a FHAP agency

- The total number of complaints filed with and processed by FHAP agencies

- The total number of complaints that were referred by HUD to the United States Department of Justice each fiscal year
  - For each such complaint, documents sufficient to show whether it was:
    - an election case made after a determination by HUD that there was reasonable cause to believe that the Fair Housing Act had been violated,
    - a zoning or land use referral,
    - a pattern and practice referral,
    - a restraining order or other injunctive relief,
    - a complaint for a breach of a conciliation agreement,
    - a referral for criminal investigation, or
    - referral for another reason

We anticipate that you will respond to the above requests within 20 working days, as specified in the Act. If you believe that is not possible, please contact me by telephone (212-859-8247), and we will attempt to work with you as necessary to facilitate your efforts to comply with the Act in a timely fashion.

If it is determined that any portion of the requested information is exempt from disclosure, we request that, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(b), all reasonably separable portions of the information or documents requested be provided. It is further requested that all documents or portions thereof for which an exemption is claimed (i) be identified with particularity and (ii) that the rationale supporting the claimed exemption be provided in writing.

The National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity is not a commercial use requester, educational institution, or a representative of the news media, and so is an “Other Requester” for purposes of HUD’s fees. The National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal
Opportunity has submitted nine separate FOIA requests, which should be treated as one request for purposes of fee calculation. The National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity agrees to pay all fees that may be incurred in processing these requests, up to a total of $500. If HUD believes the fees will exceed $500, please contact me by telephone so that we can discuss with you how we would like to proceed. Once the search and production are complete, please send the bill to us, and it will be paid within one month.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you require any additional information or have questions related to the processing of these requests, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Michael B. de Leeuw