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“DISPARATE IMPACT” THEORY UPHOLD BY SUPREME COURT

Key Tool in Investigating Housing Discrimination Claims Protects Enforcement of Fair Housing Laws

Baltimore, MD – On June 25, 2015, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.* that “disparate impact claims are cognizable” under the Fair Housing Act, according to the majority opinion written by Justice Kennedy.

“Discrimination is rarely obvious, but it is nonetheless a reality,” states MCCR Executive Director Alvin O. Gillard. “Application of the ‘disparate impact’ theory of discrimination has long been a valuable tool to have in the tool box in addressing claims of unlawful housing discrimination. We are pleased with the Supreme Court’s ruling today. MCCR will continue to aggressively investigate allegations of unlawful discrimination in the area of housing throughout the State of Maryland.”

Today’s decision means that MCCR can continue to utilize what is widely considered by fair housing experts to be one of the most effective and necessary theories when identifying and investigating matters of housing discrimination.

MCCR represents the interest of the State to ensure equal opportunity for all through enforcement of Title 20 of the State Government Article and Title 19 of the State Finance & Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. MCCR investigates complaints of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and state contracts filed by members of protected classes under federal and state law. For additional information, please contact Spencer Dove at 410-767-8576 or by email at spencer.dove@maryland.gov.

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