
PREFACE

Housing is a fundamental resource and a human right. Many of today's persistent social inequities and domestic policy challenges can be traced back to the fact that different groups in our society have been denied equal access to housing. This denial has been perpetrated by governments at every level, by housing professionals, and by countless private individuals. This denial takes many forms, from mundane zoning decisions to biased property appraisals to outright violence. And this denial is deeply embedded in the very infrastructure of our nation: our neighborhoods, which in turn affect virtually every aspect of life.

As longstanding, pervasive, and destructive as housing discrimination has been in the United States, there has been an equally persistent and stubborn resistance to it. Activists, advocates, policymakers, researchers, and everyday people have fought to expose and correct these injustices. The path has been difficult, and the gains often incremental, but the commitment to the cause remains. Thus, we chose to title this book *The Right to Fair Housing*, to emphasize the goal of the struggle—the aspirational direction toward which, in the words of Dr. King and Rev. Theodore Parker, the arc of the moral universe is bending.

We, the authors, have devoted much of our professional lives to practicing, studying, and teaching fair housing law. We know the stakes in this area could not be higher. And yet we have also observed a dearth of teaching materials on the subject for students at the law school level. This book arose from our collective belief that such a text is badly needed to educate new generations of students who will become the activists, advocates, and leaders of their time.

The right to fair housing touches all of us. We all are renters or homeowners, residents of neighborhoods, and members of communities. We understand that home is life and that place matters. And so, we believe, this book matters. We hope you will agree.