

Need assistance?

Florida Commission on Human Relations: 488-7082 or <http://fchr.state.fl.us>

Escambia/Pensacola Human Relations Commission: 437-0510

Legal Services of North Florida: 432-8222

Published - August, 24, 2006

Housing, job discrimination in Bay Area focus of seminar



Polyana da Costa
[@PensacolaNewsJournal.com](#)

Housing and job discrimination happens more often than many may think.

In fact, it happens often enough in Escambia County to draw special attention from a state organization that fields discrimination complaints.

On Wednesday, representatives from the Florida Commission on Human Relations held a training session in Pensacola to educate citizens and members of various organizations about employment and housing discrimination issues.

The session was the first of other state-planned efforts for Escambia County that came as a result of a personal request from Derick Daniel, executive director of the Florida Commission on Human Relations. Daniel asked the commissioners "to spend some time in this area," said Celena Grant, the organization's community relations service manager.

"That doesn't mean there is more discrimination here than in other areas," she said. "But we do get a lot of complaints from here."

Barbara Hoard, equal opportunity specialist for the Escambia/Pensacola chapter of the Commission, said she receives an average of 100 complaints a month, most of them involving employment discrimination based on disabilities, race and other issues.

The Florida Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap or marital status.

Regina Owens, housing manager for the state human relations commission, said all complaints made to the commission are confidential.

Print
 Discu

SCF MO
Free alert:

[www](#)

SCF MO
Free alert:

[www](#)



If unable to resolve the matter, the commission will refer people to other agencies.

Legal Services of North Florida, which sponsored Wednesday's event, is one of the local organizations available to assist in such cases.

Susan Stanford, an attorney at the organization, said she has handled about 10 cases involving discrimination in the past six months. A large part of the cases were racial, but some also involved disability issues, she said.

Debora Buskey, outreach coordinator for the Escambia and Santa Rosa chapters of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, said she is familiar with that situation. She was at the event to learn how to help those who call her at the association.

"Just the other day a guy called me to say his employer was not familiar with his illness and was going to terminate him because there were some things he couldn't do."

Article Comments

This article does not have any comments associated with it

[Add Comment](#)

Featu

Wat

Wareho
Confide

General
Crist Pla

Bench J
Jewelers



Partners: Jobs: [CareerBuilder.com](#) | Cars: [Cars.com](#) | Apartments: [Apartments.com](#) | Shopping: :

Copyright © 1997-2006 the Pensacola News Journal, Pensacola Florida.
Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), updated Ju