

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Illinois REALTORS® Celebrate Fair Housing Month**

**Northbrook, IL** (April 1, 2009) — April is Fair Housing Month and REALTORS® continue to be leading supporters and advocates for equal opportunity in Illinois housing. Toward that goal, the Illinois Association of REALTORS® devotes the month of April to highlighting fair housing laws.

“People have the right to live wherever they can afford to live and their access to a home shouldn’t be denied or restricted because of discrimination. REALTORS® play a vital role in ensuring fair housing for all,” said North Shore – Barrington REALTOR® Association (NSBAR) Board President, Adrienne Han, “REALTORS® follow a strict code of ethics and strive to fulfill the requirements of fair housing laws to help educate the public about their rights and responsibilities under the fair housing laws.”

Established by Congress in 1968, the U.S. Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on the race, color, religion, sex, or national origin of those seeking housing. In 1988, the law was amended to prohibit discrimination based on disability and familial status. The Illinois Human Rights Act further protects citizens from prejudice in regards to sexual orientation, marital status, military status, age and ancestry.

The Illinois Association of REALTORS®, together with its nonprofit affordable housing foundation the Partnership for HomeOwnership, has developed a public Web site at [www.TheHousingSite.org](http://www.TheHousingSite.org) where Illinois citizens and real estate professionals can find the state and federal laws, regulations and resources related to fair housing gathered in

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one place.

In addition, real estate firms and local associations throughout the state continuously educate real estate professionals and the public with fair housing training throughout the year. **[Insert local association fair housing month activities].**

“The fair housing laws are in place to provide and protect the rights of the public to equal opportunity in the purchase, sale, rental, lease, financing, insuring and advertising of housing,” said Han. “The Illinois Association of REALTORS® and local REALTOR® Associations pledge to uphold the spirit as well as the letter of the law through programs, activities and training designed to promote and further equal opportunity for all.”

The Illinois Association and National Association of REALTORS® have a long history of partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and fair housing groups to support equal access to all.

NSBAR who represents real estate professionals in the North Shore and Barrington area of Illinois is one of 1,600 local boards and associations of Realtors nationwide that comprise the National Association of Realtors. As America's largest trade association, NAR is "The Voice of Real Estate," representing more than a million members involved in all aspects on the real estate industry.