



NEWS

For Immediate Release: October 21, 2005

Rikeesha Cannon, Media Coordinator
(312) 368-2677
Ilze Hirsh, Editor in Chief
(312) 263 3830 ext. 231

One More Entrance Screen for the Low-Income Housing Population: Credit Reports

(Chicago)— Are credit reports a thinly veiled form of discrimination in subsidized housing? Are they a cover for exclusionary motives that violate fair housing laws? Housing attorneys and lawmakers and advocates intent on preserving low-income housing and protecting residents of subsidized housing have a vested interest in the latest issue of the *Clearinghouse Review*. “The lack of clear federal regulations governing how or whether to evaluate housing applicants credit means that excluding applicants on the basis of credit scores may be arbitrary or unreasonable,” writes Maeve Elise Brown, author of this issue’s lead article, “A Stacked Deck.” Whether defending low-income renters through litigation or advancing housing policies at the state or federal level, advocates and policy makers need to understand how credit is used as a means to exclude the very low-income people whom subsidized housing programs are designed to help.

In addition to new analyses on credit reports and screening criteria for subsidized housing, this edition of *Clearinghouse Review: Journal of Poverty Law and Policy* includes an overview of the permissible grounds for eviction, new guidance to assist housing providers in accommodating the needs of persons with disabilities in the Section 8 program, and state flexibility in filing food stamp claims. This issue features a series of articles and advocacy strategies including:

- “A Stacked Deck—How Credit Is Used to Screen Out Those Most in Need of Federally Subsidized Housing” by *Maeve Elise Brown*
- “Defending Against Eviction from Public and Federally Subsidized Housing” by *Fred Fuchs*
- “New HUD Guidance Accommodating People with Disabilities in the Section 8 Program” by *Fred Nisen*
- “Remembering Ed V. Sparer: An Enduring Vision for Legal Services” by *Gary F. Smith*
- “Tenant-Screening Agencies Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act” by *Anthony Rodriguez*
- “California Perspectives on Tenant-Screening Agencies” by *David Pallack*
- “Encouraging Moderation in State Policies on Collecting Food Stamp Claims” by *David A. Super*



If you would like to schedule an interview with a legal editor or staff attorney, please contact Rikeesha Cannon at 312.368.2677. For more information on how your can subscribe to *Clearinghouse Review* and other Shriver Center publications, please visit our website at www.povertylaw.org

###

Published bimonthly, the *Clearinghouse Review* is an advocate’s best resource for information on developments in poverty law. Each issue of the *Review* features in-depth, analytical articles, written by experts in their fields, on topics of interest to poor people’s and public interest lawyers. Substantive areas covered include civil rights, family law, disability, domestic violence, housing, elder law, employment, health, and welfare reform. The *Review* also features abstracts of poverty law cases being litigated by legal aid advocates across the country.