

## Legal FAQ on Fair Housing Discrimination Suit Against Florida's SB 264

### Understanding the Basics:

- **Speak from Personal Experience:** Share your own experiences and perspectives related to the issue at hand. Personal stories can resonate with the audience and humanize the impact of the lawsuit beyond legal jargon.
  - When speaking on behalf of everyone involved in the lawsuit, it's vital to emphasize the importance of framing statements from personal experience rather than making generalized claims. This approach not only adds authenticity to our message but also helps to avoid potential misrepresentations or inaccuracies that could arise from speaking on behalf of the entire group.
- **Direct Questions to Attorneys:** If you're uncomfortable with a question or don't have the necessary information to answer, it's okay to redirect the question to your legal team. You can say something like, "For specifics on that matter, I would defer to my attorney."
- **Avoid Speculation:** Speculating on details or outcomes of the lawsuit can be detrimental. Stick to facts and information you are certain about. If you're unsure about something, it's perfectly acceptable to say, "I'm not able to comment on that at this time."
  - Speculating about the defense's motives or actions could inadvertently lead to accusations of libel or slander. It's essential to remember that while we may have strong opinions about the defendant's conduct, it's crucial to express these opinions responsibly and within the bounds of factual accuracy.

### Potential Questions for Consideration:

*The below is directly related to any legal questions that may arise. We recommend you consult with your communications teams to tailor these suggested responses to fit your organization's key messages, tone and narrative, or recommend the reporter speak to your attorney regarding these questions.*

- **What are the legal challenges announced in the press release today?**
  - We have filed a fair housing discrimination suit in federal court in Miami. The lawsuit challenges Florida's SB 264, a state law that significantly restricts property ownership for individuals from China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, and Syria.
- **What legal basis is the lawsuit founded upon?**

- The lawsuit asserts that SB 264 violates the federal Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination based on national origin. It argues that the law is rooted in stereotyped and xenophobic generalizations and unfairly targets individuals from specific countries.
- **What is the anticipated outcome of the lawsuit?**
  - We expect the court to find SB 264 in violation of the Fair Housing Act and strike it down. We believe the law is explicitly discriminatory and impedes the pursuit of homeownership for families from the affected countries who aspire to build a life free from discrimination in the United States.
- **Does SB 264 discriminate against individuals based on their immigration status?**
  - SB 264 applies to individuals lawfully present in the United States, including those on various types of visas such as student visas, domestic employment visas, seasonal worker visas, and visas for victims of criminal activity and human trafficking. The law also applies to individuals outside the United States who seek to buy property in Florida, such as international parents buying a home for a child in the United States.
- **What evidence supports the claim that SB 264 is motivated by xenophobia and discrimination?**
  - The lawsuit asserts that SB 264 is based on stereotyped and xenophobic generalizations about individuals from the targeted countries. The sponsors' statements, including references to preventing individuals from "worming" their way into American society, are cited as evidence of discriminatory intent. SB 264 also has a significant disproportionate effect on people of certain ethnicities. People of Chinese, Russian, Iranian, North Korean, Cuban, Venezuelan, and Syrian descent face the restrictions of the law to a much greater degree than people from other countries.

## **PRESS CONFERENCE**

**MONDAY, MAY 6 @ 10 A.M.**

**Historic Lawsuit Addressing Violation of the Federal Fair Housing Act**

- **National Fair Housing Alliance**
- **Asian Real Estate Association of America**
- **Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence, Inc.**
- **Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches**

The four groups will address the filing of a lawsuit to be issued on Monday morning to prevent xenophobia and stereotypes from prohibiting homeownership against members of the Asian American community.

**Who:**

- **Lisa Rice**, President and CEO, National Fair Housing Alliance
- **Jamie Tian**, President, Asian Real Estate Association (AREAA)
- **Zoila Hinson**, Relman and Colfax

**Where:**

Monday, May 6

10 a.m. ET

Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, [400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington DC](#)

Columbia Room C

[Click here for Zoom link](#) Meeting ID: 941 1597 9878; Passcode: 783132