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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **ICP's Fair Housing Case is Affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court**

The Inclusive Communities Project's (ICP) Fair Housing Case is affirmed. U.S. District Judge Sidney Fitzwater's use of disparate impact liability under the Fair Housing Act was affirmed as was the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit's decision affirming the use of disparate impact liability. This case, involving the State of Texas' perpetuation of racial segregation in its Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, will now be sent back to Judge Fitzwater for further proceedings.

Justice Kennedy wrote the opinion for the 5-4 majority. Justice Kennedy emphasized the original goal of the FHA was to eliminate the government and private industry actions that had imposed the residential racial segregation and unequal conditions of the ghetto. The opinion pointed out that, despite progress, those conditions continue to blight our country. Justice Kennedy was clear that in addition to eliminating barriers that kept minorities out of White neighborhoods, local governments must also address the harm of unequal conditions of slum and blight imposed by racial segregation.

Justice Kennedy's opinion is a good statement of what the Fair Housing Act was meant to do and what is still needed to do in our country.

The decision may be read by visiting: [http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/13-1371\\_m64o.pdf/](http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/13-1371_m64o.pdf/).

The Inclusive Communities Project (ICP) is a not-for-profit organization that works for the creation and maintenance of thriving racially and economically inclusive communities, expansion of fair and affordable housing opportunities for low income families, and redress for policies and practices that perpetuate the harmful effects of discrimination and segregation. Its Mobility Assistance Program (MAP) is a housing mobility counseling program serving low income families participating in the Dallas Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Program. MAP works to insure that families are made aware of and have access to high quality rental housing in lower poverty, higher opportunity areas of Dallas, Collin, Denton, Tarrant, Rockwall, Ellis and Kaufman counties. MAP is committed to providing the families with whom they work a wide range of services, including housing search assistance and counseling designed to help them access good schools, safe neighborhoods, employment, and a healthy environment.

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