

TOP TEN RULES FOR WORKING IN FAIR HOUSING

10. **PLAY WELL IN THE FAIR HOUSING SANDBOX.** LISTEN TO EACH OTHER. EXPLAIN YOUR THINKING TO EACH OTHER. BE RESPECTFUL OF EACH OTHER'S ROLES AND KNOWLEDGE. WE ARE NOT ENEMIES. TOGETHER WE ARE POWERFUL AND WE CAN DO POWERFUL THINGS. IF WE LET OTHERS SEPARATE US, WE ARE WEAKENED.
9. **MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND BRING THEM TO THE SANDBOX.** ESTABLISH ALLIANCES WITH FAIR HOUSING FRIENDLY PEOPLE THROUGHOUT YOUR COMMUNITY. YOU CAN GET MORE DONE WITH A QUICK PHONE CALL TO AN ALLY THAN YOU CAN DO WITH THREE PUBLIC HEARINGS AND TWO NASTY LETTERS.
8. **DO YOUR HOMEWORK.** KNOW AND UNDERSTAND BOTH THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT YOU WORK IN. SLEEPING WITH YOUR LAW UNDER YOUR PILLOW IS NOT ENOUGH. READ THE PREAMBLE TO THE FAIR HOUSING ACT AND MARK IT UP, KNOW YOUR LAWS AND REGULATIONS, KNOW YOUR COURT DECISIONS, KEEP FILES OF GREAT CASES, USE THE FAIR HOUSING INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE, LISTSERVES AND ON LINE RESOURCES, INCLUDING HUD'S PRESS RELEASES, TO KEEP CURRENT.
7. **KNOW WHEN TO NOT TO PUSH THE ENVELOPE.** DON'T TRY TO MAKE A TERRIBLE CASE INTO THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SETTLEMENT.
6. **KNOW WHEN TO PUSH THE ENVELOPE.** WHEN YOU HAVE A GOOD, OR GREAT CASE, DEVELOP IT. INVESTIGATE IT WELL, DOCUMENT IT WELL, EXPAND IT TO MORE RESPONDENTS OR MORE VICTIMS WHEN THE FACTS CALL FOR IT. GO FOR REMEDIES FOR EVERYONE INJURED. DON'T KEEP ALL THE RELIEF FOR YOURSELF AND DON'T SELL OUT THE VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION.
5. **IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING, DO IT WELL.** ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU ARE TAKING ON THE WORK TO FIGHT DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION, BRING YOUR BEST GAME AND DEVELOP YOUR BEST CASE. WHEN YOU'RE ARGUING TO EXPAND EXISTING LAW, AND YOU MUST DO THAT, PLAN YOUR STRATEGY AND BRING OTHERS IN TO HELP YOU. PICK YOUR BEST CASE AND BUILD IT UP TO CHANGE OR STRENGTHEN THE LAW.
4. **DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP.** WE HAVE A WEALTH OF SMART PEOPLE AND EXPERIENCED PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP YOU. ASK THEM. AND SHARE YOUR OWN KNOWLEDGE FREELY.
3. **FOLLOW YOUR LEADERS.** EXCEPT WHEN YOU CAN'T. THEN TRY TO CHANGE THEM THROUGH EDUCATION, PERSUASION, AND GOOD FACTS.
2. **BE NICE TO PEOPLE.** TAKE CARE OF GOOD PEOPLE WHEN YOU CAN. ESPECIALLY THE VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION. STAY IN TOUCH WITH THEM, TELL THEM WHAT IS GOING ON, GET THEM A REASONABLE REFERRAL FOR HELP IF THEY NEED IT. AND FOR THE CASES WHERE THERE IS TRUE MERIT, WORK THEM FORWARD TO GOOD SETTLEMENTS AND GREAT ENFORCEMENT. PROMPTLY.
1. **MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.** USE YOUR SKILLS TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES AND PEOPLE'S CHOICES. LOVE YOUR WORK. AND IF YOU DON'T LOVE IT, GO SOMEWHERE ELSE, BUT STILL LOVE FAIR HOUSING.