



GREATER NEW ORLEANS  
**FAIR HOUSING  
ACTION CENTER**

BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

SHAKTI BELWAY  
LAUREN BIERBAUM  
KECIA BRANCH  
CYNTHIA COLLINS  
WONDA CRAWFORD  
RAMONA FERNANDEZ  
NICK MARSHALL  
PAM NATH  
GARY WILLIAMS

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

JAMES PERRY

**NEWS RELEASE**

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS FAIR HOUSING ACTION CENTER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 12, 2011  
[www.gnofairhousing.org](http://www.gnofairhousing.org)

CONTACT: Kate Scott  
kscott@gnofairhousing.org  
(504) 233-3571/(504) 596-2100

**JUDGE GRANTS TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER IN BATON ROUGE  
DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION CASE**

On June 10, 2011, the Honorable Judge James Brady, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Louisiana, issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) enjoining the City of Baton Rouge from enforcing its "two (2) unrelated persons residing in an A-I zone" rule against two Oxford House, Inc. homes. Additionally, until a hearing is held, the City of Baton Rouge is enjoined from enforcing the provisions of its "Special Home" ordinance against these homes, "as it pertains to the granting of reasonable accommodation to only those housing providers for the disabled that are licensed by the Louisiana and provide 24-hour staffing."

The motion for a TRO was filed in conjunction with a federal lawsuit, which alleges that the City of Baton Rouge, through its selective zoning code enforcement and flawed reasonable accommodations procedure, has violated the Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act by engaging in discrimination against people with disabilities. The TRO was necessary because the City of Baton Rouge refused to stay its enforcement in a state court proceeding scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> that endangered the housing of Oxford House residents. Oxford House homes are operated throughout the country for persons with disabilities recovering from alcoholism and substance abuse.

General Counsel for the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC), Morgan Williams, is serving as co-counsel in the case, with Oxford House General Counsel, Steven Polin.

GNOFHAC Executive Director James Perry comments, "We are relieved that Judge Brady issued the TRO, which is critical to ensuring that the fair housing rights of people with disabilities in Baton Rouge were not further violated. We are hopeful that the City of Baton Rouge will swiftly come into compliance with the provisions of the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act."

To read the complaint or order, visit <http://www.gnofairhousing.org>.

###

*The Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) is a private non-profit organization. GNOFHAC is dedicated to eliminating housing discrimination and furthering equal housing opportunities through education, outreach, advocacy, and enforcement of fair housing laws across the metro New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. The activities described in this release were privately funded.*