



**For Immediate Release**

## The Equal Rights Center and Trammell Crow Residential Announce Creation of New Fair Housing Program

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 7, 2008 – In a landmark collaboration, today the Equal Rights Center (ERC), a Washington, D.C.-based civil rights organization, and Trammell Crow Residential Company (TCR), a national developer of multi-family housing, have agreed to form the Equal Rights Center Multifamily Housing Resource Program, dedicated to helping ensure that new apartments and condominiums built across the country are accessible to persons with disabilities.

The new program is part of a global settlement of an accessibility lawsuit filed by the ERC in July 2007. The settlement was filed today with the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. The Program will promote compliance with the accessibility requirements of federal, state and local laws, through training and education, best practices reviews, and compliance monitoring. The ERC was represented by the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs, and the Washington law firm of Crowell & Moring.

“With more than 55 million people in America having disabilities, and that number growing each day as our population ages, the need for accessible housing cannot be over-estimated,” said Donald L. Kahl, Executive Director of the ERC. “By working with the ERC, Trammell Crow Residential and its Chairman, Ron Terwilliger have shown themselves to be industry leaders. We hope that other developers will follow TCR’s example, choosing pro-active steps to address accessibility laws, rather than waiting for compliance to be forced upon them.”

“This settlement shows that the building industry can meet the requirements of the Fair Housing Act and make housing available to people with disabilities when, as TCR has done, it makes accessibility a priority,” said Mary Hahn, Fair Housing Project Director for the Washington Lawyers’ Committee.

Under the parties’ collaboration, TCR has committed \$1.5 million over 10 years to fund the Program, with TCR Chairman Ron Terwilliger leading efforts to expand the Program to include industry organizations and other multifamily housing developers as members. TCR will also retro-fit up to 4,500 housing units to make them more accessible to persons with disabilities.

“Trammell Crow Residential is committed to access for people with disabilities,” Ron Terwilliger, Chairman of TCR said. “While TCR has implemented programs to see that its developments meet federal, state and local accessibility standards, we appreciate that the rules can be a challenge to the housing industry. We are looking forward to the Multifamily Housing Resource Program assisting the industry in better compliance with these complicated and exacting rules.”

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This year the ERC is celebrating 25 years of protecting civil rights. Originally established in 1983 as the Fair Housing Council of Greater Washington, following subsequent mergers with the Fair Employment Council of Greater Washington and the Disability Rights Council, the ERC is today a comprehensive civil rights organization dedicated to identifying, challenging, and eliminating discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, and government services through education, research, testing, counseling, enforcement and advocacy.

TCR is one of America's premier multi-family housing developers. TCR and affiliated entities develop, construct and acquire multi-family rental and condominium communities of the highest standards. TCR is widely regarded as the industry leader in the development and construction of high-quality apartment assets.

For more information contact:

Natalie Laber,  
Communications and Outreach Manager  
Equal Rights Center  
202-234-3062  
[nlaber@equalrightscenter.org](mailto:nlaber@equalrightscenter.org)

Thomas J. Patterson  
Trammell Crow Residential  
214-922-8422  
[tpatterson@tcredidential.com](mailto:tpatterson@tcredidential.com)