



**For Immediate Release**

Ashley White, Equal Rights Center, 202.370.3204

[awhite@equalrightscenter.org](mailto:awhite@equalrightscenter.org)

## National Apartment Development Leaders Convene to Discuss Promoting Accessible Housing

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 14, 2010—National apartment development leaders, representing more than 400,000 units nationwide met in the nation's capitol to discuss promoting accessible housing and reaffirm their commitment to the [Equal Rights Center's Multifamily Housing Resource Program](#) (MHRP).

“When we created the Multifamily Housing Resource Program, the Equal Rights Center (ERC) envisioned a collaborative group of industry leaders uniting to promote fair housing and accessibility,” said ERC Executive Director, Don Kahl. “Now, less than two years after its creation, it is encouraging to have such prestigious companies committed to supporting and promoting accessible housing for people with disabilities. As industry leaders, their progressive attitudes will serve as a model for other development companies, and give thousands more families across the nation the opportunity to live in more accessible housing.”

The MHRP is a proactive collaboration between the ERC and housing developers to increase the number of residential housing units in the United States that are accessible to persons with disabilities, and to enhance housing industry compliance with federal state and local accessibility laws through the use of best practices, employee training, and collaboration with disability advocates.

“Camden Property Trust is proud to demonstrate our commitment to accessible housing and join other industry leaders at the forefront of promoting fair housing,” said Steve Hefner, Senior Vice President at Camden. “This collaboration with the ERC and other developers will not only improve our business model, but also improve the lives of thousands through more accessible living options.”

Industry leaders and MHRP members, the Bozzuto Group, Camden Property Trust, Paradigm Development Company, and Trammell Crow Residential were joined by staff from the Equal Rights Center and the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs. The group discussed how to further expand their unique and proactive collaboration to encourage fair housing. Initiatives include a web based e-learning facility to train employees on housing issues, an accessibility information clearinghouse for member's use, and direct collaborations among members on common industry issues.

Today, the MHRP members own or manage more than 400,000 units across the nation; these members include [AvalonBay Communities](#), [the Bozzuto Group](#), [Camden Property Trust](#), [Donatelli Development](#), [KETTLER](#), [Paradigm Development Company](#), and [Trammell Crow Residential](#). All members have made multi-year commitments to proactively work with the ERC to improve and ensure accessibility in housing through MHRP membership.

###

---

**About the Equal Rights Center ([www.equalrightscenter.org](http://www.equalrightscenter.org))**

Originally formed in 1983, the Equal Rights Center (ERC) is a national non-profit civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C. With members located in 33 states and the District of Columbia, the ERC works nationally to promote equal opportunity in housing, employment, disability rights, immigrant rights, and access to public accommodations and government services for all protected classes under federal, state, and local laws.

**About the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs (<http://www.washlaw.org/>)**

The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs was established in 1968 to provide pro bono legal services to address issues of discrimination and entrenched poverty. Since its founding, the Committee has handled more than 5,000 cases on behalf of individuals and advocacy organizations in the areas of equal employment, fair housing, public accommodations, public education, asylum and refugee rights, and disability rights. For more information about the Committee, see [www.washlaw.org](http://www.washlaw.org). The Committee can be reached at 202.319.1000