



For Immediate Release

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Equal Rights Center Receives Generous Support from Cafritz Foundation

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 31, 2011—The [Equal Rights Center](#) (ERC)—a national non-profit civil rights organization headquartered in the District—announced today it has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from [The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation](#) to support the civil rights counseling, investigation, and education and outreach activities of the ERC.

“The Equal Rights Center is incredibly grateful and honored that The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation has recognized the ERC’s civil rights work and our important role in working to end discrimination, particularly for residents in the Washington, D.C. area,” said Don Kahl, Executive Director of the ERC. “This new partnership with one of the District’s most respected charitable foundations will have a direct impact in improving the lives of those who live, work, and visit our nation’s capital.”

Initially founded nearly 30 years ago as the Fair Housing Council of Greater Washington, today the ERC, with more than 2,000 members in 44 states, the District and Puerto Rico, engages in a multifaceted approach to promote equal opportunity in housing, employment, disability rights, immigrant rights and access to public accommodations and government services for all residents of the nation’s capital. With a commitment to making a lasting and national impact, the ERC employs both time-proven and innovative approaches to advancing civil rights. To end discrimination, the ERC conducts counseling and advocacy, education and outreach, testing and research, and, when necessary, enforcement activity.

“The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation is pleased to have the Equal Rights Center as a new grantee,” said Rose Ann Cleveland, Executive Director of the Foundation. “As an organization at the helm of protecting the civil rights of some of the most vulnerable populations in the DC area, the ERC plays an important role in strengthening local communities.”

Founded in 1948, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation is the largest private, independent, local foundation focused exclusively on the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The Foundation is the legacy of Morris Cafritz, one of Washington’s leading commercial and residential builders from the early 1920’s to the mid-60’s. Since 1970, when electronic record keeping was initiated, awards totaling more than \$338 million have been granted. In the last 10 years, \$177 million has been awarded to more than 920

organizations in the areas of Community Services, Arts and Humanities, Education, Health and the Environment. The Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for residents of the Washington, DC area.

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About the Equal Rights Center (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.