Housing and the Law: Lesson 5: Key Terms

Key Terms

- **restrictive covenant**: agreements written into property deeds that restricted what a homeowner could do with their property via contract law
- **racial covenant**: agreements written into property deeds that excluded people
- **enforce**: to make something (such as a law or rule) happen
- **unconstitutional**: when government action goes against or violates the rights granted by the U.S. Constitution
- **state action doctrine**: a principle that the Constitution and its protection of rights applies only to the government’s actions. Private action does not have to obey.
- **trial court**: the court where cases first begin. Both sides can present their evidence before a jury.
- **affirm**: when a higher court agrees with the lower court’s decision, allowing the decision to stand
- **foureteenth amendment**: an 1868 amendment to the Constitution that granted citizenship and equal civil and legal rights to African Americans and the formerly enslaved who had been emancipated after the Civil War.
- **equal protection clause**: part of the fourteenth amendment that grants everyone equal protection under the laws
- **unanimous**: the agreement of everyone involved in a decision-making process
- **judicial enforcement**: an action brought before a state or federal court
- **respondents**: defendants in a lawsuit; those who have an action brought against them
- **petitioners**: plaintiffs in a lawsuit; those that bring forth an action
- **landmark decision**: establish a new legal principle that changes how laws have been examined and interpreted previously
- **precedent**: the basis or principle for future court case decisions
- **negligence**: failure to take care of something
- **integration**: bringing groups of people together who were previously segregated or separated by race
- **coalition**: a group of people or organizations working toward an action
- **advocate**: someone who publicly supports and speaks on behalf of something or someone