Housing and the Law: Lesson 4: 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 of certain races from owning or living on/in a property via contract law
- **zoning ordinance**: rules adopted and enforced by local governments that decide how specific sections of land can be used
- **unconstitutional**: when government action goes against or violates the rights granted by the U.S. Constitution
- **petitioners**: plaintiffs in a lawsuit; those that bring forth an action
- **respondents**: defendants in a lawsuit; those who have an action brought against them
- **due process**: a person must receive fair treatment and have their rights respected in the judicial system
- **Fourteenth 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
- **Thirteenth Amendment**: the 1865 amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime
- **Fifth Amendment**: mandates due process of the law
- **private sale**: transaction between a buyer and seller that is not open to the general public
- **public interest**: refers to the welfare of the general public
- **impair**: to weaken or damage something
- **grievance**: a formal complaint about a real or imagined wrong
- **municipality**: a basic unit of local government designated as a town or city
- **curtail**: to cut short, reduce, or diminish
- **annulled**: declared invalid
- **depreciate**: reduce in value
- **indenture**: legal contract or document
- **inter alia**: among other things
- **statutory**: required or permitted by statute (a written law)
- **void**: not valid or legally binding
- **jurisdiction**: the power to make legal decisions; the area over which legal authority extends