



Milwaukee Race Discrimination Complaint Settles for \$6000

Maryam Bradford, an African American woman, has settled a fair housing complaint against Rong Di Chen, the owner of an apartment building at 1645 West Bolivar Avenue in Milwaukee. Di Chen will pay Bradford \$6000.

In June 2011, Bradford called about a one-bedroom apartment she'd seen advertised on Craigslist. The person who answered the phone asked Bradford what color she was. Bradford replied that she was black, and was told that they'd have to call her back. She never received a call.

Bradford contacted MMFHC and filed a housing discrimination complaint. MMFHC counseled her on her legal rights and conducted an investigation into her allegation. MMFHC used testing as an investigative methodology. In MMFHC's tests, testers called the phone number listed in Di Chen's ad, and were asked about their race, color and/or nationality. Testers were then told that they'd be called back. African American testers did not receive return calls.

MMFHC assisted Bradford in filing complaints with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division (ERD) in December 2011. In March 2012, the ERD issued a charge and initial determination in favor of Bradford. Di Chen and Bradford reached a settlement agreement in October 2012 through the HUD administrative process.

Di Chen complied with the financial terms of the settlement in December 2012; the settlement agreement also included monitoring by HUD for one year.