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**FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL OF GREATER SAN ANTONIO
FILES FEDERAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT
AGAINST LOCAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANIES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2018, San Antonio, Texas—Today, the Fair Housing Council of Greater San Antonio (“FHCOGSA”) filed a federal lawsuit against apartment management companies Texas Regional Asset Management, L.L.C.; Vesta Corporation; El Patrimonio Apartments, L.P.; and Gates of Capernum Apartments, L.P. (“Defendants”) for discriminating against families with children in violation of the federal Fair Housing Act. The lawsuit alleges that Defendants enforce unreasonable and discriminatory rules against families with children at the apartment complexes that they manage throughout South Texas. Defendants, for example, enforce strict curfews after which parents and their children cannot be anywhere outside of their immediate apartment units (including their own patios), which precludes tenants with children from accessing amenities and common areas that tenants without children can access without restriction. Defendants also prohibit children from being supervised on Defendants’ properties by any adult other than a parent. Tenants who violate Defendants’ rules for families with children are faced with hundreds of dollars in fines or eviction.

FHCOGSA is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to promoting fair housing and eliminating discriminatory housing practices across the South Texas area. Beginning in early 2015, FHCOGSA received complaints that Defendants had threatened tenants with eviction because their children tried to use property amenities without parental supervision, had been supervised by adults who were not blood relatives, or were merely playing outside of their apartment units. In response to these complaints, FHCOGSA conducted an extensive investigation that confirmed that Defendants enforced restrictive rules against families with children and posted anti-children signs at a number of their properties. As part of its investigation, FHCOGSA also collected information from tenants with children about their experiences at Defendants’ properties that documented the manner in which Defendants subjected families with children to more restrictive rules, and less favorable treatment, than tenants who did not have children. Joining FHCOGSA in bringing this lawsuit are two former tenants who were subjected to Defendants’ discriminatory practices and prevented from accessing, using, and enjoying their rental properties because they had children.

Regarding the lawsuit, Sandra Tamez, the executive director of the FHCOGSA, stated that “we have filed this lawsuit to ensure that families with children have an equal right and opportunity to use and enjoy housing in South Texas. Housing discrimination against families with children has been unlawful for almost 30 years and yet we continue to see many housing providers in South Texas who implement and enforce discriminatory rules against families with children that negatively impact their use and enjoyment of their rental unit and the properties’ amenities.”

The lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court of the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division. The FHCOGSA is represented by Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC, a civil rights firm based in Washington, D.C.

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The Fair Housing Council of Greater San Antonio (FHCOGSA) is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 1996 to promote fair housing and eliminate discriminatory housing practices in the areas of rental housing, real estates, mortgage lending, and homeowners’ insurance. Originally established to serve the residents of San Antonio and Bexar County, FHCOGSA has expanded its service area to include 36 other counties in South Texas.

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