PRESS RELEASE
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CITIZEN ADVOCACY CENTER
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CITIZEN ADVOCACY CENTER TO HOST SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES:
INTERSECTION OF HISTORY, LAW, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

ELMHURST – The Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC) is sponsoring a series of public
brownbag lunch programs to provide opportunities for thoughtful analysis,
interpretation and exchange of ideas related to history, law, and social justice. All
programs are from Noon – 1:00 pm in the large meeting room at the Elmhurst Public
Library.

Consumer Advocacy: Do Corporations Own US or Do We Have a Dog in the Fight?
Presented by Theresa Amato on Wednesday, June 3, 2014

Theresa Amato, public advocate and founder of the Citizen Advocacy Center, serves
as executive director of Citizen Works (citizenworks.org), an organization devoted to
advancing justice by strengthening citizen participation in power. Amato is the director of
Citizen Works' newest initiative, the Fair Contracts Project (faircontracts.org), to educate
about the harmful provisions to consumers in the fine print. Fair Contracts looks at the
imbalance in power between corporations and citizens in boilerplate contracts across multiple
fields, such as student loans, mortgages, credit cards, cell phones, and all the areas where
consumers sign away rights on the dotted line or when we click "I agree" without knowing
the terms in the fine print.

The presentation will address corporate power and consumer advocacy, in particular
recent Supreme Court cases concerning the rights consumers lose in the fine print. Amato
will also touch on the growing role of corporations in our elections and current reform efforts
Corporations and Restoring Democracy (By Lee Drutman and Charlie Cray, Foreword by
Ralph Nader, Berrett-Koehler, Hardcover, 2004) will be available.

During the War on Terror, What does History Tell us About Free Speech?
Presented by Professor Steven Heyman on Thursday, June 19, 2014

Law professor Steven J. Heyman will review the treatment of the First Amendment
during times of war. He will lead a discussion that focuses on the implications of a 2010
Supreme Court decision Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project, a 5-4 decision in which the
majority held that humanitarian groups would be guilty of providing material aid to terrorism
if they trained terrorist groups in nonviolent methods of dispute resolution (on the ground that
Congress had determined that any assistance to these groups would advance their terrorist
aims).

The presentation will spark a debate about current government programs that
purportedly prevent terror attacks, including recent revelations that the U.S. government is
monitoring Americans at an unprecedented level in this age of technology that allows for
ease of data collection.
The History and Current Context of Fair and Affordable Housing in DuPage County
Presented by: Terence (Terry) Leen, Anne V. Houghtaling, Andrea Juracek, and Susannah Levine on Tuesday, July 15, 2014

In 1967, 1968, and 1969, more than 30 towns and cities in the Western Suburbs passed Fair Housing Ordinances. Meanwhile, on April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, following that of 1964, to expand previous acts and prohibit discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, and (as amended) handicap and family status. Title VIII of the Act is also known as the Fair Housing Act.

Mr. Terry Leen, a former City of Elmhurst Alderman in 1965, the chairman of Elmhurst for Freedom of Residency Today (EFFORT) from 1968-1970 and a current CAC volunteer, first got involved in politics in 1965 when he and others in the community came together to oppose provisions in real estate contracts that forbade sale to people of color. He will share his first-hand accounts of fair housing struggles in Elmhurst, Illinois.

Mr. Leen will be joined by HOPE Fair Housing Center Executive Director Anne V. Houghtaling and Deputy Director Andrea Juracek who will speak about current local fair housing issues. HOPE Fair Housing (hopefair.org) works to ensure everyone has the chance to live in the community/home/apartment of their choice free from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, or any other characteristics protected under state or local laws. They accomplish this through education, outreach, enforcement, training, and advocacy. Susannah Levine, Senior Policy Analyst at BPI Chicago will address affordable housing issues.

This series is made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, which is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly. The Illinois Humanities Council is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization dedicated to fostering a culture in which the humanities are a vital part of the lives of individuals and communities; the IHC enriches lives and strengthens communities in Illinois through lifelong learning.

The above are not programs of the Elmhurst Public Library.

Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC) is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, non-partisan, community based legal organization dedicated to building democracy for the 21st century by strengthening the citizenry’s capacities, resources, and institutions for self-governance. CAC is committed to educating the public about how to be active, informed, and effective community participants, as well as to working with members of the public, the media, and public officials to create policies that encourage public participation in the democratic process.

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