

# BIOGRAPHY OF LISA L. WALKER – Your Fair Housing Trainer

Housing and Development Institute, 630 Eye St., NW, Washington, DC 20001; [lwalker@hdli.org](mailto:lwalker@hdli.org); (202) 289-3400 office



Since July 2002 Lisa Walker has been the Executive Director and General Counsel of the Housing and Development Law Institute (“HDLI”), a legal think tank in the public and affordable housing industry. Ms. Walker is responsible for writing HDLI’s legal publications, model policies, *amicus briefs* and other legal submissions, providing personalized legal consultation to HDLI members, and planning and overseeing HDLI’s legal conferences, trainings, and other educational endeavors. As HDLI’s Executive Director, Ms. Walker is responsible for managing all programmatic, financial, marketing, and other business affairs of HDLI.

Ms. Walker designed and implements HDLI’s successful interactive fair housing training program, directed toward the unique job responsibilities and challenges of public housing and redevelopment agencies. She has trained more than 3,500 front-line, maintenance, managerial, executive, and legal staff of housing agencies of all sizes, including the Seattle Housing Authority (WA), Dallas Housing Authority (TX), Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (CA), Los Angeles County Community Development Commission (CA), Housing Authority of the County of Ventura (CA), Housing Authority of the City of Ventura (CA), and Housing Authority of the City of Oxnard (CA), Orlando Housing Authority (FL), Tampa Housing Authority (FL), Sanford Housing Authority (FL), Pinellas Housing Authority (FL), Owensboro Housing Authority (KY), Bowling Green Housing Authority (KY), Beaver Dam Housing Authority (KY), Housing Authority of Henderson (KY), Housing Authority of Madisonville (KY), Charleston Housing Authority (SC), Newark Housing Authority (NJ), NorthBend/Coos/Curry Counties Housing Authority (OR), Public Housing Association Directors Association (PHADA-nationwide), Pacific Northwest Regional Council, and states of Michigan (MI), Indiana (IN), and Nebraska (NE) affiliates of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), and St. Mary’s County Housing Authority (MD). Ms. Walker also has a broad knowledge of federally-assisted public and affordable housing programs, applicable federal regulations (such as those implemented by HUD and the Justice Department), and the fair housing obligations implicit therein. HDLI is certified as a fair housing trainer by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA).

Prior to joining HDLI, Ms. Walker was a partner at Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, L.L.P, a large regional law firm servicing the Washington, D.C.-Maryland-Virginia corridor. As a commercial litigator, Ms. Walker handled the business disputes of corporations, partnerships, organizations, and individuals in the areas of contracts, employment, torts, intellectual property, and product liability, among other areas. Developing a particular interest in and knowledge of fair housing issues, Ms. Walker actively represented the Housing Authority of Baltimore City and City of Baltimore in *Thompson v. HUD*, major federal public housing reform litigation, and with respect to a wide variety of fair housing issues.

Ms. Walker is licensed to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, the Fourth and Fifth Circuit Courts of Appeals, and the state and federal courts of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Ms. Walker holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she received a four-year academic scholarship from the university. She holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law, where she received a three-year academic fellowship and was a member of the competitive Moot Court Board. She has been active in local and national bar associations, on nonprofit boards of directors, as well as a number of other service and civic organizations, and is a frequent speaker, trainer, and presenter at industry meetings across the country.