

The Color of Law ft. Richard Rothstein and Lila Corwin Berman

*Presented by the National Museum of American Jewish History on 4/21/21
In partnership with Feinstein Center for American Jewish History at Temple
U, Jewish Museum Milwaukee and Temple BZBI*

Watch the program anytime in its entirety here -
<https://vimeo.com/540241675>

Thank you for joining us on April 21 and for your thoughtful questions. Richard Rothstein and Lila Corwin Berman indicated that they would be providing additional information to attendees after the program. Please find said material below.

- If you would like to receive information on the **New Movement to Redress Racial Segregation** [please fill out the google form here](#). The movement's leaders currently expect to launch within the next few months, at which time the process of connecting people who have signed up from the same community, as the initial core of a local committee, will begin.
- Here is the [recently published NYT article](#) Richard mentioned containing material from his ongoing work on what can be doing to redress racial segregation.

After our program on April 21 Rothstein said the following about this article:

- *“It used as an example the Hillsdale neighborhood of San Mateo, CA, created for whites only in the 1940s at a time when homes there were easily affordable to African Americans who were explicitly excluded. The developer, realtor, and bank that participated in this segregation are identifiable and they, or their successors, still operate in that community today. The article suggested that a civil rights group in that community might conduct a campaign to persuade that developer, real estate agency, and bank to establish a private ‘reparations’ fund to subsidize African Americans to find housing in that community, where the once-affordable homes are now unaffordable to working and middle class African Americans: Although the article focused on a California community, you could do a similar analysis for Philadelphia suburban communities or for communities anywhere in this nation.”*

- In our April 21 program, Rothstein also discussed policies he described as superficially race neutral and how they reinforce segregation. He wrote more of those in another [NYT article that you can read here](#).

After our program on April 21 Rothstein said the following on this article:

- *“The article is a bit dated in that it comments on the Trump administration’s repeal of the disparate impact rule, but the examples it gives of ‘race neutral’ policies that today continue to reinforce segregation remain relevant. In particular, it discusses how property assessment systems are frequently discriminatory in effect, and should be addressed. Recent reports have calculated the extent of this discrimination nationwide and for individual counties and cities.”*
- He continued by adding two recent studies that have recently caught public attention:
 - Berry, Christopher. 2021. “Reassessing the Property Tax.” The University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy, March 1. <https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/voices.uchicago.edu/dist/6/2330/files/2019/04/Berry-Reassessing-the-Property-Tax-3121.pdf> See also his interactive reports, here: Center for Municipal Finance, Property Tax Fairness, Interactive Reports, on-line. <https://propertytaxproject.uchicago.edu/>
 - Avenancio-León, Carlos and Troup Howard. 2020. “The Assessment Gap: Racial Inequalities in Property Taxation.” June. Washington Center for Equitable Growth. <https://equitablegrowth.org/working-papers/the-assessment-gap-racial-inequalities-in-property-taxation/>
- Lila Corwin Berman also offered
 - *If you’d like to read more about American Jews and US housing Policy, I encourage you to check out the book I wrote on the subject entitled [Metropolitan Jews: Politics, Race and Religion in Postwar Detroit](#)*
- Lastly, Rothstein asked that we share this last message with those who attended the April 21st program:
 - *Finally, let me add this, something I discussed in *The Color of Law*: if the next generation doesn’t learn this history any better than present generations have done, it will be in as poor a position to remedy it as we have been. You may find*

this material useful that The New Movement to Redress Racial Segregation is distributing for high school teachers, because all of your NMAJH members and friends live in school districts that can be pressed to teach the history of racial injustice more accurately; other racial justice groups have such material as well:

- * [Click here for a brief 8 minute summary](#) of talks about how segregation happened, see this
 - * [See the free to watch](#), 17-minute animated film, “Segregated by Design”
 - * For a [high school curriculum unit to teach this history](#), see (free with registration to receive all materials)
- *Thank you again. I hope that you and your museum members, friends and colleague find this information useful. We expect the NMRRS launch to take place within the next few months. Let me know if there is anything else you would like for follow-up.*
- Best wishes,
Richard”*