Opening Luncheon and CARH’s Washington Headline News

Sunday, June 8, 2014
12:00-1:30 p.m.

Salon III

Speaker Bios

Lowell Ray Barron II
President
The Vantage Group, LLC
Fyffe, AL

As President of Vantage Development, Vantage Management, Vantage Partners, Vantage Construction, All Temp Windows, and The Vantage Group, LLC, Lowell Barron, II is a developer, general contractor and multi-site business manager. Mr. Barron has extensive knowledge in the LIHTC Program, HOME Program, and Rural Development’s housing programs, as well as regulation, reporting and compliance of other federal and state housing programs.

Mr. Barron is a former President of ALCARH, founding member and current President of their Political Action Committee. As president, he oversaw the creation of the ALCARH scholarship program that targets students who live in affordable housing in the state of Alabama. Mr. Barron serves as Treasurer of the National CARH Scholarship Foundation. He was appointed to the National CARH Board of Directors in 2007 and currently serves on the CARH Executive Board as Vice President. He is a member of the Alabama Housing Coalition, Alabama Home Builders Association and Fannie Mae South East Advisory Council (2000-2002). He is a frequent presenter and moderator at housing-related conferences.

Mr. Barron is a graduate of Auburn University, and a licensed General Contractor in the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.
Thomas M. Reynolds is a Senior Strategic Policy Advisor in Nixon Peabody's Government Relations & Public Policy Practice. He works with attorneys advising clients on legislative and regulatory policies regarding tax, international trade, healthcare, financial services regulation and energy law. He served five terms in the U. S. Congress, representing the 26th District in Upstate New York. He was involved in drafting a number of tax and trade bills, and legislation affecting affordable housing tax credits.

Before Congress, Mr. Reynolds served five terms in the New York State Assembly where he was Chairman of the Assembly Minority Affordable Housing Task Force. He was named Legislator of the Year by the American Legislative Exchange Council for his work championing affordable home ownership initiatives in New York State.

Mr. Reynolds is a former director of the Better Business Bureau, Cooperative Extension, and Central Referral Services. He served in the New York Air National Guard from 1970 - 1976, where he rose to the rank of sergeant. He is a licensed real estate and insurance broker, and was educated at Springville-Griffith Institute and Kent State University.

Richard Michael Price focuses his law practice on commercial real estate and real estate finance; real estate, housing and community development regulation; and government contracts and administrative law. Richard represents clients in transactions, administrative proceedings and civil litigation. Richard closes transactions financed with HUD-insured multifamily mortgage loans, Section 236 decouplings, tax credit equity syndications, tax-exempt bonds proceeds, and Rural Housing Service prepayments.

Richard has defended parties before HUD, USDA and federal courts in suspensions, civil money penalties, debarments and other matters representing a wide variety of housing and real estate finance issues. He also litigates issues concerning non-procurement and procurement contracts.
with federal agencies, and has represented parties in regulatory matters such as lead-based paint enforcement.

As a regulatory attorney, Richard assists clients in transfer approvals and in completing special projects. Richard is often involved with the drafting of legislation and has advised parties about affordable housing issues internationally.

Before joining Nixon Peabody LLP, Richard worked as a trial attorney in the Office of General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He served as coordinator of the Housing and Urban Policy Working Group for the Clinton/Gore ’92 Committee. Richard also co-chaired the American Bar Association’s Eighth Annual Conference on Affordable Housing and Community Development Law (June 1999). He is listed in Who’s Who in American Law.

Richard earned his B.A. from George Washington University in 1985, and his J.D. from George Washington University in 1988. He is admitted to practice in Maryland, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and before the Fourth, Tenth and Federal U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals, the U.S. District Courts for Maryland, the District of Columbia and Colorado, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Monica Hilton Sussman is a former HUD executive with 20 years experience in real estate and housing law. She focuses her practice in all types of real estate transactions and housing and community development law. Prior to joining Nixon Peabody, Monica held the position of Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where she oversaw the Office of Insured Housing, the Office of Legislation and Regulations and the Office of Finance and Regulatory Programs.

Monica began her career at the New York Office of Federal Affairs, as a legislative counsel with the governor’s Washington office, where she concentrated on housing issues. She then joined the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where she held several increasingly responsible positions. She was in private law practice for a decade before returning to HUD as deputy general counsel. She served as president of the National Housing Conference from 1997 to 2000, and has been actively involved in the National Leased Housing Association and the Mortgage Bankers Association. Monica is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia and Virginia. She received her B.A. cum laude from Syracuse University and her J.D. from Hofstra University.
Colleen M. Fisher has served as the Executive Director of The Council for Affordable and Rural Housing (CARH) since 1996. CARH represents the interests of over 300 companies that are involved in the building, development, financing, management and ownership of housing in rural areas across the country.

Prior to joining CARH, Ms. Fisher served for four years as Industry Relations Manager in the Resolution Trust Corporation’s (RTC) National Marketing Department in Washington, DC. As the RTC’s Industry Relations Manager, Ms. Fisher was the principal liaison between the RTC and the various national real estate and financial services trade association groups and their members. She played a major role in the development of complex marketing campaigns which resulted in the sale of over $395 billion in real estate and loans throughout the country.

Ms. Fisher was Vice President for Government Relations for the National Apartment Association (NAA) from 1983-1991. She worked on major legislation that impacted the multi-housing industry in the tax, environmental and financial arenas.

Ms. Fisher began her career in Washington, D.C. as a Legislative Assistant for former Senator Richard S. Schweiker (R-PA). She was a Majority Professional Staff member on the United States Senate Appropriations Committee, where she worked for former Senator Jake Garn (R-UT) on the HUD-VA and Independent Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. Fisher serves on the board of directors for the National Affordable Housing Preservation Associates, Inc. (NAHPA), a national non-profit dedicated to promoting the long-term preservation of rural housing properties throughout the United States. She was also a member of the Advisory Board for the Housing and Development Reporter (HDR), and served two years on Fannie Mae’s National Housing Advisory Council. She is a member of the Board of the Fredericksburg Festival of the Arts Council in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Ms. Fisher received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown University and her Master’s degree from George Washington University.