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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Fair Housing Center to honor author Lisa Belkin with 2016 Civil Rights Award

Author of Show Me a Hero to accept award and participate in discussion panel at April events

(Hartford, CT) - Lisa Belkin, Senior National Correspondent for Yahoo News, former *New York Times* reporter, and author, has been selected by the Connecticut Fair Housing Center as the recipient of the organization's 2016 Mildred and Richard Loving Civil Rights Award.

Named for the couple that fought the ultimate form of housing discrimination when they were barred from living in Virginia because of their interracial marriage, the annual Loving Civil Rights Award honors figures who have contributed to the national dialogue on housing, racial disparity, and civil rights. Ms. Belkin is the eighth recipient of the Loving Civil Rights Award. Past honorees have included New Haven Mayor Toni Harp, writer and activist Susie Ruth Powell, and activist and documentarian Bernard Kleina, among others.

The Center chose to recognize Ms. Belkin with the 2016 Loving Civil Rights Award for the role of her writing in raising awareness of the many social issues of our day, especially the issue of housing segregation, at a time when America continues to grapple with race and class divisions. Ms. Belkin spent six years researching and writing her book, *Show Me a Hero*, which detailed a landmark housing desegregation case in Yonkers, NY; in 2015, she served as a consultant on the book's critically acclaimed, award-winning HBO miniseries adaptation. During her 30 years at the *New York Times*, she was once described as "the social conscience of our times." A graduate of Princeton University, she has returned there as a visiting professor, teaching narrative non-fiction as an instrument of social change.

"I am truly honored to be among those who have received this award," said Ms. Belkin. "I am proud to be considered an ally by an organization like the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, which is on the ground making a difference in people's lives every day. That the award is named after the Lovings, who are a constant reminder of a far too recent past that we must always remember as we keep working to do better, makes this all the more profound," she added.

The Mildred and Richard Loving Civil Rights Award will be presented to Ms. Belkin at an **award dinner and fundraiser** to benefit the Connecticut Fair Housing Center's work on **April 21, 2016, at 5:30pm** at The Bond Ballroom in Hartford.

Preceding the award dinner, the Connecticut Fair Housing Center will host a **free, public Community Conversation** from **3:30-5:00pm**, entitled "Housing Integration in the Years Since Yonkers," held on the first floor of the Hilton Homewood Suites Hotel in Hartford (downstairs from the Bond Ballroom). The conversation will include a panel discussion with **Ms. Belkin, Trinity College Professor Jack Dougherty, and Hartford City Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermudez. Jelani Cobb, professor and Director of the Africana Studies Institute at UConn, and a writer for *The New Yorker*, will moderate the conversation, which will include time for audience participation and Q&A.**

The 2016 Loving Award events are sponsored by McCarter & English, University of Connecticut School of Law, Bracewell, and Day Pitney. For more details on this year's events, please visit ctfairhousing.org/lovingaward.

The Connecticut Fair Housing Center is a statewide nonprofit civil rights organization dedicated to ensuring that all people have equal access to housing opportunities in Connecticut. For more about our work, please visit www.ctfairhousing.org.

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