



Who Files the Most Federal Housing Discrimination Lawsuits

Original analysis of 8,884 records from the Federal Judicial Center, FY2016–FY2025 (federal fiscal years, Oct–Sep).
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The United African-Asian Abilities Club was the first-listed plaintiff in 804 of the 4,592 housing discrimination cases commenced in U.S. district courts from FY2021 to FY2025 (17.5%), more than any other plaintiff and 6.2× as many as the United States. All of its cases were filed in the Central and Southern Districts of California. Together with other first-plaintiff names that appear on 10 or more cases in a single district, repeat filers account for 32.7% of the national total.

18%

Share of FY2021–FY2025 cases with one first plaintiff

804

Cases with the Club as first plaintiff

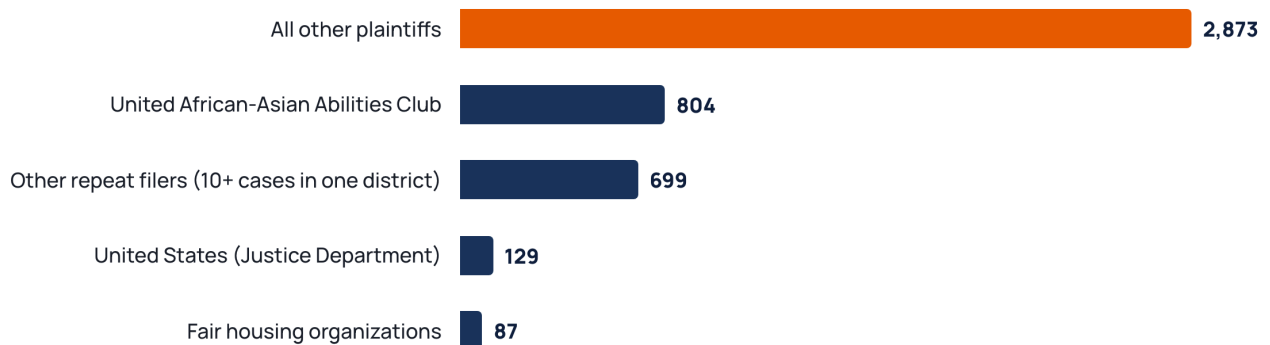
33%

Share from repeat filers (10+ in one district)



Federal housing and accommodations cases by first plaintiff, FY2021–FY2025

Cases



Source: Settlement Insight analysis of data from the Federal Judicial Center
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How concentrated federal housing discrimination cases are

- 1. One plaintiff, about one in six cases.** The United African-Asian Abilities Club was first plaintiff in 804 of 4,592 federal housing and accommodations cases from FY2021 to FY2025 (17.5%). The next most frequent name, an individual, appears on 244.

2. **Concentrated in Southern California.** All 804 of the Club's cases were filed in two districts: 627 in the Central District of California and 177 in the Southern District. There it accounts for 77.8% of all such cases.
3. **Repeat filers: a third of the total.** Names that appear on 10 or more cases in one district, including the Club, account for 1,503 cases (32.7%). The Justice Department brought 129 and fair housing organizations 87.
4. **One name leads in South Florida.** In the Southern District of Florida, the second-busiest district with 583 cases, a single individual plaintiff accounts for 41.9% of filings. We do not name individuals.
5. **The FY2025 rise came from elsewhere.** Cases rose 22.3% to 1,126 in FY2025, while the Club's filings fell from 189 to 174. Without the Club, the increase was 30.1%.

How we measured

Data come from the Federal Judicial Center's Integrated Database (IDB) of civil cases, which compiles case records reported by the U.S. district courts to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. We used the release imported into our database on 2026-10-10, which covers cases filed through 2026-06-30. Fiscal year 2026 is incomplete and is not used.

We selected all records with nature of suit code 443 ("Housing/Accommodations", the civil rights code for actions under the Fair Housing Act) and a filing date from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2025, and assigned each to a federal fiscal year (October to September). Each record is one case commenced, as in the judiciary's own tables: original filings, removals, transfers and reopened cases. We removed 3 duplicate records in FY2021–FY2025 that carried the same district, docket number and filing date.

For FY2021–FY2025 we grouped the first-listed plaintiff. Spelling variants of the United African-Asian Abilities Club were combined. Cases with the United States as plaintiff form their own group: every first-plaintiff name beginning with "United States", "The United States" or "USA", including the truncated forms of "United States of America" in the FJC records. Fair housing organizations (by name) form another group. A "repeat filer" is any other first-plaintiff name, with "et al." removed, that appears on 10 or more cases in the same district. Everything else is reported only in aggregate.

To check the data, we recomputed the judiciary's published counts. Table C-2A of the Judicial Business statistics lists 4,588 housing and accommodations cases commenced in FY2021–FY2025, including 1,124 in FY2025 and 922 in FY2024. Our count of 4,592 differs by 0.09%; each single year is within five cases.

Checked against published figures

- Housing and accommodations civil rights cases commenced in U.S. district courts, FY2021: published 742, our count 746 (0.54% apart). [Table C-2A. U.S. District Courts - Civil Cases Commenced, by Nature of Suit, During the 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2021 through 2025](#)
- Housing and accommodations civil rights cases commenced in U.S. district courts, FY2022: published 823, our count 825 (0.24% apart). [Table C-2A. U.S. District Courts - Civil Cases Commenced, by Nature of Suit, During the 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2021 through 2025](#)
- Housing and accommodations civil rights cases commenced in U.S. district courts, FY2023: published 977, our count 974 (0.31% apart). [Table C-2A. U.S. District Courts - Civil Cases Commenced, by Nature of Suit, During the 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2021 through 2025](#)

- Housing and accommodations civil rights cases commenced in U.S. district courts, FY2024: published 922, our count 921 (0.11% apart). [Table C-2A. U.S. District Courts - Civil Cases Commenced, by Nature of Suit, During the 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2021 through 2025](#)
- Housing and accommodations civil rights cases commenced in U.S. district courts, FY2025: published 1,124, our count 1,126 (0.18% apart). [Table C-2A. U.S. District Courts - Civil Cases Commenced, by Nature of Suit, During the 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2021 through 2025](#)

Limitations

- The data record only the first-listed plaintiff, in shortened form. An organization or person named second or later is not counted, so the Club's share is a count of cases it leads, not of every case it joined.
- Individuals are matched by surname within a district. Two people with the same surname in the same district would be counted as one repeat filer, and spelling variants of one person's name would be split. The repeat-filer total is an approximation.
- Nature of suit 443 is chosen by the filer on the civil cover sheet. Some cases under this code may concern public accommodations rather than housing, and housing claims filed under other codes are not included.
- The counts say nothing about whether the claims had merit or how the cases ended. A case count is not a measure of discrimination, and it is not adjusted for the number of rental homes in each district.
- Courts can correct or add records after the fact. FY2025 ended more than a year before this analysis, but a later FJC release may change individual counts slightly.

Data files

- [Federal housing and accommodations civil rights cases by district, FY2021-FY2025](#) (CSV, 93 rows)
- [Federal housing and accommodations civil rights cases by fiscal year, FY2016-FY2025](#) (CSV, 10 rows)
- [Federal housing and accommodations civil rights cases by plaintiff group, FY2021-FY2025](#) (CSV, 5 rows)

How to cite

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