

# HOUSING JUSTICE vs. HOUSING INJUSTICE

The Sweet Trials attracted national attention. The ruling established the right of a homeowner to protect one's home, regardless of race. The outcome was an all-too-rare example of Black Americans prevailing in a justice system stacked against them.

**However, the Sweet trials did not solve every issue faced by Black people when it comes to homeownership.**

The Federal government created ratings maps of neighborhoods across the country in the 1930s, using race as a factor. These "red-lining maps" affected the value of homes and the availability of loans. People of color suffered the most for it. The legacy of red-lining persists today.

In the 1950s, new suburbs attracted white residents away from city centers. Urban property values began to fall. Then, in the 1960s and 70s, cities began undertaking urban renewal projects to demolish Black neighborhoods in favor of highways and sports stadiums. As a result, Black homeownership suffered nationwide. The effects are ongoing.

**Decades passed before steps were taken to protect Black homeowners from legal discrimination.**

In 1948, the Supreme Court declared that *restrictive covenants* are not legal. Americans were freed from overtly racist mortgages and deeds.

In 1954, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund won the case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, overturning the discriminatory "separate but equal" doctrine and making segregation illegal.

In 1968, Congress passed the *Fair Housing Act*, which protects U.S. citizens from discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or family status.

Still, these advances are incomplete. Minority homeownership rates currently lag behind their white counterparts. People of color continue to face extra hurdles in getting approval for mortgages.

