

## **Module 1: Overview of the Bluhm Legal Clinic Reverse Mortgage Fraud Cases**



### **Reverend Robin Hood, MOVE Founder**

Reverend Robin Hood is a West Side community activist and founding member of Mothers Opposed to Violence Everywhere (MOVE) and the Illinois Anti-Foreclosure Coalition. In addition to his work supporting victims of reverse mortgage fraud, Reverend Hood also engages in anti-violence and youth engagement efforts to support his community.

### ***Key Takeaways***

1. Elderly homeowners in communities such as North Lawndale face a variety of housing challenges, including but hardly limited to the risk of reverse mortgage fraud.
2. It is critical that homeowners, particularly elderly homeowners, know their rights, as well as their legal and financial obligations to be able to protect their homes.
3. While housing laws, regulations, and policies can be confusing at first, the more homeowners learn and engage with education materials about these laws, the more informed they will become.



### **Tonya Francisco, WGN News Anchor**

Tonya Francisco is an anchor of WGN Saturday Morning News and WGN Sunday Morning News. Born and raised in North Lawndale, Tonya has reported extensively on the reverse mortgage fraud scheme and its impact on the community.

### ***Key Takeaways***

1. The reverse mortgage fraud perpetrated in the North Lawndale community had many different components, including disguising the fraud as a fake government program and relying on accomplices to identify victims.
2. Before signing up for any government program, reach out to the office running the program to ensure it is safe and you understand all of the program's requirements.
3. "If it sounds to be good to be true, it probably is." As a homeowner, it's important that you do your homework and keep records of all decisions you make about your home.