

**HOUSING AND THE LAW: LESSON 5: KEY TERMS****KEY TERMS**

- **restrictive covenant:** agreements written into property deeds that restricted what a homeowner could do with their property via contract law
- **racial covenant:** agreements written into property deeds that excluded people
- **enforce:** to make something (such as a law or rule) happen
- **unconstitutional:** when government action goes against or violates the rights granted by the U.S. Constitution
- **state action doctrine:** a principle that the Constitution and its protection of rights applies only to the government's actions. Private action does not have to obey.
- **trial court:** the court where cases first begin. Both sides can present their evidence before a jury.
- **affirm:** when a higher court agrees with the lower court's decision, allowing the decision to stand
- **fourteenth amendment:** an 1868 amendment to the Constitution that granted citizenship and equal civil and legal rights to African Americans and the formerly enslaved who had been emancipated after the Civil War.
- **equal protection clause:** part of the fourteenth amendment that grants everyone equal protection under the laws
- **unanimous:** the agreement of everyone involved in a decision-making process
- **judicial enforcement:** an action brought before a state or federal court
- **respondents:** defendants in a lawsuit; those who have an action brought against them
- **petitioners:** plaintiffs in a lawsuit; those that bring forth an action
- **landmark decision:** establish a new legal principle that changes how laws have been examined and interpreted previously
- **precedent:** the basis or principle for future court case decisions
- **negligence:** failure to take care of something
- **integration:** bringing groups of people together who were previously segregated or separated by race
- **coalition:** a group of people or organizations working toward an action
- **advocate:** someone who publicly supports and speaks on behalf of something or someone