

Report of the 2009 Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee

Joel Best

Florence B. Bonner

Terrell A. Hayes

Sally Ramage

Barbara Katz Rothman

Thomas C. Hood, Chair

The committee received one nomination for the award. A review of the record of Professor Gregory Squires revealed a long and distinguished record of scholarship and public activity on behalf of fair housing---a persistent problem in America documented by such books as Massey and Denton, *American Apartheid*.

One committee member, Florence Bonner, wrote

“...For nearly 30 years Professor Squires’ research reflected in his many books and papers --- dealing with redlining, race, urban sprawl and decline, profiling on race and language through access to insurance --- attest to his commitment and research effort he has devoted to issues of fair housing. Publications alone would be sufficient to build and influence awareness but he has gone further.

The impact that his work has had on creating networks and influencing policy has been equally powerful. He has served on boards (Consumer Advisory Council, Board of governors of the Federal Reserve System; Advisory Board, Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council and Advisory Board, The John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Support Center); provided consulting for cities and states (Virginia, Washington, DC, Arizona) as well as the federal government. ...What we can say is that his efforts have been focus on policy changes.

In addition, to his research, publication and service he has been a community critic in the local press in Wisconsin and across the country. Thus his ability to influence policy has been of no small consequence. The depth and breadth of his work, his commitment and his courage to attack a social ill in the society over a sustained period of more than 3 decades allows me to recommend him for the Joseph B. Gittler Award without hesitation.”

Terrell A. Hayes wrote

“...After reviewing his vita it is easy to concur that he is most worthy to receive this prestigious award. Dr. Squires’ professional contributions to the ethical resolution of social problems over the last nine years more than exceed the requirements of a Joseph B. Gittler Award nominee. During that time Dr. Squires has authored or edited six books, published twenty referred journal articles, eight book chapters, five encyclopedia entries, five monographs and made numerous conference presentations all of which have addressed some aspect of housing practices (e.g., lending) and the consequences associated with those practices.

Far more impressive, however, are the contributions he has made over a span of 30 plus years. Although I understand that the Gittler Award is not a lifetime achievement award, in the case of Dr. Squires it certainly could be. It appears that most of his professional life has been devoted to promoting ethical solutions to unfair housing practices. Although Dr. Squires is the only

nominee being considered for the Gittler award this year it would be difficult to imagine anyone who more deserves to receive it.”

Both of our past presidents, Joel Best and Barbara Katz Rothman supported giving the award to Squires. Joel’s comments were brief and to the point. “Squires certainly looks like a fine candidate. He is someone who has established a research agenda, developed it, and reached audiences of scholars, officials, and the general public. I wouldn’t have any reservations about picking him.”

With one small dissenting voice from Sally Ramage, who noted that the recent scholarly record appeared to end in 2007, the committee wholeheartedly endorsed giving the award to Professor Gregory Squires.

On two other matters concerning the award and the endowment, the committee had the following observations. The award is new and does not produce many nominations. Some effort should be made to encourage more nominations for the award. We recommend that next year’s committee be charged with making more efforts to publicize the award with the intent of securing more nominations. This year the only publicity was through Society publications and web site.

The committee was asked to consider what to do with additional interest beyond that needed for the award particularly for encouraging scholarship on “the ethical solution of social problems.” In 2008, the interest on the certificates of deposit for the Gittler Award endowment was \$1371.57. At the present time the committee recommends that income beyond that needed to make the award be reinvested in the endowment. When sufficient funds are available to make a small grant, young scholars interests in pursuing “ethical solutions to social problems” may be encouraged to apply. Such a competition at this time would seem premature.