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## **The Real Estate Finance Association hosts its second DEI Discussion Series on April 28th**

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Boston, MA REFA held its second DEI Discussion Series on April 28th with a conversation about *The Color of Law: A forgotten History of how our Government Segregated America*, by Richard Rothstein. As part of REFA's DEI Initiative, REFA will be continuing to host this discussion series every few months. The purpose of each session is to host a guided discussion based on a movie, book, article, news-clip, etc. that brings diversity to the forefront and sparks a conversation. These are meant to be open conversations where REFA Members are free to share ideas and thoughts with colleagues. Over 20 members participated in this month's discussion.

On April 29th, REFA hosted a Webinar titled *The Impact of COVID-19 on CRE – 1 Year Later*. This program, with over 200 attendees, was a follow-up to REFA's most successful Webinar last year. Robert Palter, McKinsey & Company, Navjot Singh, McKinsey & Company kicked off the program with a Market Update. Paul Ayoub, Nutter, moderated a conversation with Leslie Cohen, Samuels & Associates; Jonathan Davis, The Davis Companies; Robin Lidington, Wells Fargo; and John Wolfe, Bank of America. The panelists shared their thoughts on topics such as the most significant impacts of COVID-19 on the CRE industry, challenges in the year ahead, urban vs. suburban future trends, and return to office.

The REFA Emerging Leaders will be hosting the first Executive Insights program of the year on June 3rd. These programs are designed to give 20-25 Emerging Leader members the opportunity to have a casual conversation and gain industry insight from a prominent industry leader. This event will feature Colleen O'Connor, VP, leasing, East Coast and U.K. Markets, Biomed.

Please Save the Date for REFA's Annual Golf & Tennis Tournament on Monday, August 23rd at Dedham Country & Polo Club, as well as the Annual REFA Gala on Tuesday, October 26th at Westin Copley Place.

To learn more about REFA membership and programs, please visit [www.REFA.org](http://www.REFA.org) and follow REFA on Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn @REFABoston.

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