



HCCP Designee Spotlight: Jen Brewerton

Vice President of Compliance
Dominium

Jen Brewerton is vice president of compliance for Dominium and has been in the industry well more than 20 years. At more than 35,000 units, operating in 22 different states, Dominium is one of the nation's largest and most innovative affordable housing development and management companies. Since 2017, Dominium has averaged adding 7,000 affordable housing units a year through resyndication or new construction. Brewerton is responsible for determining and implementing all affordable program policy and procedures for Dominium. Prior to joining Dominium, Brewerton has held a variety of influential positions in her field, including almost 10 years with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) overseeing the Housing Tax Credit, Bond, HOME and Housing Trust Fund programs. After leaving TDHCA, Brewerton held senior positions at CohnReznick, Capstone Management and Southwest Housing Compliance Corporation, a project-based Section 8 contract administrator for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Brewerton received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin, and currently serves on the board of the Texas Association of Affordable Housing Providers and is co-chair of the compliance and post-award rules committee.

How has the HCCP designation impacted your career?

I was on the very first pilot HCCP in 2000 and, since then, have used it for myriad networking opportunities, including on my resume and email signature to reflect my knowledge base. We all know the HCCP test is a fantastic assessment tool for those who work in affordable compliance!

How did you get into the LIHTC industry?

I started out with a bachelor's in social work, working in direct practice and case management with homeless women and children facing domestic violence. My office was actually in a LIHTC building,



which served as supportive housing for survivors of domestic abuse. Being a single mother myself at the time, I found it very difficult to keep a good balance of life and work while working directly with clients. Additionally, the pay was not great, which made it even harder! I did fall in love with the affordable housing piece and ultimately took a position at the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs as a compliance monitor. It not only paid better, but I also loved feeling like I was still working for the underserved, even though it was not directly with clients. It became a perfect fit for me, and my passion for affordable housing has only grown since.

What are your day-to-day responsibilities?

Ultimately, I am responsible for determining and implementing all affordable program policy and procedures for Dominion and ensuring compliance for our owners for our 35,000 affordable units. We have a team of 25 compliance employees in our department, and I am super proud of them, their ethics and their fortitude in this fast-paced environment!

What helped with your success in the LIHTC industry?

The biggest help I had early on was having a very strong mentor, a young professional woman in affordable housing who rose quickly in the industry. She helped me so much as I, too, grew in positions.

What's your favorite hobby?

Rugby! I played for the USA Women in my 20s and early 30s. Now that I am not playing, I travel with my family around the world watching rugby and coach my sons' local rugby team as well. My husband is from New Zealand — we met playing rugby — so it is a family passion!