

Holiday Message from Lisa M. Stone – Executive Director of Legal Voice:

The holidays often evoke cozy images of cocooning at home with loved ones. But when a landlord sexually harasses or sexually assaults a tenant, that sense of security is shattered.

Continuing our advocacy to ensure women are safe and free from discrimination wherever they are – including in their homes – **on Friday, Legal Voice filed suit against a Seattle landlord who sexually harassed our client**, then tried to evict her when she complained.

Yvonne Moore and her three children participated in the federal Section 8 housing voucher program, which provides subsidies to qualifying low-income families that cover part of their monthly rent. Over a three-year tenancy, Ms. Moore's landlord subjected her to frequent harassment, including making suggestive comments about her appearance, peering through her windows, and proposing that if she would go out with him, broken appliances would get fixed faster and late fees would be waived.

When finally Ms. Moore stood up to her landlord and said she would complain about his harassing behavior, within the month she found an eviction notice on her door that gave her three days to pay over \$10,000 in bogus late fees, or vacate.

Legal Voice's lawsuit on Ms. Moore's behalf, filed in King County Superior Court, charges that the landlord's sexual harassment and retaliatory eviction violated federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination in housing based on sex. We are grateful to our cooperating attorney, Cynthia Jones of The Rafel Law Group, who is working with us to represent Ms. Moore.

We believe that all women have a right to safe housing. No one should have to submit to sexual harassment by a landlord just to ensure she and her family have a roof over their heads. And no landlord should be able to prey on economically vulnerable women by threatening eviction, or exorbitant fees, in exchange for silence about the landlord's illegal conduct.