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GENERAL NEWS

DOJ Files Sexual Harassment Suit against CA Housing Providers

In a [press release](#) dated January 13, the U.S. Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has filed a lawsuit against the owner and manager of a residential apartment building in California for sexually harassing female tenants. [DOJ's complaint](#) alleges that the property manager violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by subjecting female tenants to sexual harassment and retaliation since at least 2006.

The Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful for housing providers to sexually harass a tenant, including conditioning housing on the tenant's acquiescence to sexual demands. In this case, the property manager is accused of repeatedly engaging in unwanted sexual touching, including sexual assault, making unwelcome sexual comments and advances, offering to reduce rent or excusing late or unpaid rent in exchange for sex, and entering the homes of female tenants without their consent. The lawsuit seeks monetary damages to compensate the victims, civil penalties, and a court order barring future discrimination

In October 2017, the DOJ's Civil Rights Division [announced](#) the [Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative](#). The initiative specifically seeks to increase the Department's efforts to protect individuals from harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, security guards, and other employees and representatives of rental property owners. This complaint is the thirteenth lawsuit filed under the initiative.



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