

January 28, 2019

## Tenants file class action against multi-state landlord to stop alleged illegal fee collection practices

Saddled with unusually high water bills, Kenisha Wright faced eviction actions nine times over thirteen months. “Something didn’t add up with the fees,” she said. “The court papers would say one thing, but the account said another. There was always something off, but I would just pay whatever they told me to pay to stop the eviction.”

Ms. Wright is one of four Maryland residents who filed a class action lawsuit in December, challenging Morgan Properties Management Company’s alleged practice of charging its tenants excessive, illegal fees. [Read more about the tenants’ lawsuit](#), brought by the Public Justice Center, Santoni, Vocci & Ortega, and Brown, Goldstein & Levy.

## All I want for Christmas is justice

**A look back at a daycare teacher’s inspiring holiday victory for unpaid wages and damages**

The days started early and ended late. From 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Teyave Hawkins-Cunningham was on duty, teaching and supervising children at a Baltimore-area daycare. She routinely had to work through supposed break times and after the day ended. But while Ms. Hawkins-Cunningham knew to expect long days in her field, she did not expect her employer’s refusal to pay her properly. [Read how Ms. Hawkins-Cunningham and the Public Justice Center won back her unpaid wages, plus double damages.](#)



## PJC brief addresses illegal threats to evict residents

### IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT EVICTION

*A person who claims the right to possess this property believes that this property is abandoned. If you are currently residing in*

### In this issue

[Justice for Breakfast Development Director Jennifer Pelton says farewell](#)  
[We're hiring!](#)

[Tenants file class action against multi-state landlord to stop alleged illegal fee collection practices](#)

[All I want for Christmas is justice](#)

[PJC brief addresses illegal threats to evict residents](#)

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## Justice for Breakfast

Addressing Barriers to Accessing Healthcare & Public Benefits

March 13, 2019 ~ 8:15 am

Hosted by  
Brown, Goldstein & Levy LLP  
120 E Baltimore St, Ste 1700  
Baltimore, MD 21202

[Learn more about the breakfast and RSVP here.](#)

Development Director  
Jennifer Pelton says  
farewell

*the property, you must immediately contact:*

*[Name and phone number]*

*If you do not contact the person listed above within 15 days after the date of this notice, the person claiming possession may consider the property abandoned and seek to secure the property, including changing the locks without a court order.*

Imagine finding a notice like this on your front door. The questions start running through your head: *I'm clearly living here. Why would they think it's abandoned? Is it even legal to threaten to kick someone out like that?*

Such threats are the focus of a recent PJC brief, arguing that someone seeking to take possession of a home cannot do so, or threaten to do so, with no court order, without first making a reasonable inquiry into whether someone lives there. [Read more here.](#)

At the end of December, we said goodbye to long-time Director of Development Jennifer Pelton as she embarked on a new professional adventure. In gratitude for everything that PJC supporters do to build a just society, she shares these parting words with all of you.

## We're hiring!

Join our team of social justice advocates!

[Employment Rights Attorney](#)

[Director of Development](#)

**Your gifts help build a just society. Contribute here.**



PJC's e-newsletter is an occasional public notice to join, share, celebrate, or commiserate with the Public Justice Center's efforts to "pursue systemic change to build a just society." Please forward this information to others. To subscribe or unsubscribe to future e-newsletters, please send an email to [info@publicjustice.org](mailto:info@publicjustice.org) stating your preferences.