



CITY OF OAKLAND
newsrelease
Office of the City Attorney

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**Press Conference Thursday:
Oakland City Attorney sues major banks, local agents to stop illegal
evictions and abuse of tenants' rights**

OAKLAND, CA – On Thursday, March 12, City Attorney John Russo will announce five lawsuits against major banks and local agents responsible for numerous illegal evictions and abuse of tenants' rights in the City of Oakland.

Despite repeated warnings, banks and their agents have continued to violate local law by sending illegal eviction notices to good tenants in foreclosed buildings. Eviction notices are often accompanied by "cash-for-keys" offers that do not come close to covering normal moving costs.

"Many tenants who receive these notices are families who have never been late on their rent and are protected from eviction by Oakland's Just Cause ordinance," City Attorney Russo said. "These evictions are not only illegal, they are inhumane and can cause extraordinary hardship for families in Oakland."

In recent days, Oakland filed lawsuits against both JPMorgan Chase and Fidelity National Financial, along with their subsidiary companies and the local agents who are paid to remove tenants from properties the banks have acquired through foreclosure. Oakland also filed complaints against several local real estate companies and brokers who have sent wrongful eviction notices to tenants following foreclosure.

WHAT: Press conference announcing lawsuits against national banks & local agents responsible for ongoing illegal evictions in Oakland, CA

WHEN: 10 a.m. Thursday, March 12, 2009

WHERE: Oakland City Hall (corner of 14th and Clay streets in downtown Oakland), Hearing Room 1 on the first floor

WHO: City Attorney John Russo, City Council President Jane Brunner, community advocates, tenants & others
