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## Tenant Defense - You Can Make a Difference

by Ray, Kimberly (K.A.) at 5:45 PM

I had a hearing on a tenant defense matter in the 36<sup>th</sup> District Court this morning, and I am still riding high on the win for my client. The Court awarded a \$500 rent abatement (which was huge!) and severely chastised the landlords about repairs and improvements that needed to be made. As a result of this case, the landlords replaced all of the refrigerators in the building as well.

I tell you this because I want you to know that this work can really make a difference in someone's life. I am not a litigator, and I was very nervous going into today's hearing. But I have found a supportive groups of lawyers at the Housing Coalition and Lakeshore Legal Aid. They are available for questions in the hallway and even after you leave the courthouse. They have reviewed my orders and taken the time to answer all of my questions. There are no stupid questions – believe me, I have asked some pretty basic questions! I have learned so much over the past three months and I am happy to answer any questions. You can always shadow one of the Housing Coalition lawyers too.

The 36th District Court has the fifth largest tenant docket in the country with 35,000 eviction cases filed last year. Many landlords would rather evict than repair, and the living conditions for these tenants are deplorable.

If you are interested in tenant defense, please contact me. If there is enough interest, we will schedule a lunch 'n' learn in the near future.

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