



For Immediate Release

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Oregon Property Owners Sue Counties for Taking Equity After Tax Sales

A class action lawsuit was filed today in the United States District Court in Portland, Oregon on behalf of three property owners whose property was seized due to nonpayment of property taxes and subsequently sold by the Counties for significantly more than the taxes owed. The Counties kept the surplus proceeds, and the property owners are suing to recover those surpluses.

The complaint names Multnomah County, Lane County, Yamhill County, the Attorney General of Oregon, the Director of the Oregon Department of Revenue, and a Defendant Class of all counties in Oregon.

The complaint alleges that the Defendants and the Defendant Class engaged in the unfair and illegal practice of retaining all proceeds from tax foreclosure sales of properties above and beyond the amount of property taxes and associated costs owed, rather than returning the surplus proceeds to the former property owners. The Plaintiffs seek a declaration that this practice violates the Oregon Constitution as well as the Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, an injunction to prevent the Counties and State from continuing this practice, and compensation for former property owners.

Elias Kohn of Kohn, Swift & Graf, P.C., one of the law firms representing the Plaintiffs in the lawsuit, states that "This case seeks to end the unconstitutional taking of property and to compensate former property owners who lost every penny of equity in their homes over unpaid taxes. As one client explained, regaining some of those proceeds would be 'life changing.'"

The lawsuit, captioned *Lynch, et al. v. Multnomah County, et al.*, 3:23-cv-01502 was filed in the U.S. District Court for the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, Portland Division.

For more information, please contact Nadia Dahab of the law firm Sugerman Dahab at (503) 228-6474 or nadia@sugermadahab.com or Elias Kohn of Kohn, Swift & Graf at (215) 238-1955 or ekohn@kohnswift.com.