



For Immediate Release
April 22, 2010

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Slumlord Who's Building Collapsed with Tenants Inside Sentenced in Criminal Charges for Slum Conditions

Frank McHugh Sentenced to 4 years Probation and Ordered to Conduct Assessment of ALL Buildings and Bring Them into Compliance

Los Angeles—In a historic victory for thousands of tenants in over 100 buildings owned by notorious slumlord Frank McHugh, the Los Angeles Superior Court sentenced Mr. McHugh to 48 months probation, forbade him from managing any residential property in the city, ordered a full assessment (including structural assessments) of the conditions of every dwelling unit owned by Mr. McHugh, ordered Mr. McHugh to deposit funds into a trust account for the complete rehabilitation and maintenance of all his properties, ordered him to hire a new management company approved by the City Attorney and to provide written progress reports to the court.

Frank McHugh is one of the largest private landowners in the city of Los Angeles. His buildings have been the subject of thousands of health and fire citations, sometimes over 100 violations in a single building. Mr. McHugh's notoriety as a slumlord grew early last year when one of the buildings he owns in Koreatown collapsed with tenants inside. "Frank McHugh has shown a complete disregard for the health and safety of his tenants by neglecting to adequately repair decaying buildings that he has kept in substandard and dangerous conditions. We are happy to see that justice is finally being done," said Paulina Gonzalez, Executive Director of Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE).

SAJE launched a campaign against Mr. McHugh in 2008, and found that McHugh tenants live in buildings with faulty and dangerous electrical systems, numerous fire safety violations, peeling paint that may contain lead, and roach and vermin infestation. "The conditions we have been living in have made my daughter sick. We have worked so hard to get Mr. McHugh to make repairs and we are hopeful that this means that our families will finally be safe," said Elba Cuevas a tenant in one of Frank McHugh's buildings.

This sweeping sentencing order builds on a plea agreement stemming from a criminal complaint in 2008 which sentenced Frank McHugh to five years probation, and requires Frank McHugh to divest of all residential property in the city of Los Angeles by September 2011.

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