

PHOENIX OPINIONS - EDITORIALS

Legal Aid, Tenant Responsibilities Belong Hand-In-Hand

From its very inception, the Legal Aid Society has championed the causes of the downtrodden. It has allowed those with meager resources the ability to have legal representatives equal to that of those with ample resources.

The Legal Aid Society has been a great ally of civil and human rights. Its attorneys have offered expert advice to the many clients who have come through its doors. Without this organization the rights of many Blacks would have been infringed upon.

Yet, recurring local developments have caused many people to ask questions about this organization relative to the strong hand it now

holds in landlord/tenant disputes. Several trends have begun to

as far as to say that Blacks and other people are being taught to act



Editorial

By Rodney Sumler
Phoenix Publisher

surface locally that have many real estate investors at an impasse.

Some have become vocal in their disputes with the non-profit organization. A few have even gone

irresponsibly as a result of the strong advocacy of the Legal Aid Society in "housing reform."

Upon first glance, some of these assertions might seem ludicrous to

the casual observer. But to those with a vested interest in the course of local housing trends, they are questions that need to be answered.

Over the last year and a half, this situation has really taken form. It started when a couple who had inherited rental property was severely fined for accepting rental payments from individuals who were found to be living in "unsanitary" conditions. Since that time, the argument has continued to escalate until now, some investors are seeking to get out of the business.

Sure, there are instances in which landlords have asked tenants to pay

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Being Poor Does Not Let You Off The Hook

By Patricia Smith-Deering
Phoenix Managing Editor

Every time I visit my grandmother, I know there are two things I'm going to find: a spotless house and a well-kept yard. It always creates two diametrically opposed feelings in me. First, there's the struggle with guilt because, while I'm fairly meticulous in my own home, I doubt that at all times I could pass the "white glove" test that my grandmother's apartment can. Then, there is a deep sense of pride because this is a woman who will turn 91 years old this year, and she's still going strong.

For as long as I can remember,

wherever she calls home, Grandma has always made the quality of life immediately around her as good as if she owned the place she inhabited or the grounds outside her door. A proud and devoutly religious woman, she is also self-sufficient. She was this way when my family lived with her in the mid-1940s on Hickory Street, right across the street from the Merita Bakery. Most of the houses up and down those blocks were poorly-constructed and ill-maintained shacks. But, Grandma's house stood out among them.

When the weather-beaten fence needed repair, she got the tools to fix it. It was the same for the

plumbing and virtually anything else it took the landlord's own

When my family moved out of the ghetto (I didn't know that's where

My Side

by Patricia Smith-Deering
Phoenix Managing Editor



sweet time to repair. There was always a well kept flower garden and nice-sized vegetable garden. The only reason you ever saw litter in her yard was because she hadn't gotten up yet!

Grandma lived) and into the brand, spanking new post-World War II development on Ferrell Avenue, Grandma stayed behind until urban redevelopment forced her over to

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Separating 'Gospel Pimps' From Black Folks' \$\$\$

I have recently been accused by some of the Negro ministers of being divisive! Under normal circumstances, I would not reply to this type of Black garbage. But

these are not normal times. So I will reply and make an exception in this case because the Negro Community is being given a diet of human waste from some of the Negro pulpits each Sunday morning, all in the name of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. I must respond because some Negro Christians are suffering daily, being fooled into paying their money on the hope of living in Heaven with the Lord when they die, after living in poverty and hell in this life. Meanwhile, the Negro preacher and his family live like little "Reverend Ikes"! Now, let me address the question of being divisive.

First, let me say that most of the preachers see themselves as Black or Negro men, but I see myself as a

"man" made in the image and likeness of my Father God, who is

tired of seeing Negro people being pimped of their money on Sunday

Community Visions

By Bishop L.V. Stennis



a Spirit, and has no color. So since I am like Him, I have no color. When people prove to me that God has a color, then I will be the same color that He is.

Am I being divisive because I am

morning in the name of God? Yes, I am guilty! Am I divisive because these "Gospel Pimps", under the auspices of the Church, take poor people's money and don't give

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