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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

LEGAL AID WINS STAY FOR CLIENT WITH TERMINAL CANCER IN NYCHA EVICTION CASE

(BROOKLYN, NY) – The Legal Aid Society praised a decision granted in Brooklyn Housing Court today which stays an eviction proceeding for three months brought by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) against [William Sanchez](#), a Legal Aid client and longtime resident of the Woodson Houses who is 64 years old and currently suffering from stage-four terminal cancer. NYCHA did not oppose an Order to Show Cause filed last week by Legal Aid, and after arguments, the Court adjourned Mr. Sanchez’s case to reassess his health until January 28, 2019.

“We thank the Court for granting this stay and NYCHA for not contesting our motion. This critical time will allow Mr. Sanchez to stay in his home and focus on his health,” said **Lucinda James, staff attorney with the Brooklyn Neighborhood Office at The Legal Aid Society.** “However, NYCHA can still withdraw its eviction proceeding against Mr. Sanchez, and we urge the Housing Authority to do exactly that come January.”

Background:

In 2015, Mr. Sanchez moved in to his ailing mother’s Woodson Houses apartment to care for her. During those months, Mr. Sanchez and his mother made multiple attempts with the Housing Authority to add him to the household composition but they were unable to complete the arduous bureaucratic process as his mother was too ill to appear multiple times at NYCHA’s management office to sign all the relevant documentation.

During this time, Mr. Sanchez was diagnosed with advanced stage liver cancer, which has now metastasized to his throat. He underwent an intensive course of chemotherapy and radiation this

past summer at Perlmutter Cancer Center in Manhattan, where he continues to be monitored and treated as he recovers from that therapy.

In October of 2017, Legal Aid filed an Article 78 lawsuit to stay eviction proceedings after he lost his remaining family member grievance, which would have allowed him to assume the tenancy. However, because Mr. Sanchez was unable to submit the needed paperwork while caring for his ailing mother and tending to his own health issues, a Judge ruled against this motion the following February.

NYCHA then restored its eviction proceeding against Mr. Sanchez in Housing Court in August 2018 but stipulated to a six-month stay, which has been briefly extended by subsequent court orders. A judge granted a temporary stay until October 21, 2019

All stays expired on October 21, 2019, and today's Order to Show Cause argued by Legal Aid and granted by the Court will temporarily stay NYCHA from evicting Mr. Sanchez based on his current health condition.

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>