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

LEGAL AID PRAISES NYS ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES FOR SUPPORTING LITIGATION TO SECURE RENT ABATEMENTS FOR NYCHA TENANTS WHO SUFFERED REPEATED HEAT, HOT WATER OUTAGES DURING THE 2017-18 WINTER

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** praised New York State Attorney General Letitia James for submitting an [amicus brief](#) in *Diamond et. al. v. New York City Housing Authority – litigation* Legal Aid filed in April 2018 demanding that NYCHA issue rent abatements to residents who went without heat and hot water during the 2017 to 2018 “heat season” and, in particular, during the winter cold spell that lasted from December 27, 2017 to January 16, 2018. The case is currently set for arguments before the New York State Appellate Division, First Department on December 12, 2019.

“The law is very clear: NYCHA is legally required to seamlessly provide these utilities to residents. When that promise is broken, there is a price that must be paid,” said **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-In-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “Public housing residents are afforded the same standards of habitability as New Yorkers in privately owned apartments, and we welcome New York State Attorney General Letitia James’ support for our position. We look forward to arguing this case before the First Department next week and to securing justice for the tens of thousands of NYCHA residents who suffered debilitating outages during that cold spell.”

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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>