



*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

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Immigrant Rights Advocates Urge Court to Block Latest “Public Charge” Rules

(New York, NY) – On **Friday, February 28, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.**, immigrant rights advocates will **argue in federal court** for a **preliminary injunction blocking three interrelated “public charge” rules** from going into effect. Two of the rules issued by the U.S. Department of State apply to immigrants who must undergo consular processing outside of the country, and redefine the term “public charge” to deny lawful permanent residence to anyone they believe to be likely to use any amount of certain cash and non-cash benefits at any time in the future. A related presidential proclamation, also to be implemented by consular officers, bars entry to immigrants who cannot demonstrate an ability to obtain “acceptable” forms of health insurance within 30 days of arrival or the financial resources to pay for any foreseeable medical costs. [*Make the Road New York v. Pompeo*](#) is the first federal lawsuit seeking to block all three related actions.

A separate case, [*Make the Road New York v. Cuccinelli*](#), seeks to permanently enjoin a nearly identical rule promulgated by the Department of Homeland Security. An appeal of a preliminary injunction currently blocking that rule will be [heard in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday](#).

WHAT:

Argument seeking a preliminary injunction enjoining Department of State “public charge” rules

WHO:

Brittany Thomas, Bertha Justice Fellow, Center for Constitutional Rights
Susan Welber, Staff Attorney, Civil Law Reform Unit, Legal Aid Society
Joanna Cuevas Ingram, Staff Attorney, National Immigration Law Center
Andrew Ehrlich, Attorney, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

WHEN:

Friday, February 28, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

WHERE:

U.S. District Court for Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
Courtroom 11A

The Legal Aid Society, Center for Constitutional Rights, National Immigration Law Center, and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP are representing Make the Road New York (MRNY), African Services Committee (ASC), Central American Refugee Center New York (CARECEN-NY), Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), Catholic Charities Community Services (CCCS), and individual plaintiffs.

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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>