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

***Civil Legal Services Providers Call On Albany And
City Hall To Stay Evictions, Implement Other
Housing Measures To Protect New Yorkers From
COVID-19***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society and over twenty other civil legal services providers called on New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, and New York State Chief Judge Janet DiFiore to stay evictions statewide and implement other critical housing related measures to protect New Yorkers from COVID-19.

The demands include:

1. An immediate moratorium on evictions and to direct all City Marshalls to cease executing warrants of eviction until the state of emergency is over.
2. Suspend all non-emergency civil court actions and proceedings, including nonpayment of holdover proceedings, in housing court.
3. Immediately suspend further action on all pending NYCHA eviction, termination of tenancy and termination of Section 8 subsidy proceedings.
4. Institute a NYCHA, HPD, and HCR moratorium on commencing any new eviction, termination of tenancy or termination of Section 8 subsidy proceedings.

The [letter](#) states:

As providers of civil legal services to low income New Yorkers, we write to ask you to take emergency action to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Currently, thousands of vulnerable litigants are packed into courtrooms in housing court and other civil courts, after traveling on public transportation to arrive there. Virtually none of these cases involve essential matters that justify the immense public health risk. True emergencies can be handled by a very small number of judges in emergency parts. The shelter system is already overburdened and is itself a potential hotbed of contagion. We understand that there is a one week moratorium on evictions in New York City, however one week is simply insufficient. Evicting more people to add to an overtaxed shelter system makes no sense in a public health emergency.

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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>