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

Legal Aid Statement On Eviction Moratorium Extension Amid COVID-19 Crisis

(NEW YORK, NY) – **Adriene Holder, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society**, released the following statement in response to the announcement this morning by Governor Andrew Cuomo to extend the eviction moratorium until August 20th:

“We commend the Governor for extending the eviction moratorium and banning late fees and missed payments fees during the moratorium period. However, while these measures are a great step forward, a much stronger approach is needed in order to meaningfully help those most impacted by COVID-19.

We must expand voucher programs for people experiencing homelessness, enact Good Cause legislation to help protect New Yorkers in ‘market rate’ housing from eviction, rent arrears protection for tenants, and safe harbor legislation. Moreover, it is imperative that the New York State Office of Court Administration (OCA) continue to suspend court proceedings to protect the thousands of New Yorkers who would be forced to enter housing court and other civil courts and risk their health and safety by doing so.

This is not the time for half-measures and policy that will leave out the most vulnerable New Yorkers. We urge the Governor to enact other desperately needed policy to stop the tidal wave of evictions that will inevitably take place if we don’t act now.”

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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.

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