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Contact:

Alejandra Lopez
The Legal Aid Society
ailopez@legal-aid.org
(917) 294-9348

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

Legal Aid Lauds The Historic Passage of The Protect Our Courts Act, Landmark Legislation To Protect Noncitizen New Yorkers Attending Court

(New York, NY) – **Hasan Shafiqullah, Attorney-in-Charge of the Immigration Law Unit at The Legal Aid Society**, today issued the below statement on the passage of the Protect Our Courts Act (S425/A2176), critical legislation which prohibits Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from making civil arrests without a judicial warrant for people attending New York state courthouses:

“At a moment of national reckoning around law enforcement’s abuse of power and role in society, this historic passage of the Protect Our Courts Act sends a clear message that New York State will not tolerate ICE’s fear-inducing tactics.

We applaud the Assembly and Senate for passing this crucial legislation to keep noncitizen New Yorkers safe from abduction by ICE in and around courthouses, and on their way to and from the courts. ICE’s enforcement actions targeting the courts have sown fear in immigrant communities, interfered with access to the courts, and undermined due process.

We now call upon Governor Cuomo to sign this legislation without delay.”

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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>