



August 7, 2020

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

Legal Aid Calls On Governor Cuomo To Extend Eviction Moratorium Indefinitely Without Need For Action From NYS Courts

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society called on New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo to extend the eviction moratorium indefinitely without having to defer to the New York State Office of Court Administration (OCA) for action. Late Wednesday night, Governor Cuomo signed an Executive Order that allows OCA to stay eviction proceedings through September 4, 2020.

“New Yorkers on the brink of eviction need more than just a month-to-month extension of protections to defend against homelessness in the midst of this pandemic,” said **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “These families need Governor Cuomo to act on his own, without needlessly deferring to OCA, by using his powers and authority to extend the eviction moratorium indefinitely and outright. If U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and other Washington Republicans can support an extended eviction moratorium, Governor Cuomo should at the least be ready to do the same.”

Last month, Governor Cuomo signed the Tenant Safe Harbor Act to protect tenants who are suffering financially from the pandemic. However, the legislation does not apply to the more than 14,000 households in New York City for which cases in housing court have already been adjudicated and resulted in an eviction warrant.

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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/>