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Contact:

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

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

***With NYS Eviction Moratorium Set to Expire in Two Weeks, Legal Aid Calls on Governor Cuomo, Legislative Leaders to Act Immediately to Prevent Unprecedented Wave of Evictions and Homelessness***

(NEW YORK, NY) – With the statewide eviction moratorium set to expire in just two weeks, The Legal Aid Society called on New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to act immediately to prevent an unprecedented wave of evictions and homelessness.

Legal Aid has urged Governor Andrew Cuomo to use his powers and authority to extend the eviction moratorium indefinitely and outright, and has also called on New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to reconvene their respective chambers immediately to address this looming crisis.

“If Governor Cuomo and Legislative leaders fail to extend the eviction moratorium, October 1<sup>st</sup> will mark the beginning of an unprecedented wave of evictions and homelessness that New York State has never seen before. Housing courts in New York City already have a backlog of 200,000 pre-pandemic cases, and we know that at least 14,000 households have active eviction warrants (issued before the pandemic), which could be executed shortly after the moratorium expires. Moreover, as of last week, New York City landlords have filed roughly [1,250 motions](#) to activate these warrants,” said **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society.**

Goldiner added: “To ignore this mounting data and to allow the moratorium to expire in two weeks is deeply negligent and will force struggling families into homeless shelters, subways, and streets when we

should be keeping people in their homes to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and avoid additional loss of life. We are calling on Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie to do right by their constituents by meaningfully addressing this looming crisis immediately.”

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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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