



September 24, 2020

Contact:

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

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

***Legal Aid, Legal Services NYC, Selendy & Gay PLLC win
Petition in Federal Court to Intervene in Two Landlords'
Lawsuit Attacking Rent Laws and Recently Enacted Housing
Reforms***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society, Legal Services NYC, and Selendy & Gay PLLC announced that a Federal judge has granted a motion to intervene on behalf of N.Y. Tenants and Neighbors (T&N) and Community Voices Heard (CVH) in two lawsuits – *Building and Realty Institute Of Westchester and Putnam Counties, Inc., et al. v. State Of New York, et al.* and *G-Max Management, Inc., et al. v. State Of New York, et al.* — brought by landlord groups in an attempt to dismantle New York's long standing rent stabilization laws which have existed since 1969 and the historic statewide housing reforms which were recently enacted into law last year.

The two lawsuits were filed in December 2019 and January 2020, respectively, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York by several New York City and Westchester County landlords and landlord associations. In March, petitioners filed motions to intervene in defense of the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 (HSTPA) and successfully argued that T&N and CVH have the right to intervene as these organizations represent thousands of members who are rent stabilized tenants and who stand to lose their homes if Plaintiffs in the lawsuits succeed.

In the [court order](#), U.S. District Judge Kenneth M. Karas ruled that permitting intervention would not unduly delay the proceedings or prejudice the landlords. He further determined that T&N and CVH have “a direct and substantial interest” in the outcome of the case and their “firsthand experience” would “undoubtedly contribute to full development of the underlying factual issues in the suit and to the just and equitable adjudication of the legal questions presented.”

“We are pleased that Judge Karas has allowed us to intervene to defend New York's longstanding rent stabilization protections and the recently enacted historic reforms that provide millions of New York tenants with fundamental housing rights,” said **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-In-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “These frivolous and baseless lawsuits hurled by landlords are absurd to begin with, but amid a global pandemic that has brought on an economic crisis and unprecedented levels of housing insecurity, it is particularly egregious.”

CVH and T&N have also intervened in three similar suits pending in New York federal courts. Motions to dismiss all five lawsuits are pending.

###

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>