



September 30, 2020

Contact:

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

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

## ***Court Grants Legal Aid's Motions to Dismiss Two Landlords' Lawsuits Attacking Rent Laws and Recently Enacted Housing Reforms***

(NEW YORK, NY) – A federal court today granted motions filed by **The Legal Aid Society** to dismiss claims in two lawsuits – Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) v. City of New York and Pinehurst LLC v. State of New York — 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. Today's order dismissed the entire case in CHIP and the majority of the claims were dismissed in Pinehurst, leaving two plaintiffs to go to discovery to attempt to meet what U.S. District Judge Eric Komitee described as a “heavy burden.”

The two lawsuits were filed in July and November 2019, respectively, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York by various landlords and two landlord-advocacy groups, CHIP and the Rent Stabilization Association.

In the [court order](#), Judge Komitee wrote, “The RSL [New York State's rent-stabilization laws] was also intended to allow people of low and moderate income to remain in residence in New York City — and specific neighborhoods within — when they otherwise might not be able to. The Supreme Court has recognized neighborhood stability and continuity as a valid basis for government regulation. And where, as here, there are multiple justifications offered for regulation, the statute in question must be upheld so long as any one is valid.”

“We are pleased that the court recognized these lawsuits for what they are: frivolous, baseless and a last ditch effort to undo the historic reforms that were recently enacted which 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**. “We hope similar decisions come down in related lawsuits brought by other landlords that attempt to unfairly attack critical tenant protections.”

Motions to dismiss three other landlords’ lawsuits are pending in federal court.

###

*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>*