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

Legal Aid Calls on Governor Cuomo to Extend Executive Order Pausing Default Judgments, Which Expires This Wednesday, Nov. 4

Over 14,000 NYC Households Are Unwittingly At Risk of Eviction

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement calling on Governor Andrew Cuomo to extend Executive Order 202.67 which pauses default judgments and expires this Wednesday, Nov. 4. A default judgment occurs when a defendant fails to appear, respond or proceed to trial in an action. According to the Office of Court Administration (OCA), a total of 17,388 residential nonpayment cases have been filed in New York City since June 22. Of those, only 2,585 have been answered, about [15%](#).

“We are calling on Governor Cuomo to extend the statute of limitations on executive orders pausing default judgments against our clients and all New Yorkers who have suffered financial hardships and have been sued for failure to pay rent during the coronavirus pandemic.

For months, the courts have told tenants to hold off answering their petitions and to wait for further instruction from the court. After reversing the previous policy and deciding to default tenants who had not answered, OCA failed to notify tenants of the change in policy. Instead, the courts intend to move quickly to default thousands of tenants leading to their eviction. As many

14,800 household in New York City are at risk of losing their homes, simply because they followed the court's instructions.”

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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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