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

## ***Federal Court Rejects City's Attempt to Derail Litigation That Seeks to Equip Homeless Shelters With Reliable Internet Access for Remote Education***

(New York, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society and Milbank LLP** hailed a [ruling](#) issued by Judge Alison J. Nathan of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York rejecting the City of New York's attempt to derail [E.G. et al v. City of New York et. al.](#), a recent lawsuit filed on behalf of the Coalition for the Homeless and certain individual shelter residents and their children against the de Blasio Administration for its failure to provide students who reside in City shelters access to reliable internet service so they can attend school remotely.

In her ruling Judge Nathan recognized that "[j]ust like getting to brick and mortar schools requires reliable transportation, access to virtual school during the pandemic requires access to reliable internet," and ordered an expedited discovery schedule and evidentiary hearing in early 2021.

"It should come as no surprise that the City lacked any real legal basis to prevent this lawsuit from proceeding," said **Susan Horwitz, Supervising Attorney of the Education Law Project at The Legal Aid Society**. "Despite months of pushing the City to address the root cause of the problem, City Hall continues to advance ineffective solutions while families in shelters suffer. We look forward to seeing all shelters equipped with working WiFi, far in advance of the City's stated goal of Summer 2021."

"We are gratified that the Court recognized the importance of reliable internet access to students living in shelters – it is their virtual school bus in a world of largely remote education," said **Grant R. Mainland, a litigation partner at Milbank LLP**. "We look forward to proving that the steps the City has taken to remedy the problem have been woefully misdirected."

"The Coalition for the Homeless is very pleased that Judge Nathan is handling this matter with the urgency it deserves, and we look forward to an expedient resolution that will provide homeless students with reliable internet access to their remote learning platforms in the weeks ahead. Children sleeping in shelters have waited far too long for the City to address the months-long disruption in their education," said **Shelly Nortz, Deputy Executive Director for Policy with the Coalition for the Homeless**.

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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. [www.legalaidnyc.org](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*