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

***Legal Aid’s Civil Practice Testifies at City Council Hearing on
COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Accessibility in NYC;
Calls for Robust Vaccine Distribution for Several Vulnerable
Client Communities***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society’s Civil Practice today submitted [testimony](#) in the New York City Council’s joint oversight hearing of the Health and Hospitals committees regarding the equitable distribution of vaccines. Legal Aid criticized the confusion and lack of transparency that has marked the vaccine distribution process so far, and highlighted the specific impact of the pandemic and the need for efficient vaccine distribution for several of our vulnerable client communities, including homebound adults, immigrants, low-income workers, and homeless New Yorkers.

Rebecca Antar Novick, Director of the Health Law Unit at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement:

“Without a clear and transparent strategy for vaccine distribution – and information about how our client communities and all vulnerable New Yorkers can access it – the horrific inequities that

the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed will only worsen. We need an outreach and education strategy that is informed by the communities who have been left out during this pandemic.

There is no excuse at this point in the pandemic for confusion or lack of transparency with regard to vaccine distribution. New York City's immediate priority must be cooperating with the State and other localities to create a clear and efficient vaccine distribution process that recognizes, prioritizes, and reaches the most vulnerable New Yorkers.”

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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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