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

***Legal Aid Urges New York Tenants to Submit Anti-Eviction
“Hardship Declarations,” Following Reports of Low
Submissions***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society today released the following statement in response to a new report from [Law360](#) that New York City housing courts have received fewer than 2,300 “Tenant's Declaration of Hardship During the COVID-19 Pandemic” forms from tenants seeking to pause or prevent eviction cases until May 1:

“It is alarming to learn that so few tenant declarations have been submitted thus far when we know that the need for rent relief is so high. The low submission rate underscores the necessity for greater outreach and educational campaigns across the State. Since the launch of the statewide initiative, Legal Aid has been providing assistance to our clients and low-income New Yorkers who need help submitting a form, and we will continue to do so. We urge all tenants experiencing financial hardship during the Covid-19 pandemic to fill out a form immediately.”

**If you have experienced financial hardship or face significant health risk because of COVID-19, you cannot be evicted at least until May 1, 2021. In order to receive protection, you

must notify your landlord, the local eviction court, or both. This form will help you automatically send notice to your landlord and the court that you are eligible for protections. You may access the Tenant's Declaration of Hardship During the COVID-19 Pandemic here:

<https://www.housingjusticeforall.org/tenants-declaration-form> or
<https://www.nycourts.gov/Courts/nyc/SSI/images/corona/HardshipDeclaration.pdf>

To get help or to see if you qualify for free legal assistance in a housing matter, call The Legal Aid Society neighborhood office in your borough:

Manhattan: 212-426-3000

Brooklyn: 718-722-3100

Bronx: 718-991-4600

Queens: 718-286-2450

Staten Island: 347-422-5333

Or call the Legal Aid housing helpline, Tuesdays only from 9 am- 5pm: 212-298-3333.

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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