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

## ***Legal Aid Lauds Tenfold Increase in Anti-Eviction “Hardship Declarations” Submissions by Tenants in NYC***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society today released the following statement in response to a new [report](#) by the *Queens Daily Eagle* that New York City housing courts have received a nearly 1,000-percent increase—from about 2,300 to 24,000 forms submitted in just over a month—in the number of submissions of “Tenant’s Declaration of Hardship During the COVID-19 Pandemic” forms from tenants seeking to pause or prevent eviction cases until May 1:

“We are thrilled to see that tenant declaration submissions are up from the alarmingly low number that was reported a little over a month ago. This is no doubt due in part to the robust advocacy and outreach that was rolled out by elected officials and providers, including Legal Aid. While we are glad to hear that tenants are clearly hearing our message, we also know that there is a lot more work to do as the need for rent relief and eviction prevention is even higher. We continue to 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>

To get help or to see if you qualify for free legal assistance in a housing matter, call the Legal Aid housing helpline, Tuesdays only from 9 am- 5pm: 212-298-3333, or a 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

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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 145 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)