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

***The Legal Aid Society Applauds New York State Legislature
for Special Session Passage of New Eviction Moratorium,
Extension of Tenant Safe Harbor Act***

(NEW YORK, NY) - Judith Goldiner, Attorney-In-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society, issued the following statement in response to New York State lawmakers passing legislation in special session to enact a new statewide residential eviction moratorium and protect thousands of New Yorkers from eviction after the Supreme Court's [ruling in Chrysafris v. Marks](#) stayed New York State's previous eviction moratorium, leaving thousands of renters in the state of being forced out of their homes:

"In reconvening to pass this critical legislation, Albany lawmakers have done the right thing and taken action to protect struggling families throughout the state. Enacting a new moratorium on residential evictions that complies with the Supreme Court's recent ruling provides a lifeline to New York's vulnerable tenants and allows additional time for the state to disburse billions in emergency rent relief money to those who need it desperately. By passing this moratorium and extending the Tenant Safe Harbor Act, lawmakers have avoided the disaster of widespread eviction during a surging COVID season and protected thousands of our fellow New Yorkers from losing their homes. A successful defense under safe harbor means that a tenant cannot be

evicted for nonpayment of rent that accrued from March 2020-January 15, 2022. A tenant will still owe the money so we urge tenants to apply for rent relief money.

"The Legal Aid Society applauds the Legislature - especially Senator Brian Kavanagh, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Carl Heastie - for the effort they have displayed in bringing this crucial legislation to fruition, and to Governor Kathy Hochul for her commitment to overhauling the state's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) application process so that the remaining \$2.3 billion in rental relief funds will be distributed in a timely manner.

"All stakeholders - elected officials, civil legal services organizations, housing advocacy groups and others - now have a shared duty to ensure that all New Yorkers are informed of the extension and the process to qualify for relief. The Legal Aid Society is prepared to do our part, and we call on others to join us in this cause."

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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