

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

November 22, 2021

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
The Legal Aid Society
rhaskins@legal-aid.org
(929) 441-2384

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

In Longstanding Federal Monitorship Overseeing Safety and Security in New York City Jails, Court Issues Remedial Order to Address NYC Correction Failure to Impose Discipline in Use of Force Cases

Order Stipulates that City Must Calendar at Least 400 Cases Involving Use of Force Within 30 Days, Devise Protocols and Hire Additional Staff to Expedite Cases Towards Resolution

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society announced a [court order](#) in *Nunez v. City of New York et al.* - litigation brought by The Legal Aid Society in 2014 to challenge the systemic brutality by staff against people incarcerated in New York City jails - requiring the City to augment capacity to address the egregious backlog of disciplinary cases involving New York City Department of Correction (DOC) staff. The order comes after years of non-compliance findings by the court-appointed federal monitor.

Per the order, the City must develop, within 30 days, a list of no fewer than 400 cases involving allegations of excessive force against DOC staff members for expeditious resolution.

The order also requires the City to triple the number of monthly pre-trial conferences before the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) for disciplinary cases involving charges related to use of force violations, and further mandates that the City develop and implement plans and procedures to more expeditiously prosecute such cases.

Lastly, the order requires that the Department of Correction hire additional attorneys and support staff to meet its obligation to impose timely and appropriate discipline.

“The culture of impunity that permeates the Department of Correction will never change until misconduct is met with timely and appropriate discipline,” said **Mary Lynne Werlwas, Director of the Prisoners’ Rights Project**. “These are necessary steps toward addressing years long, egregious non-compliance by the City, and we will continue to vigilantly enforce the relief to which our clients are entitled.”

###

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