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

***Legal Aid Statement on Appointment of Daniel Tietz as
Commissioner of OTDA***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the appointment by New York State Governor Kathy Hochul of Daniel Tietz as next Commissioner of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA):

“We welcome the appointment of Daniel Tietz as new OTDA Commissioner and look forward to his leadership to take meaningful action to address poverty and homelessness throughout the State at a time when current assistance levels are inhumanely low--below 50% of the poverty line--forcing thousands of New Yorkers into homelessness.

We hope to see him serve as a strong advocate for our clients and all vulnerable New Yorkers by delivering the social services and opportunities they are entitled to. The first and most consequential order of business that he should address is reopening the ERAP portal to allow access to rent relief for families who are struggling economically during the pandemic and owe rent. OTDA must resume accepting ERAP applications in order to help thwart a tidal wave of evictions once the moratorium expires.

We look forward to working with Commissioner Tietz to help bring economic and social justice to 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 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