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

## *Legal Aid Releases 2022 Statewide Civil Legal Services Legislative Agenda*

### *Attorneys Call on Albany to Enact a Sweeping Package of Reforms for Tenants, Immigrants, Consumers and other Vulnerable New Yorkers*

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released its 2022 statewide civil legal services legislative [agenda](#) today calling on Albany to enact a sweeping package of reforms for tenants, immigrants, consumers and other vulnerable New Yorkers.

Some of the measures include Good Cause eviction which would provide tenants in unregulated units basic protections against unjust evictions and rent increases; increases to New York's welfare cash assistance to combat poverty; the creation of a statewide Section 8 program - Housing Access Voucher Program (HVAC) - to provide homeless New Yorkers a path to permanent and affordable housing; reforms to Medicaid's overpayment recovery process; increasing unemployment benefits; ending the practice of forced labor at correctional facilities throughout New York State; and prohibiting localities from entering into, renewing or continuing immigration detention contracts.

"These reforms were needed before the pandemic, and now with omicron surging throughout New York State, it's paramount that Albany prioritize measures that will truly serve our clients: tenants, immigrants, those grappling with poverty and other vulnerable New Yorkers," said **Adriene Holder, Attorney-In-Charge of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. "Lawmakers must build on the historic reforms enacted in recent years, and this agenda should serve as a guiding blueprint for achieving that goal. The Legal Aid Society looks forward to working with Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie to usher these bills into law immediately next session."

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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)*