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

***Legal Aid Statement on the Appointments of Gary Jenkins as
DSS Commissioner, Lisa Fitzpatrick as HRA Administrator,
and Joslyn Carter as DHS Administrator***

The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the appointments of Gary Jenkins as Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS), Lisa Fitzpatrick as Administrator of the Human Resources Administration (HRA), and Joslyn Carter as Administrator of the Department of Homeless Services (DHS):

“New York City is facing an unprecedented level of people experiencing homelessness, poverty, and inequality. City government needs leaders who understand how critical it is for all New Yorkers to have access to quality social services, and who are willing to remove bureaucratic barriers to programs such as cash assistance benefits, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, and essential vouchers that lead to safe, affordable and long-term housing. Moreover, the homelessness crisis is fundamentally a housing crisis, and any plan to solve it must dramatically increase access to permanent and supportive housing for all homeless and low-income New Yorkers.

We look forward to working with Commissioner Jenkins, Administrator Fitzpatrick, and Administrator Carter to address the growing homelessness crisis, and to ensure that our clients and all New Yorkers in need of social services are treated with dignity and respect.”

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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