



September 26, 2022

Contact:

Alejandra Lopez  
[ALopez@legal-aid.org](mailto:ALopez@legal-aid.org)  
917-294-9348

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

## ***Munonyedi Clifford Named Attorney-in-Charge of Legal Aid's Citywide Housing Justice Practice***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society today announced Munonyedi “Mun” Clifford as attorney-in-charge of Legal Aid’s Citywide Housing Justice Practice. Clifford previously served as the director of the Housing Justice Unit at Legal Aid’s Harlem Community Law Office where she supervised all facets of housing work, and built relationships with external stakeholders.

In her new role, Clifford will supervise, train and mentor a team of directors, supervising attorneys and other staff working on housing matters throughout New York City to ensure a high standard of representation and client services.

Clifford will also serve as a liaison with Legal Aid’s Civil Law Reform Unit and housing trial offices to develop opportunities for staff to bring affirmative litigation seeking systemic change on a myriad of issues and to work on legislative campaigns both in Albany and at City Hall, among other critical duties.

“I am so proud to lead this wonderful team of housing practitioners who are in the trenches fighting everyday to ensure that our clients get a meaningful right to counsel in housing court,” said **Munonyedi “Mun” Clifford, attorney-in-charge of Legal Aid’s Citywide Housing Justice Practice.** “The fight for housing and racial justice has never been more important, and I look forward to building on Legal Aid’s efforts to secure our clients, low-income tenants from communities of color, the outcomes that they deserve.”

“Munonyedi’s ability to lead attorneys with dynamic case strategies and ongoing support is widely recognized throughout Legal Aid,” said **Adriene Holder, chief attorney of the Civil**

**Practice at The Legal Aid Society.** “Mun is both a seasoned manager and attorney, who will help ensure that staff has the means to protect our clients from eviction and landlord harassment. The Legal Aid Society welcomes Mun to this new role, where her contributions will continue to benefit the organization writ large and the vulnerable communities we serve.”

Clifford immigrated to the United States from Nigeria with her family and spent her early teenage years in New York City, residing first in a modest apartment in Brooklyn where she observed the harmful effects of gentrification firsthand. Her decision to attend law school was galvanized by the foreclosure of her family home.

Clifford started out as a staff attorney at The Harlem Community Law Office in 2011, gaining vast experience in civil and housing litigation in state and federal courts.

After the passage of the Right to Counsel Law in 2017, Clifford led the Expanded Legal Services Project (ELS) for Manhattan. She also served as a Deputy Director of the Right to Counsel Program at Queens Legal Services. Throughout all her roles, Clifford has witnessed the effects of greed, gentrification, and predatory practices on low-income communities of color which has served to strengthen her commitment to the fight for racial and housing justice.

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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 over 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)*