



April 25, 2023

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

The Legal Aid Society Files Court Papers on Lack of Progress in Nunez Rikers Island Reforms

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the below statement following the filing of a [letter](#) today in federal court in response to the latest [status report](#) from the Nunez Independent Monitor Steve J. Martin in *Nunez v. City of New York et. al.*, litigation concerning brutality and excessive force in New York City jails.

“This letter describes how the cold, hard facts of the Monitor’s own reports contradict his assertion that the New York City Department of Correction (DOC) has made progress to halt the humanitarian crisis in the City’s jails.

“The increased use of force on incarcerated New Yorkers, the deterioration of discipline to hold problematic officers accountable for misconduct, the staffing of the Department’s controversial Emergency Services Unit with violent officers, the promotion of people to critical Department leadership positions who even the Department itself deemed unsuitable, the deplorable conditions our clients still suffer at intake and in other areas of Rikers Island, and DOC’s inability to reduce sick leave to pre-pandemic levels all provide compelling evidence that the Department’s so-called Action Plan has failed to secure the wholesale change we all hoped for.

“Staying the current course will only harm more and more people condemned to the indefensibly unsafe and inhumane conditions of the City’s jails. We maintain that independent leadership with authority and willingness to enact bold and swift change, such as may be obtained through receivership, is necessary to end this quagmire.”

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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