

# THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

July 10, 2023

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

## ***Legal Aid Statement on the Latest Special Report from the Monitor in Nunez v. City of New York***

(NEW YORK, NY) - Mary Lynne Werlwas, Director of the Prisoners' Rights Project at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement on the latest special [report](#) from the Monitor in *Nunez v. City of New York et. al.*, litigation concerning brutality and excessive force in New York City jails.

“While we are still reviewing the intensively detailed report, it makes clear that all efforts to date to change the New York City Department of Correction's pattern of brutality have failed. Continuing down the same path — promises of change, Monitor's reports that lead nowhere, court orders that get ignored — will merely cause more injuries and death.

“These are the reasons we have argued that receivership is necessary, and today the need for an independent authority over the jails is clearer than ever. As the court has ordered, we will be meeting with the City and the United States Attorney's Office over the next few weeks to devise a solution to this decades-long failure.”

### **Background**

The next status conference in *Nunez v. City of New York* is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 2:00 PM at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Courthouse located at 500 Pearl Street in downtown Manhattan before Judge Laura Taylor Swain.

Last week, a separate court appointed monitor in [Benjamin v. Molina](#) - class action litigation Legal Aid filed in 1975 that challenged a broad range of environmental conditions and practices in the entire New York City jail system, including fire risks, sanitation deficiencies, and ventilation system concerns - released a quarterly [report detailing](#) the New York City Department of Correction's long-standing [failure to comply with that consent decree](#), endangering the lives of incarcerated 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](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*