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Contact:

Audrey Martin  
[amartin@legal-aid.org](mailto:amartin@legal-aid.org)

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

***Legal Aid Calls on Governor Kathy Hochul to Sign Legislation to Allow E-Filing of Case Documents in More NY Courts***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement calling on Governor Kathy Hochul to sign into law [legislation](#) that would grant the Chief Administrative Judge authority to institute e-filing of court documents, on either a voluntary or mandatory basis, in any or all the New York State’s trial courts and in any class of cases, with exemptions for unrepresented litigants and those who are unable to participate in e-filing:

“The ability to electronically file court documents increases the efficiency of the court system and gives New Yorkers easier and more convenient access to important case files.

“Instituting e-filing in federal and other state courts has proven to be more time and cost effective than in-person filing, allowing for immediate and secure access to documents 24 hours a day. The legislation also includes an exemption from e-filing for *pro se* litigants – individuals who represent themselves in court – ensuring fairness for those who might be better equipped to file in-person.

“If enacted into law, this legislation will help to reduce case backlogs and will allow for speedier access to justice for all New Yorkers. We urge Governor Hochul to sign this bill without further delay.”

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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)*