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

Statement on Governor Hochul Signing Legislation to Allow E-Filing of Case Documents in More NY Courts

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response Governor Kathy Hochul signing into law <u>legislation</u> that will 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:

"Today marks a significant step in modernizing and improving the New York State court system. Expanding the ability to electronically file court documents will enhance efficiency and fairness for all New Yorkers while providing a more secure and straightforward means of filing sensitive documents.

"This legislation will also save time for attorneys and litigants, reduce costs associated with in-person filing, and help alleviate case delays that prevent New Yorkers from receiving timely access to justice. At the same time, by protecting unrepresented litigants, the legislation also ensures fairness to those not equipped to do e-filing.

"We commend Governor Kathy Hochul for signing this critical legislation and applaud bill sponsors Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal and Assembly Member MaryJane Shimsky for championing these vital reforms into law."

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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 nearly 150 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. <u>www.legalaidnyc.org</u>