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

## ***Legal Aid and Emery Celli Win Court Order to Place NYC Jails Under Federal Receivership***

(NEW YORK, NY) - Mary Lynne Werlwas, Director of the Prisoners' Rights Project at The Legal Aid Society, and Debra Greenberger, Partner at Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP, released the following joint statement as counsel for plaintiffs in *Nunez v. City of New York* in response to the court [ruling](#) to appoint a receivership over the City's jail system:

"We commend the court's historic decision to appoint an independent receiver to end the culture of brutality in the City's jails. For years, the New York City Department of Correction has failed to follow federal court orders to enact meaningful reforms, allowing violence, disorder, and systemic dysfunction to persist in the jails. This appointment marks a critical turning point—an overdue acknowledgment that City leadership has proven unable to protect the safety and constitutional rights of incarcerated individuals.

"This decision confirms what we have long argued: transformative change in the City's jails can only occur under the leadership of an independent authority, unbound by the bureaucratic and political forces that have stifled progress for decades. The receiver will have the authority to implement long-overdue reforms, cut through the Department of Correction's entrenched mismanagement, and finally bring relief to those who continue to endure daily, inhumane treatment.

"We commend the court for taking this bold and necessary step. The people we serve deserve real accountability, and today's decision brings us one step closer to 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 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. [www.legalaidnyc.org](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*

*Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP is a nationally-recognized litigation boutique that focuses on civil rights, commercial, criminal, and ethics matters. Our civil rights practice includes wrongful convictions, sexual harassment and assault, police and prison misconduct, children's and disability rights,*

*housing rights, election law, all forms of discrimination, and class actions. Our commercial practice includes complex commercial litigation, partnership disputes, real estate and land use, investigations, ethics and discipline, and appeals. [www.ecbawm.com](http://www.ecbawm.com)*