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

***Statement Condemning ICE's Recent Raids on Local Immigration Courts,
Ensnaring Immigrants Attending Mandatory Hearings***

***Attorneys Decry Reports of Overcrowding, Extreme Heat, and Migrants Sleeping
on Bathroom Floors at Immigration Court in Downtown Manhattan***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and their widespread arrests of noncitizens as they appear for scheduled Immigration Court hearings and at scheduled ICE check-in appointments:

“The Legal Aid Society forcefully condemns ICE’s ambushing and detaining New Yorkers at their mandatory Immigration Court hearings and ICE check-ins — a cruel tactic that undermines due process, instills fear in immigrant communities, and serves only to meet ICE’s arbitrary arrest and detention quotas.

“These are people who are doing exactly what our immigration system demands of them: following the rules, complying with orders, and participating in their proceedings in good faith.

“They are not a flight risk, and there has been no change in their circumstances. Targeting them in this way is a cruel betrayal of public trust. Tearing families apart in this manner serves no legitimate purpose.

“Equally alarming are [reports](#) of overcrowding, extreme heat, and migrants sleeping on the floor of the immigration detention facility on the 10th floor of the Jacob K. Javits Federal Building in Manhattan.

“The Trump administration must halt these arrests, ensure due process, and end the abuse and neglect taking place inside immigration detention centers. We demand accountability and humane treatment for all people in immigration proceedings.”

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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