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

Legal Aid and Emery Celli Applaud the Appointment of Nicholas Deml as Remediation Manager Over the City's Jail System

(NEW YORK, NY) — Mary Lynne Werlwås, Director of the Prisoners' Rights Project at The Legal Aid Society, and Debbie Greenberger, Partner at Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP, issued the following joint statement in response to the court appointing Nicholas Deml as Remediation Manager over the City's jail system:

“Today’s appointment of Nicholas Deml as Remediation Manager for the City’s jail system is a historic step toward ending the egregious constitutional violations that incarcerated New Yorkers continue to endure each day in New York City jails. This decision reflects the court’s recognition that incremental measures and past promises have failed to deliver the systemic change necessary to protect basic rights and human dignity.

“The people who spoke with us about Mr. Deml described him as a leader with fortitude, compassion, and political acumen — someone who can bring a steady hand and fresh ideas to a crisis. Mr. Deml’s diverse background has the potential to be a tremendous strength. His experience leading Vermont’s corrections system, working on Capitol Hill, and serving at the Central Intelligence Agency has given him a unique vantage point on tackling complex problems amid strong political winds.

“Most importantly to us, Mr. Deml demonstrated in our conversations with him that he understands people in custody need real solutions to the dangerous dysfunction harming them — even, and especially, when those solutions require a break from the status quo. We look forward to Mr. Deml bringing his thoughtfulness, candor, and experience to bear in this role.

“This appointment represents a crossroads: a genuine and extraordinary opportunity to address the dangerous and unlawful conditions the City has failed to remedy across multiple administrations, multiple commissioners, and multiple court orders. We urge the Mamdani Administration to embrace this moment and work collaboratively with all parties to ensure that lasting, meaningful reforms are finally implemented.”

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The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit law firm that exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 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 the people we serve and helps improve our communities.

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