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

Legal Aid and Emery Celli Respond to Nunez Monitor's Latest Status Report

(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, issued the following statement in response to a report from the *Nunez* monitor's latest [status report](#):

"Today's report again confirms that the status quo at Rikers Island has failed. Despite multiple court orders, commissioners, City administrations, and reform plans, conditions in the City's jails remain dangerous, and the City has not demonstrated an ability to deliver the basic safety and care to which people in custody are entitled.

"The Monitor again detailed a 'deeply entrenched culture of dysfunction' and revealed that as progress again slows, current DOC leadership is repeating disturbing patterns: attempting to limit transparency, minimize issues, divert responsibility, and rely on false or misleading information and mischaracterizations of the record. After a decade of remedial efforts, these are unacceptable refrains.

"This moment demands more than incremental change or recycled promises. Extraordinary reform is required to finally bring accountability, stability, and meaningful improvement inside our jails.

"We welcome swift action by the Court and look forward to the prompt appointment of the Remediation Manager, who must have the authority and urgency necessary to implement the lasting reforms our City's jail system so desperately needs."

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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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