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

## ***Legal Aid Files Federal Disability Rights Lawsuit Against Brooklyn Landlord Over Dangerous Conditions for Tenants with Disabilities***

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society [filed](#) a federal lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York against Park Monroe II Rehab Housing Development Fund Corp., Shinda Management Corporation, and Claudette Henry, the entities and individuals responsible for managing and operating 1933 Union Street in Brooklyn, for failing to provide tenants with disabilities safe and equal access to their homes.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of multiple tenants with mobility disabilities, alleges that the landlord has allowed critical accessibility infrastructure — including a wheelchair lift and elevators — to remain broken or unreliable for extended periods of time, forcing residents to endure dangerous and humiliating conditions simply to enter and leave their apartments.

The landlord and management company are well known to tenants' advocates and have previously appeared on New York City's "[Worst Landlord](#)" list due to longstanding building conditions and tenant complaints. due to longstanding building conditions and tenant complaints.

For over a year, the wheelchair lift servicing the building has been out of operation, leaving residents who use wheelchairs trapped in their homes or dependent on others to physically carry them up and down stairs. The building's elevators also frequently malfunction, forcing tenants with disabilities and chronic conditions, such as arthritis, to navigate multiple flights of stairs or cross a hazardous rooftop to reach functioning elevators on the opposite side of the building.

"These conditions are not only unacceptable — they are discriminatory and dangerous," said **Madeleine Reichman, Staff Attorney in the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. "These residents should not have to risk injury, miss school, or depend on being physically carried just to access their homes. Federal, state, and local laws require housing providers to ensure equal access for tenants with disabilities, and we are seeking immediate relief to force this landlord to comply."

The lawsuit details the severe impact these conditions have had on residents and their families, including:

- A child who uses a wheelchair has missed school because she could not safely leave the building when the superintendent was unavailable to carry her downstairs.

- Her mother has suffered back injuries from repeatedly carrying both her child and a heavy wheelchair up flights of stairs.
- Another tenant developed painful sores and worsening physical injuries after being forced to use crutches on stairs because the wheelchair lift remained broken.
- A longtime resident with arthritis has been forced to cross the building's roof during elevator outages, despite dangerous tripping hazards and significant physical pain.

The lawsuit seeks injunctive relief requiring the landlord to immediately repair the wheelchair lift, properly maintain the building's elevators, provide reliable stair-free access for tenants with disabilities, and implement accommodations during elevator outages. The lawsuit asserts violations of the federal Fair Housing Act, the New York State Human Rights Law, and the New York City Human Rights Law.

In addition to the federal action, Legal Aid's Group Advocacy Unit has filed a separate [HP action](#) in New York City Housing Court addressing additional longstanding building-wide conditions and maintenance failures impacting tenants at the property, including the loss of cooking gas service. Tenants have been forced to rely on hot plates for months, while also contending with persistent leaks, mold conditions, and other chronic repair issues throughout the building.

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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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