

July 14, 2026

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
RHaskins@legal-aid.org
929.441.2384

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

Legal Aid and Emery Celli Respond to Remediation Manager's First Remediation Action Plan

(NEW YORK, NY) — Mary Lynne Werlwas, 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 statement in response to the Remediation Manager's first [Remediation Action Plan](#) filed today in *Nunez v. City of New York*:

"This First Remediation Action Plan sets forth urgent priorities to protect incarcerated people from imminent harm and reform the culture of violence and impunity that has permeated the Department of Correction for years. After a decade of failure to curb unconstitutional excessive force, swift action is essential. We call on the City and DOC to meet this moment by embracing the Plan's call for rapid change.

"In particular, we are pleased the Remediation Action Plan recognizes that promoting the dignity and well-being of incarcerated people – including through the provision of robust, meaningful programming – is a key component to keeping jails safe. We applaud the Plan's focus on increasing both the volume and variety of programming, as well as engaging community-based service providers. The City must commit to the expansion of community-based programming that the Plan requires, and provide all resources necessary to achieve it as soon as possible.

"The court's historic appointment of a Remediation Manager for the City's jail system signaled 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. We are hopeful the Remediation Manager will break DOC out of its cycle of meager reforms and immediate regression to finally bring real accountability, stability, and meaningful improvement inside our jails.

"We encourage the Remediation Manager to continue to develop rigorous and concrete mandates for the Department. The City's jails remain untenably dangerous and dysfunctional, and nothing but meaningful and swift forward momentum is acceptable."

####

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.

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