

NYDN: No Lawyers Left to Represent Low-Income Manhattan and Brooklyn Tenants Facing Eviction

According to a *New York Daily News* report, there is currently a shortage of attorneys to represent thousands of residents in a slew of upcoming housing cases.

The New York City Legal Aid Society informed me their office is unable to offer representation to hundreds of New Yorkers involved in eviction proceedings in NY Housing Courts due to the overwhelming number of cases and lack of attorneys to meet their needs.

I stand with these attorneys who are looking to defend the rights of tenants in asking for the New York State Office of Court Administration (OCA) to limit the number of cases calendared each month in accordance with providers' capacity, as intended by New York City's historic Right to Counsel law.

Early during the COVID pandemic, lawmakers and tenant advocates predicted housing courts would be bombarded with petitions for eviction from landlords seeking to collect rent arrears. Therefore, in order to preserve the right of each tenant to have an attorney present when their case is called, OCA must limit cases.

The Daily News article may be viewed here.