



December 7, 2021  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Deidre Swesnik, NHLP, [dswesnik@nhlp.org](mailto:dswesnik@nhlp.org)

## **Courts and Landlords Continue to Evict Families, Despite Legal Protections and Billions of Dollars in Aid to Landlords**

*National Housing Law Project Releases Survey of Legal Aid Attorneys*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA/WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the National Housing Law Project [released the results of a survey](#) on how tenants have fared after the federal CDC eviction moratorium ended on August 26, 2021. NHLP surveyed 119 legal aid and civil rights attorneys in 41 states, DC, and Puerto Rico.

Legal aid attorneys reported seeing the following problems since the end of the federal moratorium:

- Rising eviction cases, even for federally subsidized tenants;
- More landlords lying in court to evict tenants;
- More illegal evictions, lockouts, and other harassment;
- Landlords collecting rental assistance funds only to evict tenants; and
- Judges ignoring or inconsistently applying federal and state law.

“In many states, landlord tenant law is antiquated and designed to provide results for landlords,” said Shamus Roller, executive director of the National Housing Law Project. “Instead of adjudicating the facts, courts function as conveyor belts, moving tenants toward eviction.”

Sixty-six percent of survey respondents reported rising eviction cases since the Supreme Court struck down the CDC order. “Tenants often lack representation and, in a system as biased and complicated as eviction, this produces bad results for tenants and for society,” continued Roller.

The federal government has provided more than \$50 billion in emergency rental assistance to states and cities, yet 86 percent of respondents have seen landlords collect the funds and still proceed with evictions, or simply refuse to accept the funds altogether. Forty percent of respondents report an increase in landlords lying to evict tenants.

“Well-designed emergency rental assistance is crucial to reducing evictions over the long term,” said Roller. “In a handful of months, many states and cities have created ground-breaking rental assistance programs but others have left funds unspent and allowed tenants to be evicted.”

In addition, 67 percent of respondents reported evictions in subsidized housing for nonpayment of rent. “There is no excuse for these evictions. Landlords who get support from the federal government should be required to participate in rental assistance programs, and the federal housing agencies have the authority to implement eviction moratoria in their programs,” said Roller.

The 2021 report has a number of recommendations including reforming landlord-tenant law and expanding tenant access to justice. This survey follows up on one [issued in July 2020](#).

# # #

The **National Housing Law Project**’s mission is to advance housing justice for poor people and communities. We achieve this by strengthening and enforcing the rights of tenants, increasing housing opportunities for underserved communities, and preserving and expanding the nation’s supply of safe and affordable homes.