

Person 1:

- Close to 300,000 people are brought to housing court every year to fight an eviction.
- Almost NONE OF THEM have an attorney.
- 28,849 New York families were evicted last year. More than half of them wouldn't have been evicted if they had an attorney.
- We don't want this to be you.
- Let's work together so that this can't be you, me or any of us.

Person 2:

At a time of heightened inequality, the tale of two cities plays out in housing court like nowhere else. As New Yorkers, it's our job to fight inequality. The most important thing we can do is pass a law making it a right for tenants to have an attorney in housing court so that people can stay in their homes.

Person 3:

There is no right to counsel anywhere in the country. NYC could be the first to pass a law like this. New York could lead the nation.

Person 4:

- 65% of New Yorkers rent their apartments.
- In 2013, Landlords sued 246,864 tenants in court for eviction.
- 97% of all cases in housing court are initiated by landlords.
- Less than 10% of tenants in housing court have lawyers to represent them.
- In 2013, 28,849 tenants were evicted.

Person 5:

- The vast majority of tenants facing eviction are women.
- Close to 40% of tenants in housing court represent families with children.
- At least 30% of people in the shelters, went there right after being evicted.
- 57,000 people are in NYC's Shelter system right now.
- With few affordable housing options, the average length of shelter stay for families with children is up 10% to a record 375 days.

Person 6:

There are many consequences of eviction that we can't calculate, like average storage costs, the number of days of work people miss because of court dates and moving, the number of days children have to miss school, and the mental and emotional stress of fighting and facing an eviction.

Person 7:

- But we can calculate the impact of eviction on affordable housing. 52% of all tenants evicted last year, were evicted from a rent stabilized apartment.
- After an eviction, rents in rent stabilized apartments can legally be increased by AT Least 20%.
- We have an Eviction Crisis in NYC. This Eviction Crisis is also:

Person 8:

- A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS:
- The anxiety and stress of housing insecurity for so many New Yorkers cannot be underestimated.

Person 9:

- A WORKERS RIGHTS CRISIS:
- The most vulnerable New Yorkers miss thousands of days of work.

Person 10:

- A WOMEN'S CRISIS:
- Women and children are being locked out.

Person 11:

- A CHILDREN'S CRISIS:
- The effects on children are devastating.

Person 12:

- AN EQUITY CRISIS:
- Right now we live in a city where you can stay in your home if you can afford an attorney. You lose that right if you can't afford an attorney.

Person 13:

- A JUSTICE CRISIS:
- Every year, more than half of all of the evictions could be prevented if tenants had attorneys.

Person 14:

- AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS:

- Overwhelmingly, tenants are being evicted from the most affordable housing option they have.

Person 15:

- A COMMUNITY CRISIS:
- Evictions de-stabilize neighborhoods and communities.

Person 16:

- AN IMMIGRANT CRISIS:
- Discrimination of language and national origin is rampant in housing court. And undocumented immigrants are less likely to fight for their rights in housing court and therefore more likely to be evicted.

Person 17:

- A TEST OF OUR PRIORITIES:
- 10 years from now, no one is going to think about how much it cost us to fund a right to counsel. But we will be devastated by the cost of what it will mean for New Yorkers if we don't act now.

Person 18:

Most of us live paycheck to paycheck, and unless you have 6 months to a year of household expenses saved up in the bank, we're all one paycheck from being homeless--especially without a right to counsel.

Person 19 & 20

- More than half of all the families that are evicted every year, wouldn't be, if they had an attorney.
- Funding Right to Counsel, would actually SAVE US MONEY as New Yorkers. Shelter costs, re-housing costs, storage costs, costs in subsidies and countless other costs.
- Right to Counsel is an INVESTMENT In our city's future.
- Right to Counsel is a statement about our commitment to a diverse, equitable and vibrant city.

Everyone:

- Pass Intro 214.
- Fund intro 214.
- #RTCNYC