



PRESS RELEASE: PROP F HAS PASSED!!!

By Martina I. Cucullu Lim, June 6, 2018

www.evictiondefense.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco, CA (June 6, 2018) - The following statement may be attributed to Martina I. Cucullu Lim, Incoming Executive Director of the Eviction Defense Collaborative (EDC):

As you have probably heard by now, Proposition F has passed!

The residents of San Francisco spoke up in favor of universal eviction defense and we are eager for the City and County of San Francisco to transition into providing legal representation to anyone having to face an eviction. **Together, we CAN ensure universal access to legal counsel and keep San Franciscans in their homes!!!**

“We have been seeing the devastating impact the housing crisis is having on our communities for years now. The reality is we have been failing to keep people housed. Landlords have been represented by attorneys at a rate of 6 to 1 as compared to the number of tenants who have been represented by counsel. Studies have shown that having an attorney in an eviction case increases a family’s chance of avoiding homelessness by over 70%. Universal right to counsel in evictions is a proven and cost-effective way of keeping people housed. The community has spoken: we know what the solutions are, it’s time to implement,” **Martina I. Cucullu Lim**, Incoming Executive Director, Eviction Defense Collaborative.

We want to acknowledge the **San Francisco Tenant’s Union** in their incredible work to get this proposition in front of San Francisco voters. The Tenant’s Union is led by **Deepa Varma**, a former employee of the Eviction Defense Collaborative. Deepa has been quoted as saying *“This has been a dream of the Tenant’s Union for many, many years... The Tenants Union believes organizing is the beginning, and organizing is the power. But when you are facing a judge as a tenant, and you are alone, it doesn’t look good. This is a historic moment for the country, but it’s looking pretty good that we are changing the conversation around housing and what everybody needs...”*

The EDC has been directly addressing the needs of San Francisco tenants and how they can access accurate legal advice, legal counsel and basic information on their rights as tenants facing an eviction. The passing of Prop F is a direct response to this need and we look forward to working with the City for a smooth transition into accessing universal eviction defense services.

The EDC’s infrastructure is strong and we are poised to step up as leaders in the nationwide anti-displacement movement.

For more information on **EDC**, please visit www.evictiondefense.org.

For more information on our incoming **Executive Director, Martina I. Cucullu Lim**, visit [LinkedIn](#).

For more information on the **San Francisco Tenant’s Union**, please visit <https://www.sftu.org/>

For more information on the press release, please contact **Luba Palionny**, EDC Government Grants Administrator, lubap@evictiondefense.org