Who we are
The Housing Courts Must Change! campaign, or HCMC, is a statewide campaign launched by the Right to Counsel NYC Coalition in 2020 to transform the courts from an "eviction machine" to a place that holds landlords accountable, upholds tenants' rights, and enables tenants to remain in their homes. HCMC unites tenants, organizers, advocates, legal services organizations and more.

Our campaign goals
• No evictions for anyone across NY State.
• Slow down eviction cases & transform housing courts:
  • Ensure that everyone facing eviction has and knows about the Right to Counsel (RTC).
  • Slow down eviction cases to ensure that tenants are protected.
  • Hold landlords accountable.
  • Prioritize health, safety, and accessibility in courts.

Our city-level demands
• #DefendRTC campaign: The Office of Court Administration must slow down cases to ensure every eligible NYC tenant has legal representation through Right to Counsel. Cases without RTC should be adjourned. It is unacceptable that the Courts are currently denying many NYC tenants their Right to Counsel because evictions are moving so fast.
• Fully Fund RTC! We are demanding at least $300 million to ensure there are enough attorneys to represent everyone entitled to RTC.

Our state-level demands
Pass tenant-powered legislation (see platform on flip side) to expand Right to Counsel and stop all evictions.
**Our state legislative platform**

Statewide Right to Counsel (May-S2721)
Statewide Right to Counsel will guarantee ALL New Yorkers the right to a free attorney in housing court when facing eviction and displacement. Our corresponding budget proposal lays out the need for $260 million in the fiscal year 2025 budget, to fund the first year of Right to Counsel's five year implementation.

Winter Eviction Moratorium (Kelles-A4093/Myrie-S1403)
Winter Eviction Moratorium legislation will ensure that tenants across New York State are not forcibly evicted from their homes and into the brutal cold during the winter months. Under the this bill, judges will not be permitted to issue warrants that have execution dates between November 1st and April 15th of any calendar year.

Defend Right to Counsel (Hoylman-Sigal-S3254/Rosenthal-A4993)
Defend Right to Counsel legislation will mandate that the state court system uphold local Right to Counsel laws in New York City and Westchester County.

**Help us stop evictions and build tenant power!**

→ Are you part of a community-based organization, union, religious institution, or other organization that might be interested in supporting our legislation? Get in touch with us to set up a meeting: katy@righttocounselnyc.org.