Right to Counsel (RTC) is a law that was passed in New York City in 2017 after a 3-year tenant organizing campaign. The law guarantees low-income tenants a right to an attorney when facing an eviction in housing court. The law is currently being implemented in 20 NYC zip codes, and will be fully phased-in by 2022.

Data from 2018, Right to Counsel's first full year, proves that the law has been a huge success in decreasing evictions. Here are several key facts:

- **84%** of tenants who had a lawyer under RTC (nearly 22,000 households) were able to remain in their homes
- More than **50%** of the households who used RTC had lived in their homes for **6+** years; **38%** lived in their homes for **10+** years.
- Evictions across the city are down by nearly **14%**.
- There was a **23%** drop in evictions in the Bronx—the borough with often the lowest rate of legal representation for tenants and, therefore, the most evictions.
- Evictions dropped **16%** in Manhattan, **7%** in Brooklyn + Queens, & **5%** in Staten Island.
- Zip codes with RTC accounted for **64%** of the overall citywide decline in evictions.
- Evictions declined more than **5x** faster in zip codes where RTC is currently in effect than in similar zip codes where it is not.
- Landlords are suing people less, as eviction filings dropped by more than **5%**.
- **30%** of tenants in all of NYC’s housing courts received legal representation.
- **56%** of tenants facing an eviction in zip codes currently covered by RTC were represented by a lawyer.
- Tenants were **3x** as likely to receive legal services in zip codes where RTC is currently in effect, compared to similar zip codes where it is not.

Sources:
- NYC Office of Civil Justice 2018 Annual Report
- NYC Office of Civil Justice Universal Access 2018 Report
- NYC Right to Counsel: First year results and potential for expansion, a report by the Community Service Society of New York