



Davis Polk

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

DAVIS POLK AND THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY MOVE TO EXONERATE CLIENT WHO WAS WRONGFULLY CONVICTED, INCARCERATED FOR 26 YEARS

(BROOKLYN, NY) - Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP and The Legal Aid Society this afternoon announced the impending exoneration of Carlos Weeks, a client who had served 26 years incarcerated for second-degree murder and first-degree assault convictions relating to a July 1993 shooting in the New York City Housing Authority Tompkins Housing development.

“For 26 years, Carlos Weeks fought to have this wrongful conviction overturned. Today, he walks out of court a free man,” said **Elizabeth Felber, Supervising Attorney of the Wrongful Conviction Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “Carlos’ case underscores the need for district attorneys’ offices to have robust wrongful conviction review units that can review cases expeditiously to correct injustices. This is a happy day for Carlos and his family – a long time in coming – but we have other clients with matters pending before the CRU, and we urge that office to investigate those matters promptly so that other wrongfully convicted individuals can experience the vindication that Carlos has experienced today.”

Weeks will appear in court today at 2:15 p.m. before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Dineen Riviezzo at 320 Jay Street, 15th floor.

Background

At his trial in 1995, the only evidence connecting Mr. Weeks to the July 1993 shooting was the purported eyewitness testimony of two sisters who claimed to have looked out their twelfth-floor apartment window and identified Mr. Weeks as the shooter.

Beginning in January 2015, Davis Polk and The Legal Aid Society conducted an extensive investigation, establishing that the sisters' purported eyewitness testimony was false. When later confronted by the Kings County District Attorney's Conviction Review Unit (CRU), one of the sisters recanted her testimony; the other sister declined to speak with any of the investigators, except to claim to the CRU that she had no recollection of any of the underlying events.

Davis Polk and The Legal Aid Society also identified new alibi evidence placing Mr. Weeks in another location at the time of the shooting, and evidence that a key prosecution eyewitness, who ultimately was not called at Mr. Weeks' trial, would have testified that Mr. Weeks was not present during the shooting. Davis Polk and The Legal Aid Society presented the new evidence to the CRU in October 2017. The Kings County District Attorney ultimately agreed to join a motion to vacate Mr. Weeks's conviction.

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>

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