Justice in Every Borough

Leading through partnership, expertise where it matters
Delivering Justice in Every Borough

The Legal Aid Society is built on one simple but powerful belief: that no New Yorker should be denied the right to equal justice. We seek to be a beacon of hope for New Yorkers who feel neglected—regardless of who they are, where they come from, or how they identify. From our start over 140 years ago, our growth has mirrored that of the city we serve. Today, we are proud to be the largest, most influential social justice law firm in NYC.

Our staff and attorneys deliver justice in every borough, working tirelessly to defend our clients and dismantle the hidden, systemic barriers that can prevent them from thriving. As passionate advocates for individuals and families, The Legal Aid Society is an indispensable component of the legal, social, and economic fabric of NYC.

Leading Through Partnership

The partnerships we’ve forged with communities across the city are the driving force behind our transformative litigation and advocacy work.

Expertise Where it Matters

The expertise and dedication of our staff empower us to deliver justice in every borough. When life and liberty hang in the balance, expertise makes a crucial difference in the lives of our clients.
As we continue our work in the year ahead, we remain vigilant in our commitment to communities we serve. Together, our tireless efforts have resulted in lasting change for the people and by the simple but powerful belief that no person should be denied the right to equal. Among the groundbreaking achievements this year were victories in criminal justice challenges faced by our city and country.

It has been a year of significant achievement. Our staff and attorneys secured victories in and out of the courtroom with implications across NYS—and in some cases, across the nation. They worked in collaboration with community partners and affected individuals to build strong and lasting coalitions that are, without a doubt, a key to their success. Among the groundbreaking achievements this year were victories in criminal justice and tenant protection. The commitment to our mission and the enduring respect for the protection of basic human rights led us, working in coalitions with community advocates, to challenge the federal government and take a stand for immigrants across the country in a series of groundbreaking court cases.

No one has a deeper understanding or greater empathy for our client communities than the individuals who make up The Legal Aid Society. Among them are paralegals, investigators, social workers, support and administrative staff united by the simple but powerful belief that no person should be denied the right to equal justice. Together, our tireless efforts have resulted in lasting change for the people and communities we serve.

As we continue our work in the year ahead, we remain vigilant in our commitment to justice.

Janet Sabel
ATTORNEY-IN-CHIEF AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This year, we are happy to report that the advocacy efforts of our staff resulted in improved lives for our clients through crucial reforms in the criminal defense, civil legal services, and juvenile rights justice systems. The Legal Aid Society continues to play an important role in challenging government violations of our clients’ rights, and in making NYC a better place to live.

As announced in these pages last year, Janet Sabel joined us as Attorney-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer in January. Janet’s 25 years of experience at The Legal Aid Society, coupled with eight years at the NYS Attorney General’s Office where she served as Chief Deputy Attorney General, made her the ideal person for the role. So far, she’s done an incredible job of bringing people together, improving workplace culture, and instituting innovative programs and policies.

Another exciting moment this year was the launch of our redesigned website, which provides clients and supporters with the information they need to know about their rights, get legal help, and find answers to pressing questions. The new website also provides a place to learn about the outstanding accomplishments of our staff.

With great sadness, we must also report the passing of our beloved President, Blaine V. “Fin” Fogg. On July 14, Fin lost his courageous 18-month battle with brain cancer. Fin was a fierce advocate for the rights of our clients and for our staff—he constantly talked about his admiration for our staff who, as he would say, looked at what they were doing as a calling and not just a job. As President he contributed his time, his wisdom, his humor, and his unbelievable energy to make The Legal Aid Society a better place. We will sorely miss him.

We were fortunate that John K. Carroll, a Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, and a retired partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, assisted with Fin’s responsibilities during his illness. John has now been elected President of The Legal Aid Society.

As ever, we’re grateful for the support of the Sustaining Law Firms without which our work would not be possible. Special thanks to the Chairs of our various committees including Charles Weinstein (Audit); Brian H. Polovoy (Development); Tracy Richelle High (Diversity and Inclusion); Douglas Curtis (Finance and Investment); Thomas M. Cerabino (Nominating and Governance); Aaron R. Marcu (Practice Support); Bradley I. Ruskin (Real Estate); Mark P. Goodman (Retirement & Benefits); and Randy Mastro (Strategic Planning and External Relations).

Of course our greatest asset at The Legal Aid Society is our staff; we thank them for their dedication to our clients and organization. Their names appear on the inside covers of this annual report.

We look forward to another year of providing the highest quality representation for our clients in partnership with our law firm supporters and the many organizations working in the communities we serve.
Board of Directors

Comprised of some of the brightest minds from law firms, law schools, corporations, and communities, our board members provide crucial guidance that strengthens our work.

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Leadership

Leaders of The Legal Aid Society are some of the most respected in their fields, offering decades of experience and perspective gained from dedicating their careers to ensuring equal justice.

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FACILITIES MANAGER
In Memory of Blaine V. "Fin" Fogg

Blaine V. "Fin" Fogg—a great leader, mentor, and friend, who devoted 10 years of service as the President of The Legal Aid Society—passed away on July 14. The entire family at The Legal Aid Society suffered a tragic loss at the death of this great man who had given so much of himself to the cause of equal justice for all.

Fin’s steadfast support, wise counsel, and his oft-stated belief that the availability of justice must not depend on a person’s ability to pay sustained the Board of Directors, managers, and staff. His legacy continues to live on through them. Fin was a fierce advocate for the rights of our clients and for our staff. He made a real difference by increasing support for The Legal Aid Society’s mission through his persistence and enthusiasm. We will miss our beloved friend.

The Legal Aid Society celebrates its good fortune in having been the beneficiary of the excellent judgment, generous spirit, and wonderful sense of humor of Fin Fogg, the very best of lawyers and finest of people. We extend our deepest condolences to his wonderful family.
The Legal Aid Society is proud to acknowledge the outstanding support of the Sustaining Law Firms, whose dedication helps ensure that all New Yorkers have access to justice. These firms uphold the work of The Legal Aid Society by contributing at a leadership level of $600 per attorney in their New York offices.

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Arnold & Porter LLP
Baker & Hostetler LLP
Boies Schiller Flexner LLP
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Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
Winston & Strawn LLP
Wollmuth Mahier & Deutsch LLP
Where We Work

With offices in every borough, The Legal Aid Society’s clients don’t have to look far for the expertise they need. Here’s a snapshot of our staff’s accomplishments in each borough this year:

**MANHATTAN**

In Manhattan, teams employed diverse expertise on issues ranging from homelessness and education to mental health. Of note this year was our partnership with the government and faith-based groups to host warrant-clearing workshops for people in the shelter system; our collaboration with adolescent mental health providers to help nearly 500 children and families access the educational support services needed to succeed at school; and the launch of our Juvenile Youth Leadership Board to empower and engage youth beyond the courthouse.

**STATEN ISLAND**

Our Staten Island staff this year advocated to ensure opioid addiction is treated as a public health crisis; partnered with the NYC Elder Abuse Center’s Multidisciplinary Team to provide legal counsel on elder abuse cases in the borough; and tirelessly worked to ensure that young people do not face unlawful discrimination by employers, schools, and police due to a juvenile delinquency arrest or family court disposition.

**BRONX**

Our staff in the Bronx are incredibly dedicated—often spending their days in court fighting for clients, their evenings providing Know Your Rights trainings at local schools and churches, and their weekends running in 5K races to support grassroots organizations. Notable recent victories include securing 45 affordable housing units, and ensuring the future of the oldest African American Baptist church in the borough following its foreclosure.

**MANHATTAN**

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**QUEENS**

In Queens this year, we worked to secure judgments to turn previously unregulated housing units in 15 buildings into rent-stabilized units, safeguarding affordable housing and strengthening local communities for years to come; and we provided thousands of people incarcerated on Rikers Island with vital telephone access to contact attorneys, service providers, and bail funds.

**BROOKLYN**

This year in Brooklyn, staff’s urgent response to the presence of ICE agents targeting immigrant clients around Brooklyn Criminal Court initiated our campaign to raise public awareness and press the government to end this unjust practice. We also launched a pilot program to provide guaranteed counsel to public housing tenants facing eviction for the first time, and trained 400 Department of Education psychologists on the experience and needs of children in foster care.
Our Year in Review

This year, The Legal Aid Society staff urgently responded to continued attacks on the rights of marginalized communities and on our institutions. We worked to develop new coalitions and programs that helped ensure New York is a safe and supportive place for all people.

**JANUARY**
- Settled our litigation to ensure disabled Medicaid recipients receive access to the home care services they need.
- Launched the Wrongful Conviction Unit to address the population of people who are currently incarcerated in NYC and still fighting for their freedom and to clear their names of crimes they did not commit.
- Launched the Worker Justice Project to address and effectively remove the barriers to employment for current and former Criminal Defense Practice clients.

**MARCH**
- Our Cop Accountability Project fought to repeal the laws and policies that hide bad acts and disciplinary records of NYC police officers and launched a public website that allows all New Yorkers to browse thousands of federal civil rights lawsuits filed against NYPD officers.
- Secured a victory in a class action lawsuit on behalf of vulnerable immigrant youth which upheld the legitimacy of New York Family Court Orders, securing a path to permanent residency and citizenship for abused, abandoned or neglected young immigrants. The government estimates the class includes over 6,000 young immigrants across New York.

**APRIL**
- The Decarceration Project helped advance the bail reform that passed the State Legislature this month, by drafting legislation, lobbying legislatures, providing policy input, and working in coalition with other public defenders and grassroots organizations.

**MAY**
- Governor Cuomo signed the repeal of the vague and unjust gravity knife law due to the unrelenting advocacy of defender staff at our Manhattan Trial Office.
-Filed successful challenge to the Trump administration’s proposed changes to public charge regulations. The Court later blocked initial implementation of rules that would unfairly penalize 22 million noncitizens across the nation.

**JUNE**
- Our housing advocates secured once-in-a-generation reforms to protect tenants in the statewide rent regulations system—impacting 2.5 million people living in rent-regulated apartments in NYC alone.

**JULY**
- The Digital Forensics Lab opened in our Bronx Criminal Defense Office as the second Digital Forensic Lab at The Legal Aid Society. We are the first state public defender to implement in-house digital forensic analysis.
- The Digital Forensics Lab opened in our Bronx Criminal Defense Office as the second Digital Forensic Lab at The Legal Aid Society. We are the first state public defender to implement in-house digital forensic analysis.
- Granted class certification in a case that expanded state access to vital dental services for 6.1 million Medicaid recipients. NYS revised its policies to allow coverage for dental implants for the first time.

**SEPTEMBER**
- Filed litigation to prevent ICE from conducting enforcement activities in courts across NYS. Under Trump, ICE courthouse arrests and attempted arrests across NYS have increased 1700%.
- Joint juvenile and criminal Adolescent Defense teams ensured that Raise The Age reforms—which ended the automatic prosecution of 16- and 17-year-olds as adults and increased the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years old—were implemented fully and that young clients are being provided holistic representation. The new law aims to provide age-appropriate court process, services and facilities to reduce recidivism and promote wellbeing.

**2019 TIMELINE**

**Our Year in Review**

This year, The Legal Aid Society staff urgently responded to continued attacks on the rights of marginalized communities and on our institutions. We worked to develop new coalitions and programs that helped ensure New York is a safe and supportive place for all people.
What We Did in 2019

America’s ideal of equal justice under the law is only as meaningful as the experiences and outcomes our justice system creates. In 2019, staff across The Legal Aid Society’s practice areas worked to reinforce this ideal and ensure that NYC places social, racial, and economic equity at its heart.

This year, our Civil Practice delivered its expertise to clients and marginalized communities across NYC—whether by fighting housing and lending practices that discriminate against domestic violence survivors or older adults, securing settlements for individuals who were unfairly sanctioned or denied benefits, or expanding access to vital health care services.

Utilizing the experience of our staff and the power of partnership, the Criminal Defense Practice helped bring historic reform to the criminal legal system in NYS. Our efforts this year will result in the abolition of antiquated and unfair discovery, bail, and speedy trial laws in 2020.

In the Juvenile Rights Practice, staff worked zealously to safeguard the rights and needs of our clients in every facet of their lives from courts and schools to protective agencies. This year, we launched two new client-centered initiatives—the Juvenile Rights Youth Leadership Board and Set the Record Straight—which fight to decriminalize foster youth, and challenge lawless revocations of youth on aftercare.
Leading Through Partnership

This year, partnerships with community organizations, government agencies, pro bono partners, and other advocates led us to achieve sweeping reforms and case victories on behalf of all New Yorkers.

Our close collaboration with clients, government officials, and agencies helped us bring increased fairness to our criminal legal system this year. Staff from our Criminal Defense Practice joined with community advocates, many of them personally impacted by the justice system, to mount an action plan and campaign to reform key criminal justice laws, educate the public, and advocate for legislation to force needed changes to the state’s bail, discovery, and speedy trial laws. This powerful partnership was successful. As we move towards the January 1, 2020 effective date of new criminal justice laws in NYs, we remain unified with our partners, working together to ensure that these important protections are implemented correctly and not rolled back.

The Legal Aid Society’s housing practitioners made history this year by coordinating the largest statewide coalition of tenant and affordable housing advocates in recent history and securing the most significant changes to the rent regulation system in a generation. The new law expanded regulation statewide for the first time and eliminated high-rent vacancy decontrol and preferential rents. These changes will have an enormous impact on the lives of the 2.5 million people occupying rent-regulated apartments in NYC. Our Civil Practice also formed the Coalition of Labor and Disability Advocates to ensure low-wage workers’ rights are upheld and to protect older adults’ ability to remain in their homes and receive care.

Working on behalf of our young clients, our Juvenile Rights Practice lawyers were instrumental in creating the Youth Justice Coalition, a group of advocates focused on issues facing young people in the juvenile and criminal justice system. The Coalition, in turn, became a critical resource in ensuring that we could address challenges and best practices in implementing the momentous Raise the Age legislation across NYs. Passed in 2017 and implemented gradually from 2018 to 2019, the Raise the Age legislation increased the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 years old and moved young peoples’ cases into specialized court systems. Before it passed, 16- and 17-year-olds who entered the criminal justice system were treated as adults and held in adult jails and prisons—with no option to have their case heard in Family Court. Additionally, our Education Advocacy Project partnered with NYC child protection agencies to develop school stability programs and transportation solutions, and provided substantial input as the NYC Department of Education rewrote the school discipline code.

Advocating on behalf of our immigrant youth clients, a multi-disciplinary team worked with pro bono co-counsel and community advocacy partners to successfully challenge federal immigration policy that unlawfully restricted more than 6,000 young people from finding a path to lawful residence in the US. Only by working in collaboration with our community and pro bono partners can we achieve long-lasting and meaningful change. We’re only as strong as our relationships, and this year proved that the more we invest in our partners, the more we’re able to radically improve the lives of our clients.

“By working within communities we can meet the clients where they are.”

KHADINE DE PAIVA
STAFF ATTORNEY
FORECLOSURE PREVENTION PROJECT
Expertise Where it Matters

When life and liberty hang in the balance, expertise matters. Our 140+ years of experience working directly with hundreds of thousands of clients make our staff uniquely equipped to meet the needs and understand the challenges our clients face today. This year, we used our expertise to push for reforms that help dismantle the harmful barriers that can destabilize the lives of our clients and damage their communities. From our trial work, through our appeals and systemic advocacy work, our staff and attorneys truly “make the law.”

Expertise empowers us to meet the critical needs of our clients by focusing resources to help them address and overcome the issues they face.

In January of this year, we debuted our Homicide Defense Task Force—an interdisciplinary team of highly skilled senior attorneys, mitigation specialists, homicide investigators, and paralegal case handlers. Members of the Task Force respond immediately to homicide arrests and provide clients the full range of legal and social services needed for a vigorous defense. This new team is setting the standard for practice in NYC and across the country, and is already saving lives. Here’s how: Our client Mr. B was charged with Murder in the Second Degree for the stabbing death of another man in the Bronx. Despite the fact that he was not in the apartment where the incident took place, the judge remanded him at arraignments. Our Homicide Defense Task Force team spent months investigating the case, locating important witnesses and visiting the client weekly to gather information. Through those efforts, they discovered that witnesses lied in the grand jury to frame our client for the murder as a way of protecting their family member responsible for the killing. The case against Mr. B was dismissed.

Expertise guides us as we respond immediately to new attacks on long-standing protections for our clients.

As our immigrant communities continue to come under attack from overtly hostile federal immigration policies, we are the only organization in NYC with the capacity and expertise to provide them with the tireless defense they deserve. In response to an arbitrary policy change that restricted immigrant youth aged 18-21 from filing for immigration relief, our immigration litigation team filed suit with pro bono co-counsel. In the first ruling of its kind, in March 2019, the federal court found in our favor and granted injunctive relief to more than 6,600 immigrant youth who were given the opportunity to seek permanent residence and citizenship. Advocate groups in California, Washington State, New Jersey, and Massachusetts have filed similar challenges.

Our clients who struggle with mental illness are among the most misunderstood and vulnerable people in the criminal justice system. I am proud to be part of a team of attorneys and social workers who specialize in humanizing, supporting and advocating for this group.

Jeffrey Berman
Staff Attorney, MICA Unit
Criminal Defense Practice
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our 2019 Impact

Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society works in courtrooms and communities to deliver justice to New Yorkers. Our direct representation of thousands of individuals every year informs our impact litigation efforts and policy advocacy—providing us with a powerful perspective from which to begin dismantling the systemic barriers that keep our clients from thriving.

We stand with our clients, as we push beyond individual cases to effect change on a broader, societal level. In 2019, we were one of NYC’s first responders in times of legal crisis, mobilizing to use law and policy to fight mass deportations, violence in communities, homelessness, the separation of children from their families, and more.

This year, all across The Legal Aid Society, we forged meaningful partnerships with communities and organizations to launch new initiatives and improve our ability to serve new and existing clients.

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<td>taxpayer dollars saved by the Time Saved Campaign, which works to ensure that our clients do not remain in jail because of an administrative error in a sentence calculation. 50 clients were served and 7,381 days in prison were saved.</td>
<td>active Law Reform cases on the docket set to benefit millions of people across the city, state, and nation. These cases span the spectrum of social justice concerns from criminal justice reform to immigrant rights, health law, homelessness, housing, juvenile rights, prisoners’ rights, and public benefits.</td>
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<td>clients served by the Parole Revocation Defense Unit. The work of the unit ensures that people who return to NYC and are on parole are able to remain in the community and reconnect with family and friends.</td>
<td>&gt;80% of all 16 year olds arraigned under the new Raise the Age law were moved from Criminal Court, where they would be treated as adults, to Family Court, where their cases belong. Served by integrated practice teams in all five boroughs, our experts in adolescent defense saw a rise in filings and achieved fairer outcomes for clients.</td>
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<td>people served by our Civil Practice in over 50,484 cases across all five boroughs of NYC. Our Civil cases cover a diverse range of issue areas including housing, homelessness, employment, health, public assistance, education, immigration, and more.</td>
<td>830 general and special education consultations provided by our Education Advocacy Project on behalf of children in need of educational support, resulting in 365 new cases, and the facilitation of 20 substantive trainings presented to community groups, agencies, law schools and advocates.</td>
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Setting The Record Straight

Despite having never been convicted of any crime, our clients, such as Kyle, are often denied employment due to purported criminal history. Kyle was denied employment with the NYC Department of Education because of two open juvenile offender arrests from 2007. Neither had been filed in court and both should have been sealed years earlier. After many failed attempts to resolve this matter on his own by contacting multiple city entities, our Special Litigation and Law Reform team successfully got his fingerprint record destroyed and sealed his open arrest records—clearing the way for Kyle’s future employment.

Reforming DNA Case Law

NYC maintains an unregulated and largely secretive databank containing the DNA profiles of more than 82,000 people that provides no protection to persons wrongly included in the databank. This year, our DNA Unit made new groundbreaking case law challenging NYC’s controversial local DNA index. In Samy F. v. Fabrizio, we defended Samy, who was 16 at the time of his arrest, and whose DNA sample was taken from him without parental consent. Despite our success in fighting his conviction and sealing his case, the prosecution would not expunge Samy’s DNA from the NYC index. We filed a motion arguing that under NYS law, because Samy’s case ended without a conviction, his DNA should not be stored in the NYC databank for the rest of his life. The judge denied the motion because the NYC DNA databank was not bound by NYS DNA laws.

Since Samy’s case was over and he had no further conviction to challenge, there was not an obvious path to correct this unfair ruling. Our attorneys did not give up. The DNA Unit went to the appellate court with a petition for a civil writ of mandamus, a procedure that had never been used before to challenge the denial of DNA expungement. The appellate court granted Samy’s petition, and ruled for the first time that NYC’s rogue DNA index must follow State genetic privacy laws. This precedent allowed other judges to protect the DNA of those not convicted of a crime and provided a new way to challenge other unfair genetic privacy rulings in the future.

Advancing Access to Benefits

After being denied seven dental implants from her Medicaid managed care plan, Ms. D contacted The Legal Aid Society through our Access to Benefits helpline. Her diagnosis of epilepsy with partial complex seizures made it unsafe for her to use dentures or any prosthetic. Missing nearly all of her molars, she was unable to eat solid foods and resorted to blending all of her food—against her doctor’s orders to eat solid, plant-based foods. We filed an appeal on Ms. D’s behalf and argued that her current managed care plan did not act reasonably with sound medical judgment, nor was it in Ms. D’s best interest. The appeal included several doctors’ letters, a narrative from the client, and academic articles examining the relationship between epilepsy and prosthetic rehabilitation. A dental expert on behalf of the Department of Financial Services overturned the denial in full, approving all seven implants and related services. Ms. D will now have a full set of teeth.
Ensuring Affordable Housing

Until recently, it was common practice when the rental market was soft for landlords in NYC to offer a “preferential rent” to rent-stabilized tenants. A preferential rent is a rent that is at “market” but below the legal rent. When the market improved or when the tenant complained about repairs, the landlord was able to raise the rent substantially. Our Housing Justice Unit recently helped Ms. S, a single, pregnant mother of a seven-year-old child, maintain her apartment’s low preferential rent despite the landlord’s concerted efforts to raise her rent dramatically. With an amputated leg and prosthetic, Ms. S has limited mobility. She relies solely on Supplemental Security Income and public assistance, and her rent is paid through Family Homelessness & Eviction Prevention Supplement (FHEPS), a subsidy established for families facing homelessness created as a result of previous litigation by The Legal Aid Society.

Creating a Seat at the Table for Survivors

In June 2019, the Criminal Defense Practice’s Exploitation Intervention Project celebrated the first anniversary of its Client Advisory Board. The Advisory Board was created in response to a joint study on prostitution-related offenses and trafficking survivors published with the Urban Institute, which recommended integrating survivor consultants or peer-mentors into organizations that represent criminalized people. The four-person Advisory Board has met with staff monthly, helping to address decisions about post-conviction representation, engagement with outside organizations, and policy efforts. As trafficking survivors, members are best equipped to guide our response to clients engaged in the sex trade. Board members also represent the Exploitation Intervention Project at community meetings, and help advocate for policy reform, improve training materials, and facilitate organizational training. To date, the Exploitation Intervention Project has vacated over 1,750 convictions for 111 trafficking survivors. As one Board member observed, “We’re just at the beginning...I know I’m doing something good and have faith in the work we’re doing.”

We have fought to make housing court a just and equitable place for our clients.

AISSATOU BARRY STAFF ATTORNEY HOUSING PRACTICE

Reuniting Families in the Foster Care System

Minimizing the impact of trauma on children and families is a heightened goal in all child welfare matters. Our counsel and strategy on each case must balance the harm to children caused by removal from their home and placement in foster care with the goal of keeping children safe in their homes. We represented Michael in a child abuse matter—he was eight years old, autistic and deaf. Juvenile Rights advocates fought to have him returned home with supportive services, recognizing that a child with his needs would not thrive in a foster home. But when his parents gave birth to a newborn, Administration for Children’s Services filed a petition to remove the baby, stating that the baby would be released only if Michael was out of their home. Struggling with the unconscionable demand to choose between two children, Michael’s family worked with our team to resolve NYC’s concerns. His child welfare attorney worked with the Education Advocacy Project to ensure Michael’s home was an appropriate setting where he could have his educational, social, and emotional needs met. Our advocates made a compelling argument about the parents’ gradual evolution to acknowledge the depth of their son’s special needs and argued that the parents had the capacity to heighten their supervision and keep both children safely at home. Justice prevailed, and the judge released the baby home while also allowing Michael to remain at home with intensive services.

I fight to let our young clients have a voice in court.

HYEJI KIM STAFF ATTORNEY JUVENILE RIGHTS PRACTICE
In 2019, threats to the safety and liberty of our clients propelled our Practice Areas to launch new initiatives, expand services, and develop strategies to hire new, dedicated staff. Our teams worked tirelessly across The Legal Aid Society to stand up and speak out on behalf of at-risk New Yorkers.

Civil Practice

Our Civil Practice operates across a network of neighborhood and courthouse-based offices as well as individual citywide units and programs. Throughout all of our offices and initiatives, we provide comprehensive legal assistance to clients with problems involving housing, homelessness, and foreclosure prevention; family law and domestic violence; employment law; public assistance benefits; disability-related assistance; health law; HIV/AIDS and chronic diseases; elder law; tax; consumer law; education law; immigration; community development legal assistance; and reentry and reintegration matters for formerly incarcerated clients.

As a leader for marginalized individuals, we collaborate closely with the communities we serve by partnering with community organizations, social services and pro bono partners, law schools, and the legal services sector. Utilizing the unparalleled expertise of our staff and one of the largest civil caseloads in the nation—working on 50,484 individual cases and legal matters benefitting more than 125,000 low-income adults and children—we identify emerging trends and quickly respond to the needs of underserved populations in NYC. With decades of impact litigation, and legislative and policy advocacy work, we fight regressive policies and advance efforts that significantly improve the law.

Criminal Defense Practice

The Legal Aid Society’s Criminal Defence Practice has been at the forefront of public defense in NYC since 1876—playing a major role in shaping the practice of criminal defense and the criminal legal system.

The Practice’s expansive reach spans from our client representation in courts across all five boroughs of the city to our ongoing, active presence and partnership in communities. As the primary public defender in NYC, we are committed to protecting the rights of the most marginalized and disenfranchised people in society. We provide representation on trial and post-conviction litigation on close to 200,000 direct legal matters, while our class action litigation and policy reform work address unjust laws and policies. This year we launched a Wrongful Conviction Unit to represent people on their claims of innocence and created our Cased Closed project to assist New Yorkers with the sealing of old convictions that bar housing and employment opportunities. Our scope as the country's oldest and largest public defender goes beyond any single client or legal matter. Through community engagement and a focus on pre-entry, reentry, and wraparound services and resources for our clients, we do not wait for people to be arrested to help them. We are in communities throughout New York City working with our partners to prevent arrests from taking place altogether.

Juvenile Rights Practice

The Legal Aid Society’s Juvenile Rights Practice ensures the health and welfare of NYC’s children in courtrooms and communities. For over 50 years, we have tenaciously defended the rights, needs, and interests of 90% of the children who appear in Family Courts in New York City on Child Welfare, Parental Rights, PINS, and Juvenile Delinquency matters.

The Juvenile Rights Practice specializes in meeting the unique legal needs of young people, with over 200 experts working with over 34,000 children each year to address the traumatic and emotionally-charged cases affecting our clients and their families. As trusted confidants and advocates, our attorneys for children, social workers, paralegals, and investigators provide comprehensive representation while navigating multiple systems and challenges affecting our clients.

In addition to our direct representation, we continue to partner with law firms to advance impact litigation aimed at system-wide abuses within the juvenile justice, child welfare, and educational systems. Through our efforts to defend the rights, needs, and interests of our clients, we drive systemic changes and policy reforms in New York.

Pro Bono Practice

Whether through individual representation of an at-risk client or bringing groundbreaking class action and civil rights litigation, the Pro Bono Practice provides over 3,500 volunteers with training, supervision, and mentorship each year. This allows us to deliver life-changing legal assistance to thousands of residents in every borough of NYC.

Our volunteers work in partnership with The Legal Aid Society staff to expand our ability to provide legal services to a greater number of clients and communities. All pro bono referrals are screened by our attorneys and legal professionals who are experts in the field. Those same experts remain on the case to provide mentorship and guidance throughout the representation.

Working with professionals from New York’s major law firms, corporate law departments, and students from both local and national law schools, our pro bono volunteers help secure the legal rights of low-income New Yorkers in need of counsel who are unable to afford it. In the last year, our pro bono partners provided over 242,000 hours of legal assistance.
The Legal Aid Society Staff Awards
Our staff is our greatest asset at The Legal Aid Society.

The Marden Awards

Without the people who dedicate themselves to the fight every day, pursuing our mission to deliver equal justice would not be possible. The Legal Aid Society’s Marden Awards celebrate our hardworking staff and honor their commitment and achievements.

The Sandra Scott Memorial Award

The Legal Aid Society suffered a terrible loss on July 1, 2016, when our beloved Chief Financial Officer Sandra Scott lost her valiant struggle against cancer. Her courage, integrity, and dedication serve as her legacy. The Sandra Scott Memorial Award for Excellence recognizes the dedication and outstanding achievement of a member of our non-lawyer central administrative staff.

Below are the dedicated staff members honored with our 2019 Marden Awards.

**ORISON S. MARDEN MANAGER AWARD**
Barbara Byrne, Supervising Attorney, Queens Criminal Defense Practice
Anne Callagy, Director of Government Benefits, Civil Practice
Reginald Haley, Supervising Attorney, Brooklyn Criminal Defense Practice*

**ORISON S. MARDEN STAFF ATTORNEY AWARD**
Daniel K. Hsiung, Staff Attorney, Low Income Taxpayer Unit, Civil Practice

**ORISON S. MARDEN STAFF AWARD**
Juan Alonzo, Paralegal, Criminal Appeals Bureau
Eric Barreto, Support Staff, Administration (Shared Services)*

*Posthumous

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Anne Callagy, Director of Government Benefits, Civil Practice
Reginald Haley, Supervising Attorney, Brooklyn Criminal Defense Practice*

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Jennifer Lewis, Talent Acquisitions Manager in Human Resources and the Juvenile Rights Practice, is the 2019 recipient of the Sandra Scott Memorial Award.
2019 Pro Bono Publico Awards

The Legal Aid Society held the 2019 Pro Bono Publico Awards Ceremony at the Prince George Ballroom on Monday, October 28, honoring over 260 individual attorneys and 41 law firms for their outstanding and sustained achievements in pro bono services. The firms recognized were nominated by our staff in every borough for their exceptional commitment to ensure that no New Yorker is denied the right to equal justice. Judge Edwina G. Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives for the NYS courts, presented the awards to the honorees.

The Public Interest Law Leadership Award was presented to Jennifer L. Kroman, of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. Beginning in 2012, Jennifer’s collaboration with the Exploitation Intervention Project established a groundbreaking pro bono project representing survivors of human trafficking seeking vacatur of prior convictions. The work has become a calling, and Jennifer is now a nationally recognized advocate for survivors, assisting legal services organizations throughout the country with lobbying for legislation and establishing similar volunteer projects.

The 2019 Honorable Jonathan Lippman Pro Bono Law Firm Award was presented to Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, in recognition of its exceptional pro bono commitment to our organization and clients. Last year, nearly 100 Debevoise staff contributed over 4,600 hours of critical legal assistance to clients in areas as diverse as immigration defense, disability advocacy, civil rights litigation, criminal appeals, and the preservation of affordable housing.

2019 PRO BONO LAW FIRM HONOR ROLL

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Arnold & Porter LLP
Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Covington & Burling LLP
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
Crowell & Moring LLP
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer US LLP
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
Friedman Kaplan Seiler & Adelman LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Goodwin Procter LLP
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Mayer Brown LLP
Milbank LLP
Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP
Morvillo Abramowitz Grand Iason & Anello PC
O’Melveny & Myers LLP
Orick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
Penn ProBono Alumni Consulting, Inc.
Petrillo Klein & Boxer LLP
Proskauer Rose LLP
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP
Ropes & Gray LLP
Shearman & Sterling LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
White & Case LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
Winston & Strawn LLP
Our Supporters

We are deeply grateful to these law firms, corporations, foundations, and individuals for their support of The Legal Aid Society and our core principle that no New Yorker should be denied access to justice because of poverty.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

$800,000+
Robin Hood Foundation
Single Stop USA, Inc.

$500,000 - $999,999
BNY Mellon
Fund for The City of New York
Bernard F. and Abe S. Simon Foundation, Inc.
The Joseph H. and R. Hillman Foundation

$34,000 - $99,999
40 Worth Associates LLC
The Alice Lawrence Foundation, Inc.
Ameriprise Financial, Inc.
American International Group
The Alice Lawrence Foundation, Inc.
40 Worth Associates LLC
Mastercard
The Estée Lauder Companies, Inc.
EisnerAmper LLP
Data & Society Research Institute, Inc.
Cuomo Campaign Committee
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

$25,000 - $33,999
The Estate of Marcia Thompson
MAC AIDS Fund
Henry & Lucy Moses Fund, Inc.
The Charles Evans Hughes Center for Urban Community Services, Inc.
Assurant Foundation
$50,000 - $99,999
Richard and Kerri Bartlett Fund
The Hallie Leighton Tikkun Olam Fund
Labaton Sucharow LLP
The Rebecca and James Katz Fund
K. Hovnanian Companies, LLC.
Jacobs/Walker Family Fund
The Hanft Charitable Fund
The Goldstone Family Foundation
Goldey Giving Account
The BP Group
Charitable Trust

$20,000 - $24,999
The Maitri and Vivek Fund
THE MILLION TO MILLION

$15,000 - $19,999
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Chubb Limited
The Carroll Family Trust
A & J Saks Foundation Inc.
Willis Towers Watson
Viacom Inc.
Phalarope Foundation
The Peter Jennings Foundation, Inc.
Panini America, Inc.
John O’Connor Charitable Gift Fund

$10,000 - $14,999
The Abbey/Dietz Family Fund
The Morgan Stanley Charitable Foundation
The Kornblau and Susannah Gardiner Charitable Fund
The Manhattan Foundation
The Isak and Rose Weinman Foundation, Inc.
Immigrant Justice Corps
Morgan Stanley
Kurtz Family Foundation
The David Kornblau and Susannah Gardiner Charitable Fund
The Isak and Rose Weinman Foundation, Inc.

$5,000 - $9,999
Bank of America
The Hilaria and Alex Baldwin Foundation, Inc.
Anonymous
The Zegar Family Fund
The Wonderful Foundation
Wolf Run Foundation, Inc.
Murray and Phyllis Warschauer Fund
The Tufenkian Foundation
The Tow Foundation Inc.
Take-Two Interactive Software Inc.
Strategic Claims Services
The Steptoe Foundation
Joan and Laurence Sorkin Charitable Fund
Moses Silverman and Betty Robbins Charitable Fund
Garrett K. Smith Giving Account
Joan and Laurence Sorkin Charitable Fund
The Stephanie Foundation
Steiner Family Foundation
Strategic Claims Services
Take Two Interactive Software Inc.
The Tow Foundation Inc.
Kenneth Vitter and Judith Azon Charitable Fund
Mumpy and Phyllis Warschauer Foundation
Wolf Run Foundation, Inc.
The Wonderful Foundation
Grin’V Winery and Jeffrey S. Wood Charitable Fund
The Zagar Family Fund
Lawrence J. Zweifach & Eleanor Gross Fund

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

$25,000+
Christopher W. Johnson
Jeffrey L. Kessler, Esq. and Regina D. Kessler
Stacey and Eric Minich

$10,000 - $24,999
Law S. Rothfield, Esq.
John K. Carroll, III, Esq. and Elizabeth Carroll
Thomas M. Cerasano
William R. Dougherty, Esq. and Tena Dougherty
Daniel F. Kolb, Esq. and Ann C. Kolb
Stacey and Eric Minich
Tammy Mandryk, Esq.
Clare O’Brien, Esq. and Peter M. Tautman, Esq.
Brian J. Polovoy, Esq.
William D. Swett, Esq.
Bart R. Schwartz, Esq.
Robert C. and Elizabeth Sheehan
Aviva J. Solomon, Esq. and David A. Green, MD

$5,000 - $9,999
Peter A. Akirin, Esq. and Laurie Akirin
Jennifer J. Barnett, Esq.
Nieves Baruca, Esq. and Alf N. Khawaja, Esq.
Shay J. Bankin, Esq. and Linda Lenzin Bankin
Christopher D. Belauw, Esq.
Jorine L. Bernstein, PhD and Randy M. Mastro, Esq.
Mary LuBelt, Esq. and Aaron K. Marx, Esq.
Douglas F. Curtis, Esq.
The Honorable Charlotte E. Davidson and Alex Verbin-Chaikhes, Esq.
Nan and Ron Davis
June S. Drippard, Esq.
Valerie L. Fitch, Esq. and Edward Flender, Esq.
Christopher L. Garcia, Esq.
Bess Thirka Golding, Esq. and Bryan J. Golding, Esq.
Linde C. Goldenstien, Esq. and Gay S. Maxwell, PhD
Mark P. Goodman, Esq.
Wade C. Guyton
Jason M. Haplin, Esq.
Martha C. Hillyard, PhD and Steven A. Hillyard, PhD
Victor L. Hsu, Esq.
David G. Januszewski, Esq. and Kim Januszewski
Jaime L. Leun, Esq. and Mark Antzranch
Susan B. and Art Lindauer
Margery and Todd Mayer
J. Kevin McCarthy, Esq. and Kristen S. McCarthy
Margery and Todd Mayer
Bonnie G. Joffe, Esq.
Marvin and Susan Merian
Perry A. Napolitano, Esq.
Charles C. Platt, Esq.
Katherine L. Pringle, Esq. and John P. McCormick

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## Financial Summary

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>26,165,376</td>
<td>11,758,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables from grants and governmental contracts, and other</td>
<td>41,985,598</td>
<td>69,667,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments, at fair value</td>
<td>4,178,987</td>
<td>24,907,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred charges and other assets</td>
<td>7,050,314</td>
<td>6,661,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, at cost, net</td>
<td>5,514,794</td>
<td>4,917,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$104,895,069</td>
<td>$117,912,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>2,940,058</td>
<td>5,203,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan payable</td>
<td>2,128,222</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued payroll and other employees expenses</td>
<td>32,249,063</td>
<td>32,324,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program advances</td>
<td>513,036</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued postretirement health and benefits cost</td>
<td>52,375,870</td>
<td>58,332,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension liability</td>
<td>10,187,122</td>
<td>14,999,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred lease incentives and lease obligations</td>
<td>18,967,803</td>
<td>17,854,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$119,361,174</td>
<td>$128,715,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without donor restrictions</td>
<td>(20,144,724)</td>
<td>(17,071,187)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With donor restrictions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose and time restricted</td>
<td>3,812,596</td>
<td>4,202,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetual in nature</td>
<td>2,066,023</td>
<td>2,066,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total with donor restrictions</strong></td>
<td>5,678,619</td>
<td>6,268,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net asset deficiency</strong></td>
<td>(14,466,105)</td>
<td>(10,802,869)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net asset deficiency</strong></td>
<td>$104,895,069</td>
<td>$117,912,182</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please visit www.legalaidnyc.org for the full financial report.

### REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Defense Practice</td>
<td>160,636,826</td>
<td>172,563,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Rights Practice</td>
<td>46,439,432</td>
<td>47,993,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Practice</td>
<td>66,907,616</td>
<td>69,093,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions (net of direct expenses related to the benefit)</td>
<td>14,870,225</td>
<td>14,183,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return (loss) on investments, net</td>
<td>358,946</td>
<td>801,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court awards</td>
<td>278,010</td>
<td>14,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>1,659</td>
<td>2,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$289,512,714</td>
<td>$304,653,249</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please visit www.legalaidnyc.org for the full financial report.
**Employee Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2019 Total</th>
<th>2018 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Other Expenses</td>
<td>4,816,430</td>
<td>4,171,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>367,667</td>
<td>332,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trial Minutes</td>
<td>274,649</td>
<td>237,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>5,458,734</td>
<td>4,741,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2019 Total</th>
<th>2018 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019 Financial Efficiency</td>
<td>53,774,385</td>
<td>52,384,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNDRAISING</td>
<td>4,394,060</td>
<td>3,784,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMIN &amp; FUNDRAISING</td>
<td>6,606,284</td>
<td>5,938,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENSES</td>
<td>383,497,860</td>
<td>370,476,946</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Employee Compensation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2019 Total</th>
<th>2018 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Employee Compensation</td>
<td>4,072,754</td>
<td>3,552,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMIN &amp; FUNDRAISING</td>
<td>4,394,060</td>
<td>3,784,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENSES</td>
<td>383,497,860</td>
<td>370,476,946</td>
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</table>

**2019 Total Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We spend 93 cents of every dollar on our programs.