



Delivering Justice in Every Borough

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Annual Report 2020





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 New York City.

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 our City.





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We Are: Always Defenders, Always **Advocates, Always Allies**

The COVID-19 pandemic is having an unprecedented impact on New York City and the everyday lives of millions of New Yorkers. Our work has always taken an explicit racial and social equity lens, and the current crisis has further focused our efforts to advocate for the needs of New York's marginalized communities. In this most challenging year, the staff of The Legal Aid Society have been game-changers, innovating and creating new ways to defend, advocate on behalf of, and act as an ally to our clients.

300+

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81%

of evictions prevented in full representation matters, allowing a total of 3,274 New Yorkers and their families to stay in their homes. We delayed evictions in an additional 16% of cases.

COVID-19 education-related consultations focusing on remote learning access, special education services, and free school meals.











Our Leadership

Guided by Passionate 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.

Our Leadership

In This Section

Report of the Attorney-in-Chief Report of the President & Chair Board of Directors Leadership



Report of the **Attorney-in-Chief**

"No one has a deeper understanding or greater empathy for our client communities than the individuals who make up The Legal Aid Society."

Report of the Attorney-in-Chief

No one has a deeper understanding or greater empathy for our client communities than the individuals who make up The Legal Aid Society. We are over two thousand attorneys, 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.

This year that determination and commitment was tested under extraordinary circumstances. As New York City became the epicenter of a global pandemic and once again a visible force in exposing the scourge of racial inequity, our staff stood up for the City's most vulnerable on multiple critical fronts.

With little notice, our team built a remote office, outfitted our staff to work from home, and created virtual intake and remote hotlines, ensuring that The Legal Aid Society was open, every day, to serve our clients. As courts shifted to virtual proceedings, schools closed, jobs were lost, and families stood in fear of being evicted, our staff adapted and innovated to protect our clients' rights and safety. We advocated to make the courts safer for our communities and virtual proceedings more protective of clients' rights. We fought to free vulnerable clients from incarceration. As we have always done in times of crisis, The Legal Aid Society defended, advocated for, and stood up as allies for the people of New York.

Racial justice has always been an intrinsic element of our work at The Legal Aid Society, and this year was no exception as we stood with advocates and allies around the country and filed suit against the New York City Police Department for their brutal response to local demonstrations. Now and always, we remain committed to being a check on systems that continue to suppress opportunity and foster inequality, and to look internally to create a stronger, more inclusive workplace.

We know there is much work still to be done. As we look forward, we are mindful of the shifts in the government, social and economic landscapes, which, taken together, will drive opportunity for those we serve. It is our sincerest hope that our government leaders will take immediate action to tackle the multitude of unprecedented challenges that we currently face: racial, economic, health, housing, education, employment - and especially to address the injustices that have so long characterized our criminal legal system.

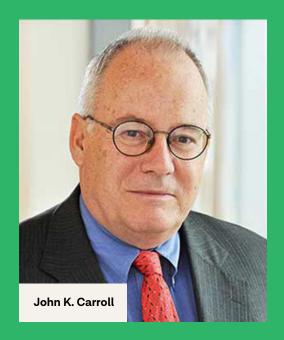
COVID-19 hit Legal Aid very hard this year as many staff members and their families battled with the virus. We pay special tribute to George DowningJr. who lost his life. George, a paralegal with the Criminal Defense Practice in Brooklyn, was a muchloved member of the Legal Aid family, along with his partner of many years, Charlene Abney, a paralegal

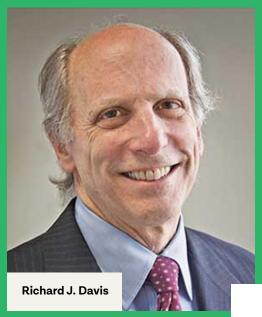
in the Bronx Criminal Defense office. We desperately hope that the next phase of this pandemic spares our staff and our communities.

Despite the challenges of the past year, we have never wavered in our commitment to our communities. Though the crisis has not passed, we will continue to rise to meet the moment. As we prepare for the work in the year ahead, we remain vigilant in our commitment to justice.

Janet Sabel

Attorney-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer





Report of the President & Chair

"As one of the most difficult and disturbing years in memory comes to a close, we look forward with great hope and inspiration."

Report of the President & Chair of the Board

As one of the most difficult and disturbing years in memory comes to a close, we look forward with great hope and inspiration. We cannot praise enough the achievements of the management and staff of The Legal Aid Society. Their dedication to the work and to our clients continues to be an inspiration to all. Once again, they have demonstrated that The Legal Aid Society is truly the legal profession's first responders.

Our clients have suffered disproportionately from COVID-19. From the very beginning of the pandemic, our staff has fought to save their homes, to preserve their immigration status, to defend their liberty from incarceration, and more. We are fortunate to have both a dynamic leadership team -- led by Janet Sabel, our CEO and Attorney-in-Chief; Archana Jayaram, Chief Operating Officer; and Scott Rosenberg, General Counsel -- and dedicated Practice Leaders -- Adriene Holder, Civil; Tina Luongo, Criminal Defense; and Dawne Mitchell, Juvenile Rights.

We pay special tribute this year to our colleague George Downing Jr., a member of the Brooklyn arraignments team who passed due to COVID-19 related complications.

As we look to the future with hope and determination, we are reminded of the words shared with us at the Servant of Justice Dinner a few years ago by President-elect Joe Biden. He praised The Legal Aid Society for its "vital role ensuring access to justice for vulnerable New Yorkers... The people of New York City and the nation for that matter are better off for your daily commitment to give voice to the powerless and demand equal justice for all."

Thank you all.

John K. Carroll

President of

The Legal Aid Society

Richard J. Davis

Chair of

the Board of Directors

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.

Janet Sabel

Attorney-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer

Adriene Holder

Attorney-in-Charge, Civil Practice

Tina Luongo

Attorney-in-Charge, Criminal Defense Practice

Dawne Mitchell

Attorney-in-Charge, Juvenile Rights Practice

Archana Jayaram

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2020 Year in Review

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What We Did
Our 2020 Impact
Our Practice Areas

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We Are: Always Defenders, Always Advocates, Always Allies

The COVID-19 pandemic is having an unprecedented impact on New York City and the everyday lives of millions of New Yorkers. Our work has always taken an explicit racial and social equity lens, and the current crisis has further focused our efforts to advocate for the needs of New York's marginalized communities. In this most challenging year, the staff of The Legal Aid Society have been game-changers, innovating and creating new ways to defend, advocate on behalf of, and act as an ally for our clients.

As defenders, we moved quickly to secure the release of medically vulnerable people following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic on Rikers Island, in immigration detention facilities, and in upstate prisons. Our swift action freed hundreds of people whose medical conditions risked transforming detention into a death sentence.

During this crisis, New Yorkers in economically unstable positions - the populations at which we target our services - have experienced unparalleled disruption to their lives. The Legal Aid Society's advocacy kept families from eviction through efforts that included the passage of the landmark Safe Harbor Act. Simultaneously, we worked tirelessly to ensure all individuals were able to access the

unemployment benefits and government assistance they were entitled to, including expanding the groups of people to whom federal CARES Act recovery rebate checks were automatically issued.

As an ally to our youngest clients, we supported students in homeless shelters and children in foster care who did not have access to technology and internet service when schools went remote. We made sure young New Yorkers had access to technology as well as special education support and services.

When our city rose up in the wake of George Floyd's murder, The Legal Aid Society stood with Black Lives Matter protesters who marched against police brutality and filed suit against the NYPD for their unconscionable but familiarly brutal response.

Building on our experience of responding to crises such as 9/11 and Superstorm Sandy, and utilizing the strength of more than 2,000 staff across our three Practices (Civil, Juvenile Rights, and Criminal Defense), our response has combined high-level advocacy efforts with rapid scaling-up of our capacity to assist our clients and their emergent changing needs remotely.



We Are: Freeing Vulnerable **New Yorkers During a Global Pandemic**

The Legal Aid Society filed dozens of emergency cases seeking the release of medically vulnerable people following the severe, uncontrolled outbreak of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic on Rikers Island, in immigration detention facilities, and in upstate prisons. Together, our trial offices and special litigation units succeeded in securing the release of hundreds of people whose disabilities and medical conditions risked transforming detention into a death sentence.

As our clients across practices were released back to their homes, we assisted them and their families on a range of housing, employment, and benefits issues (including SNAP, public assistance, Medicaid, and disability) to better stabilize them during the pandemic.

COVID-19 has laid bare New York State's unwarranted policy of incarcerating individuals with alleged parole violations. In April, The Legal Aid Society, working with co-counsel, brought a class-action constitutional challenge to New York's policy of automatically jailing people awaiting hearings. The lawsuit demands the opportunity for the release of over a thousand people locked up for alleged parole violations, many of whom are incarcerated for something as small as failing to register a new address, neglecting to report a change in employment, or missing a meeting with their parole officer.



Now more than ever we must remember that our prisons and jails are part of our community. Removing people from prisons and jails is a moral imperative to protect people's lives and prevent community spread. This extraordinary global pandemic also magnifies the urgency of a public health approach to social problems. It has never been clearer that we must shift societal resources away from institutions of state violence and towards public health and other services that build safe and strong communities."

Stefen R. ShortSupervising Attorney,
Prisoners' Rights Project



We Are: Standing with Black Lives Matter and Taking on Police Brutality

The Legal Aid Society responded to the brutal crackdown on protests that erupted following the murder of George Floyd. Our team launched a hotline and clinic to support protesters with legal advice and assistance on criminal charges relating to protest activity and on how to hold police officers accountable for wrongful arrests and excessive force.

In October, The Legal Aid Society and the New York Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit seeking to hold City and police leadership accountable for the NYPD's repeated pattern of indiscriminately brutalizing peaceful protesters, highlighting eleven extraordinary instances of violence, including indiscriminate baton strikes and pepper spray and "kettling" protesters in order to meet them with violence and mass arrest.



This summer, thousands of New Yorkers took to the streets to demand our City leaders take seriously the NYPD's long history of racist and abusive policing. The City has yet to fully reckon with the killings of men like Sean Bell and Eric Garner, or the ongoing racial disparities in stop-andfrisk and the enforcement of so-called 'quality of life' offenses. We need new leadership that understands the necessity of reimagining public safety and investing in communities, not cops."

Jennvine Wong
Supervising Attorney,
Cop Accountability Project



We Are: Defending Homeless New Yorkers and Helping Tenants Avoid Eviction

Working together with partner organizations, The Legal Aid Society immediately advocated for a residential and commercial eviction moratorium – since extended twice, first by Executive Order and then by Administrative Order to September 30 – ensuring that individuals unable to make rent due to reduced income did not face being made homeless during a major public health crisis. The Governor instituted a new partial moratorium on October 1 which lasts until December, however it is not an automatic moratorium. In the months that have followed, we have advocated on behalf of tenants across the city who are at risk of falling victim to the lack of a comprehensive moratorium. Unfortunately, we are seeing tenants being evicted during this health crisis due to the lack of a comprehensive moratorium that helps everyone.

We also immediately began assisting state legislators and city council members as they drafted and introduced new COVID-19 response legislation. We advocated for the expansion of voucher programs, the enactment of "Good Cause" legislation to protect New Yorkers in market-rate housing from eviction, robust rent arrears protection for tenants, and safe harbor legislation.

Over the summer, the Safe Harbor Act was enacted limiting a landlord's ability to secure a possessory judgment against a tenant who has been unable to pay the rent due to COVID-19 related income losses. Rather than putting a tenant and their family out on the street, a landlord will be able to secure only a monetary judgment. Importantly, this Safe Harbor Act protects all households, including immigrant families.

The work is ongoing. Without a long-term solution, many New Yorkers will still face eviction as moratorium protections expire.

Simultaneously, The Legal Aid Society has successfully advocated for providing shelter residents and street homeless individuals with hotel isolation accommodation, provided by the NYC Department of Homeless Services, due to the risks inherent in congregate housing.

For New York's youngest homeless population, a class action settlement we procured in C.W. v. The City of New York will expand access to essential, life-saving youth programs and services for runaway and homeless youth ages 16-20 in New York City and make citywide procedural changes that will improve the system for young people who seek shelter or services going forward.

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This pandemic has already led to the loss of millions of jobs across the country. With unemployment rates skyrocketing, we must protect the most vulnerable of tenants in New York who will not be able to pay rent during this crisis."

Judith Goldiner

Attorney-in-Charge, Civil Law Reform Unit



We Are: Securing Critical Income Support During Record Unemployment

Given that this unprecedented public health crisis has brought our economy to a virtual halt, with unemployment rates soaring, requests for services tied to employment law have exploded. We share our technical expertise on a range of issues including unemployment benefits; protection for whistleblowers and from retaliation for seeking a safe work environment; increased health and safety standards including increased use of personal protective equipment (PPE); rules and requirements around testing and tracking; and exploitation of workers through misclassification as independent contractors.

Our staff has directly advocated at all levels of government to expand access to benefits for clients who were both previously receiving benefits and those who are now newly eligible as a result of the pandemic. We continue to lead advocacy efforts among legal services and community-based organizations in conferring with the City about amending, adapting, and expanding the application process to meet the needs of the public who not only cannot work but also now cannot attend in-person appointments. We remain connected to all of our elderly, disabled, and homebound clients to ensure they have access to food, since senior centers, and other regular food sources became limited.

The Legal Aid Society also successfully advocated at the federal level to expand the groups of people to whom federal CARES Act recovery rebate checks are automatically issued – including veterans and recipients of SSI. This has resulted in many of the most vulnerable New Yorkers getting much-needed funds far more expeditiously. For our low-income clients ineligible for automatic recovery rebate payments, we have developed a program to assist their use of the IRS online non-filer tool for their recovery rebates. In addition, the Low-Income Tax Practice has conducted training on accessing recovery rebate funds and has created materials to help guide clients and community organizations in obtaining the benefit.



The pandemic has shone a spotlight on the evils of misclassification. A worker is a worker is a worker...and a worker should be protected."

Richard Blum

Staff Attorney, **Employment Law Unit**



We Are: Advocating for Homeless Students and Children in Foster Care

The COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges and exacerbated a number of issues that our young clients face. Many clients did not have access to technology and internet service when schools went remote. The Legal Aid Society worked with the Department of Education (DOE) to ensure that children in homeless shelters and children in foster care would have first priority to receive DOE internet-enabled iPads. Remote learning proved challenging for many students, particularly for students with disabilities. Many did not receive the special education supports and services to which they were entitled; others received services but were unable to benefit from the remote format. The Legal Aid Society is working with families to seek compensatory services to help students with disabilities regain lost ground. Realizing that yellow bus capacity for the fall would be severely limited due to social distancing requirements, we worked with the Administration for Children's Services and the DOE to ensure that students in foster care and students in temporary housing would have access to yellow bus service or alternate forms of transportation when schools reopened.

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In today's world, access to technology is a need, not a luxury. The fact that the DOE distributed over 300,000 devices to students in need, underscores the fact that a huge segment of NYC's student population had no access to technology in their homes. Students who do not have access to technology are denied an equitable education."

Cara Chambers

Director of the Kathryn A. McDonald Education Advocacy Project



We Are: Protecting Children by Ending the Use of Prone Restraints

As lawyers for youth in NYC, we have seen firsthand the disparate representation and treatment of our City's Black and brown children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. The Juvenile Rights Practice introduced a comprehensive Black Youth Justice Agenda in the wake of national attention to the deaths of George Floyd and 16-year-old Cornelius Fredericks at the hands of oppressive government actors. Tragically, their deaths and the catastrophic injuries to several NYS children in care or under its supervision were caused by prone restraints. These appalling atrocities highlighted the need for urgent response and reform.

We called on Governor Cuomo and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to ban the use of prone restraints on ALL children living in Residential Facilities. Our efforts secured a guarantee from OCFS that the agency will eliminate the use of "prone" restraints or face-down restraints on children living in any setting that it runs or licenses. This is a tremendous victory for children throughout New York State. These restraints have long been recognized to risk death or serious harm, but nonetheless were permitted in OCFS run and licensed facilities. Black and brown children are entitled to the protections that come with being children. We continue the fight to ensure that children across all of New York State are given such protections. Full implementation of the new state-wide approach is expected by Spring 2021.

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The use of prone restraints on young children in any setting is an inhumane and barbaric practice, capable of inflicting significant harm and trauma."

Dawne Mitchell

Attorney-in-Charge, Juvenile Rights Practice

Making a Difference

Our 2020 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.

300+

vulnerable New Yorkers freed from incarceration during COVID-19 via 11 mass writs and individual case advocacy, contributing to a 28% drop in the population of Rikers Island over the course of 10 weeks.

81%

of evictions prevented in full representation matters, allowing a total of 3,274 New Yorkers and their families to stay in their homes. We delayed evictions in an additional 16% of cases.

COVID-19 education-related consultations focusing on remote learning access, special education services, and free school meals.

volunteer lawyers trained to assist protesters in filing complaints about police violence and unlawful arrests during the summer's protests against police misconduct.

6,600

abused, abandoned, and neglected immigrant youth were granted SIJS status and set on the path toward citizenship as a result of our legal advocacy.

66%

of our 16 and 17-year-old clients diverted from Criminal Court to Family Court, where kids are treated like kids and given the chance they deserve.

Learn About Our Practice Areas



Our Civil Practice operates across a network of neighborhood and courthouse-based offices and 21 citywide units and programs that provide comprehensive legal assistance to vulnerable individuals. We collaborate closely with community and social services partners, law schools, pro bono partners, and the legal services sector.



The Legal Aid Society has been at the forefront of public defense in New York City since 1876—playing a major role in shaping the practice of criminal defense law in America and often setting the standard by which others practice.



The Legal Aid Society ensures the health and welfare of New York City's children in courtrooms and communities, 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.

Awards & Recognition

In This Section

The Marden Awards
The Sandra Scott Memorial Award
2020 Pro Bono Impact

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 Orison S. Marden Awards were established in 1976, The Legal Aid Society's centennial year, to recognize the excellence and dedication of our staff. The awards honor the memory of Orison S. Marden, a leader of the organized bar, a partner at White & Case LLP, and a former Chair of our Board of Directors. For over 40 years, Mr. Marden was a dedicated supporter of The Legal Aid Society, often traveling to the Harlem Neighborhood Office to volunteer as a pro bono attorney.

Each year, the awards are presented at our Annual Meeting. Recipients are selected by a committee comprised of management, exempt, and union representatives from nominations submitted by the staff.

Whether on the front lines providing direct client services or working on critical office operations, this year's recipients demonstrated efforts that went above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of our clients. Marden Awards are conferred on: Staff Attorneys, Managers, and Core Staff, including Paralegals, Social Workers, Investigators and Support Staff.

Core Staff Marden Award



Ferdinand "Freddie" Cesarano
Paralegal,
Special Litigation Unit,
Criminal Defense Practice

Staff Attorney Marden Award



Rolando Gonzalez Staff Attorney, Community Development Project, Civil Practice

Manager Marden Award



Cara Chambers
Director,
Education Advocacy Project,
Juvenile Rights Practice



Hasan Shafiqullah Attorney in Charge, Immigration Law Unit, Civil Practice



Andrea Yacka-Bible Supervising Attorney, Criminal Appeals Bureau, Criminal Defense Practice

The Legal Aid Society Staff Awards

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.



Reshamjeet Singh Controller

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Recognizing Our Pro Bono Partners

2020 Pro Bono Impact

Since our founding, The Legal Aid Society has relied on the support of volunteer attorneys from the private bar to increase the impact of our work on behalf of vulnerable New Yorkers. Responding to the racial and social inequities highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the indiscriminate brutalizing of peaceful protesters, our Pro Bono partners have answered the call as never before.



Supporting Small Businesses



The economic impact of the pandemic hit small businesses extremely hard. Owners and their families sought assistance with navigating issues including insurance, commercial leases, bankruptcy, employment, contracts, and tax. Working with our Community Development Project, volunteers from various firms created fact sheets, in both English and Spanish, as well as providing telephonic advice and assistance. Participating firms included:

Cooley LLP

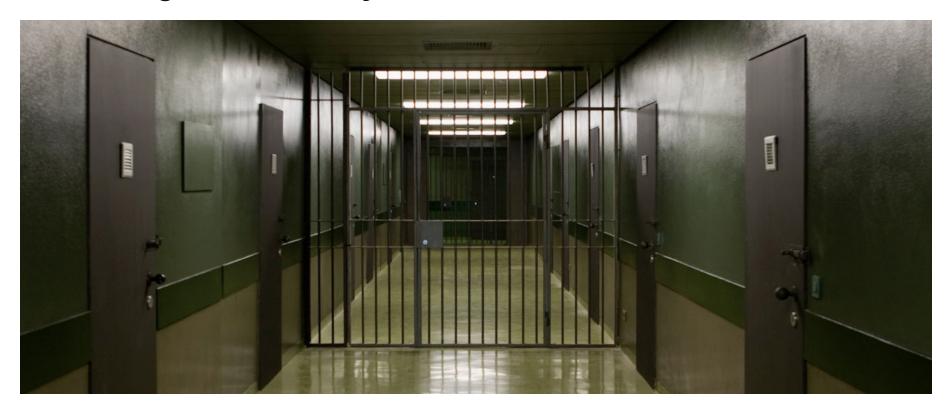
Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Mayer Brown LLP

Morrison & Foerster LLP

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Protecting the Medically Vulnerable



Individuals in immigration detention across the nation were and continue to be held in overcrowded facilities, where COVID-19 is known to run rampant and PPE supplies can be dangerously insufficient. Our Immigration Law Unit advocated tenaciously on behalf of the individuals and were joined by volunteers from several law firm partners to bring petitions for writs of habeas corpus on behalf of clients at extreme risk for contracting COVID-19. Writs were filed not only in New York City, but also in New Jersey and Buffalo since clients are detained outside of the city.

In addition to working on behalf of immigrants held in detention, volunteer attorneys worked closely with our Prisoners' Rights Project, Criminal Appeals Bureau, and Special Litigation Unit, to bring writs and clemency petitions for clients at Rikers Island and in numerous state prisons with medically documented conditions that placed them at grave risk of death should they be exposed to COVID-19. Participating firms included:

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

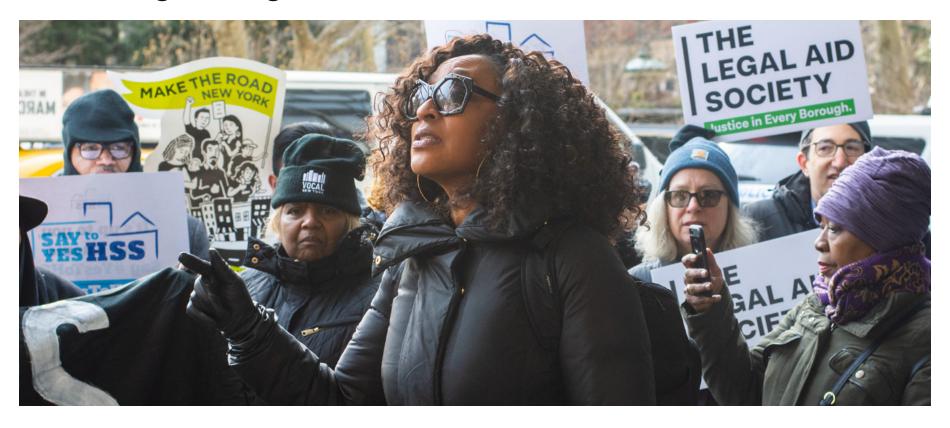
Fragomen

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Proskauer Rose LLP

Defending the Rights of Tenants & Students



In order to ensure clients can maintain adequate and affordable housing, we partnered with leaders in the legal community to promote safe access to housing and landlord tenant court, eligibility for appropriate subsidies and maintenance of proper habitability standards.

Shelter conditions create numerous obstacles for children to secure a sound education and the closing of schools due to the pandemic only exacerbated the issue. Through our advocacy, the Department of Education provided students with iPads for remote learning, but without reliable internet access in shelters, students continue to see interruptions in their instruction and fall farther behind their peers. After months of advocacy, volunteer attorneys worked with our Homeless Rights and Education Law Projects to issue a demand letter that the Department of Homeless Services provide Wi-Fi access to all students in shelters throughout the city. Participating firms included:

Cooley LLP

DLA Piper LLP

Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP

Calling For Police Reform & Accountability

As demonstrators calling for police reform and accountability following the murder of George Floyd were met with violence at the hands of the NYPD, our law firm partners joined us in our efforts to ensure individual's rights were protected and their voices heard.

Led by Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, who provided technical and administrative support, as well as direct client assistance, nineteen partner firms signed on to staff our Cop Accountability Project (CAP) Civilian Complaint Clinic – a commitment which is ongoing. Volunteers, trained by CAP, support protesters with legal advice and assistance on filing civil claims for relief with the CCRB.

For years, police brutality and misconduct were veiled in secrecy behind Civil Rights
Law Section 50-a, a state law that purported to protect the privacy of law enforcement by denying public access to disciplinary reports. After years of advocacy, in 2020 our organization, along with community partners, including Citizens United For Police Reform, were able to have the state legislature overturn 50-a. This victory could not have been accomplished, and the ongoing preservation efforts possible without the years-long assistance of pro bono attorneys. Participating firms included:

Arnold & Porter Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP Milbank LLP

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP Ropes & Gray LLP

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP Sidley Austin LLP

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP White & Case LLP

Jenner & Block LLP Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Kelley Drye & Warren LLP

Each year approximately three thousand volunteers from over seventy law firms provide pro bono assistance to support the work of the staff of The Legal Aid Society. We thank the individuals and the law firms who share our commitment to defend our clients and communities of color and to dismantle the hidden, systemic barriers that can prevent them from thriving.

Community & Sponsorship

In This Section

Sustaining Law Firms
Our Supporters
Servant of Justice
Our Corporate Sponsors

Sustaining Law Firms

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.

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Arnold & Porter

Boies Schiller Flexner LLP

Buckley LLP

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Cooley LLP

Covington & Burling LLP Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Dechert LLP

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

Jones Day

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Lankler Siffert & Wohl LLP Latham & Watkins LLP Mayer Brown LLP

Milbank LLP

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Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Proskauer Rose LLP Reed Smith LLP Ropes & Gray LLP

Rower LLC

Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP Shearman & Sterling LLP

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