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**Statement from Tina Luongo, Attorney-In-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society, on Firing of NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo:**

“With this ruling, Mayor Bill de Blasio has no more excuses to avoid what his Administration should have done five years ago: he must fire NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo and all the other officers involved in Eric Garner’s killing. The Mayor’s handling of this entire process has been politically motivated and opaque, and it only served to reinforce mistrust and sow further division between the NYPD and over-policed communities of color. Any opportunity for justice was lost by unnecessary secrecy and delay. This Administration’s failure to act has caused tremendous heartache, pain, and trauma that no family should endure and relive on a daily basis. The Mayor must finally do what is moral and just.”

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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.*

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