

September 7, 2019

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
The Legal Aid Society
(929) 441-2384
rhaskins@legal-aid.org

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

***STATEMENT ON RAISE THE AGE IMPLEMENTATION
PROGRESS REPORT***

(NEW YORK, NY) – Dawne Mitchell, Attorney-In-Charge of the Juvenile Rights Practice at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement responding to a progress report issued by the State of New York on the implementation of Raise the Age (RTA):

“For years, New York stood out as one of only two states in the country that charged all 16- and 17-year-olds as adults in the criminal legal system, regardless of the crime committed. In 2017, Albany finally passed legislation to correct this injustice, recognizing that adolescents are children, and prosecuting and placing children in the adult system is a disservice to them and society.

With this report on the implementation of the first phase of Raise the Age, the results are clear: RTA is already making a difference by transferring 16-year-olds to age-appropriate courts that are equipped with the programming to serve our young clients.

We look forward to working with the State to ensure that the next phase of RTA involving 17-year-olds is equally successful and that our clients are benefiting from the implementation of the new law.”

###

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>

Justice in Every Borough.