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

***THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY HONORS KEY PARTNERS AT  
2019 PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARDS CEREMONY***

***Jennifer L. Kroman of Cleary Gottlieb; Debevoise & Plimpton LLP;  
and over 260 Individual Attorneys Honored***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society held the 2019 Pro Bono Publico Awards Ceremony at the Prince George Ballroom on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, honoring individual attorneys and law firms for their outstanding and sustained achievements in pro bono services. Each year, The Legal Aid Society works with over 100 law firms across New York City. The firms recognized were nominated by Legal Aid 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, presented the awards to the honorees.

“We are incredibly proud to honor the contributions of these individuals and firms,” said **Janet Sabel, Attorney-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer of The Legal Aid Society**. “We are deeply appreciative of the undeniable impact their work has in the lives of our clients.”

The Public Interest Law Leadership Award was presented to **Jennifer L. Kroman**, of **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP**, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions as a volunteer attorney, for her constant support of The Legal Aid Society and its clients, and as the leader of Cleary Gottlieb’s outstanding pro bono program. Beginning in 2012, Jennifer’s collaboration with Legal Aid’s Exploitation Intervention Project established a ground breaking 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 New York Pro Bono Publico & Public Service Law Firm Award was presented to **Debevoise & Plimpton LLP**, in recognition of its exceptional pro bono commitment to our organization and clients. Under the leadership of Presiding Partner Michael W. Blair, Partner and Legal Aid Board Member Mark P. Goodman, and Pro Bono Counsel Jennifer R. Cowan, Debevoise has contributed over 4,600 hours of legal services to the clients of the Legal Aid Society. Nearly 100 Debevoise staff provided critical assistance to clients in areas as diverse as immigration defense, disability advocacy, civil rights litigation, criminal appeals, and the preservation of affordable housing.

“We look forward to this event every year because it provides us with an opportunity to say thank you to the legal professionals who donate their time, and to highlight the amazing work of Legal Aid Society staff who work with the volunteers providing mentorship and guidance,” said **Lou Sartori, Director of the Pro Bono Practice**.

Last year, 4,079 volunteers donated over 242,000 hours of legal assistance to the clients of The Legal Aid Society. But no metrics can adequately quantify what pro bono assistance means to a family facing homelessness, a client whose rights are violated by unlawful police conduct, or a child in foster care whose educational needs are not being met. For over 140 years, The Legal Aid Society has worked together with the private bar to provide life changing legal assistance and deliver “Justice In Every Borough.”

### **Event photo description:**

#### **LAS Pro Bono Awards Photo 1-Lippman Winner**

*L to R: Hon. Edwina Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives; Janet Sabel, Attorney-in-Chief/CEO of The Legal Aid Society; Jennifer Cowan, Pro Bono Counsel at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP; Mark P. Goodman, Partner at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP and Vice Chair of The Legal Aid Society’s Board of Directors; Richard J. Davis, Chair of The Legal Aid Society’s Board of Directors; and Michael W. Blair, Presiding Partner at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP*

#### **LAS Pro Bono Awards Photo 2-JKroman**

*L to R: Lou Sartori, Director of The Legal Aid Society’s Pro Bono Practice; Hon. Edwina Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives; Jennifer Kroman, Director of the Pro Bono Practice at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP; Janet Sabel, Attorney-in-Chief/CEO of The Legal Aid Society; and Richard J. Davis, Chair of The Legal Aid Society’s Board of Directors*

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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>*