



December 2, 2019

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

***LEGAL AID HOSTS AMERICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT JUDY PERRY
MARTINEZ FOR STAFF VISIT***

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** welcomed the American Bar Association (ABA) President Judy Perry Martinez today for a visit with staff from all of Legal Aid’s three practices – Criminal Defense, Civil, and Juvenile Rights – as well as its administrative departments. As the oldest and largest public defender organization in the country, Legal Aid has had a longstanding relationship with the ABA and staff frequently receive ABA awards for their accomplishments. Just last year, Legal Aid’s Decarceration Project – a bail project which was formed in 2016 with the goal of reducing unnecessary pretrial incarceration through direct advocacy, impact litigation, and legislative advocacy – was [recognized](#) by the ABA for Exemplary Defense. ABA has also recognized Legal Aid’s Cop Accountability Project and [CAPstat](#) database for groundbreaking work.

“We are honored to host President Martinez and enable her to meet with staff and to learn about some of the pressing legal issues in New York City facing our clients,” said **Janet Sabel, CEO and Attorney-in-Chief of The Legal Aid Society**. “The ABA has long recognized the accomplishments of public defenders as trailblazers, and we are proud to share with President Perez our holistic and forward-thinking approach to our work in courtrooms and communities.”

“It’s a privilege to visit colleagues who work every day to ensure that no one in New York City is denied justice,” said **ABA President Judy Perry Martinez**. “The ABA and the Legal Aid Society share a passion for helping those who need help the most. That’s a mission that every American supports.”

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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>