



January 2, 2019

Contact:

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

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

***COREY STOUGHTON JOINS THE LEGAL AID  
SOCIETY AS HEAD OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE  
SPECIAL LITIGATION***

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** today announced the hiring of Corey Stoughton to Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice Special Litigation Unit. Corey is well known for her tenure at the New York Civil Liberties Union where she worked for over a decade on a broad range of constitutional and human rights issues including *Hurrell-Harring, et al. v. State of New York*, which set funding and caseload standards for public defender organizations in New York State.

Corey comes to Legal Aid from Liberty, the leading domestic human rights organization in the United Kingdom. As Liberty’s Director of Advocacy and its Interim Acting Director, Corey managed legal, policy and campaign work.

Previous to Liberty, she served as senior counsel to the Vanita Gupta, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Justice under President Obama.

She has also worked as an adjunct clinical professor of law at New York University School of Law. Corey graduated from Harvard Law School and the University of Michigan.

“Corey brings a breadth of experience and knowledge to Legal Aid as we embark on the implementation of historic pretrial criminal justice reforms. Our Special Litigation Unit has long worked to secure systemic change central to improving the lives of our clients and their families, and we welcome Corey to our team,” said **Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society.**

“It is an honor to join The Legal Aid Society at this critical moment in the struggle to end mass incarceration and confront the racism at the root of our criminal justice system. I look forward to working alongside my Legal Aid colleagues and our allies across New York to develop strategic litigation and policy solutions to the problems public defenders confront every day,” said **Corey Stoughton, Attorney-in-Charge of the Special Litigation Unit with the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society.**

### **Special Litigation Unit**

The Special Litigation Unit (SLU) of the Criminal Defense Practices engages in affirmative litigation to protect the rights of our clients and other New Yorkers who have been impacted by the criminal legal system and in policy and law reform to change the very laws that have caused the marginalization and criminalization of New Yorkers, including the right to arraignment 24 hours after arrest. The knowledgeable and experienced members of the Special Litigation Unit are on call to advise and support the staff of the Criminal Defense Practice on a variety of subjects, particularly those that present novel or complex issues and work with community partners on law reform advocacy and policy change.

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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>*