



March 9, 2020

Contact:

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

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

Legal Aid Condemns Governor Cuomo, Corcraft For Exploiting Incarcerated New Yorkers To Produce Cheap Hand Sanitizer

(NEW YORK, NY) – Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice, and Adriene Holder, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society, issued the following joint statement in response to New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo’s new Corcraft COVID-19 branded hand sanitizer, which will be mass produced by incarcerated New Yorkers for pennies on the dollar:

“From fighting dangerous forest fires to now mass producing vital hand sanitizer, government and big business continue to force the labor of incarcerated individuals – for pennies on the dollar – for a political purpose or to line their own pockets.

Incarcerated people in New York have always been forced to produce essential products for state agencies. These individuals work for less than a dollar a day under threat of punishment – including solitary confinement – if they refuse. This is nothing less than slave labor and it must end. Albany must pay these individuals the minimum wage and lawmakers must legislate to eradicate forced labor across our state for good.

It would be even more shocking if prisons and jails were to deem this Corcraft product ‘contraband’ and deprive incarcerated New Yorkers from possessing effective hand sanitizer because of the alcohol content. The same individuals who produce this product should not be prohibited from using it.”

###

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>