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

***Legal Aid Files Notice Of Appeal In Case To Free New Yorkers Illegally Detained
Pre-Arraignment By The NYPD***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society filed a [notice of appeal](#) on an emergency [lawsuit](#) brought earlier this week against the New York City Police Department (NYPD) on behalf of New Yorkers currently detained illegally in violation of New York's 24 hour arrest-to-arraignment requirement. At the time of this filing, 92 New Yorkers citywide remained in NYPD custody over 24 hours after arrest.

“The NYPD is not above the law, and detaining New Yorkers for more than 24 hours after an arrest and denying them speedy access to a judge violates of our fundamental standards of justice,” said **Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society.** “92 New Yorkers held illegally, deprived of their due process rights, is 92 New Yorkers too many. We look forward to securing a successful outcome in the Appellate Division.”

Background

The 24-hour arrest-to-arraignment requirement, which The Legal Aid Society secured in the landmark lawsuit *Roundtree v. Brown*, challenged the protracted delays newly arrested persons experienced prior to being brought before a judge and resulted in significant improvements in the criminal justice system by setting a 24-hour standard from arrest to arraignment.

The NYPD's behavior is reminiscent of the 2004 Republican National Convention, when officers detained and illegally held thousands of protesters. The Legal Aid Society filed a similar lawsuit then and successfully secured the protesters' release. The current situation is an even greater concern, as every individual detained and held by the police is at risk for COVID-19 exposure.

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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.

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