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

***Legal Aid Lauds Passage Of 50-A Repeal, Urges Governor Cuomo To Enact
Legislation Immediately***

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** lauded the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly’s passage of a comprehensive Police Secrecy Law 50-a repeal bill (A10611/S08496) today and urged the Legislature to transmit this legislation immediately to Governor Andrew Cuomo to enact it into law.

“A comprehensive repeal of Police Secrecy Law 50-a and advancement of other needed police reforms are now just one pen stroke away, and with these bills codified into law, New Yorkers will be better able to hold their police department accountable for misconduct committed in their communities,” said **Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and we know that transparency is a critical first step to change the way police interact with communities in New York. The Legal Aid Society thanks Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie for quickly and rightly responding to the overwhelming calls from New Yorkers for immediate and meaningful action by prioritizing this legislation. We urge Governor Andrew Cuomo to enact this bill into law at once. Lastly, we must acknowledge that this moment is wholly the result of communities of color - those who have long shouldered abuse from the police - rising up and demanding 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.

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