



June 12, 2020

Contact:

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

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

Statement On New York Repealing Police Secrecy Law 50-a

(NEW YORK, NY) – Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement in response to Governor Andrew Cuomo enacting the repeal of Police Secrecy Law 50-a into law:

“Finally, after years of advocacy, New York has struck down one of the nation’s most secretive laws, a law that shielded police misconduct from public scrutiny. Sadly, we will never know the full breadth and depth of the injustices created under the previous system that deprived New Yorkers access to this fundamental information.

But our clients - the majority from communities of color - should know that The Legal Aid Society will leverage this rightful change in statute to wage an unrelenting campaign for police accountability in a way that the New York City Police Department has never seen before. We will ensure that our city knows the names of officers who brutalize New Yorkers and commit other serious acts of misconduct. This is simply the obligation we have to our clients as public defenders: to right the wrongs of decades when the NYPD was permitted to operate with virtual impunity, accountable to no one.”

###

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.

www.legalaidnyc.org