

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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

Statement in Response to DA Eric Gonzalez Vacating Convictions for Legal Aid Clients Whose Cases Involved Corrupt NYPD Detective Joseph E. Franco

(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 Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez agreement to vacate the convictions for dozens of former LAS clients whose cases involved New York City Police Department Detective Joseph E. Franco:

“Corrupt NYPD Detective Franco touched thousands of cases throughout New York City, and we may never know the full extent of the damage he caused and lives he upended.

The Legal Aid Society applauds DA Eric Gonzalez for conducting this necessary review and vacating these convictions, and we urge New York City’s other DAs to perform similar audits on cases involving NYPD officers with documented histories of misconduct and substantiated incredibility findings.

To change the culture of impunity that thrives at precincts throughout the city, local DAs must hold those in law enforcement accountable who betray the public trust and ruin lives for personal gain.”

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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 145 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