



May 25, 2021

Contact:

Alejandra Lopez  
The Legal Aid Society  
[ALopez@legal-aid.org](mailto:ALopez@legal-aid.org)  
917-294-9348

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

## ***Legal Aid Statement on the One-Year Anniversary of George Floyd's Murder***

**(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society** issued the following statement on the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's murder:

“As The Legal Aid Society marks the first anniversary of George Floyd's death, we pause to remember his senseless killing at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, as well as honor the international call for justice that his murder inspired.

For years, Legal Aid has waged an unrelenting campaign for police officer accountability, a fight that resulted in the historic repeal of Police Secrecy Law ‘50-A’ - the statute that kept New York's police disciplinary records out of public view for decades and denied justice to our clients - most of whom are from communities of color - who are brutalized and harassed by police officers. We also continue to fight to ensure that discipline is effective, consistent and transparent and to press for the removal of obstacles to accountability like the qualified immunity defense, which shields officers who commit egregious misconduct from being held liable in court.

We have also filed lawsuits to hold the NYPD accountable for its violent response to the demonstrations of last summer and for illegally arresting and detaining New Yorkers. And we continue to push back against the ongoing racial disparities in stop-and-frisk and trespass enforcement in public housing as part of the federal monitorship overseeing court-mandated reforms.

The Legal Aid Society vows to honor George Floyd's life and all those who have lost their lives to police violence as we continue to work alongside directly impacted New Yorkers to bring fundamental change to the systems and institutions that oppress the communities we serve."

###

*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](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)