

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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

As the NY Legislature Enters its Final Week of Session, Legal Aid Urges Action on Comprehensive Parole Reforms, Clean Slate Legislation

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society called on New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Albany legislators to prioritize a comprehensive package of parole reform bills - Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole - and Clean Slate legislation before the end of session later this week.

“A criminal conviction should not amount to a life sentence of imprisonment, nor should it amount to perpetual punishment after someone has paid their debt to society and returned home,” said **Tina Luongo, Attorney-In-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “New York’s antiquated and punitive parole laws and the absence of comprehensive automatic expungement reinforce the reality that our clients face all too often. Before New York’s legislative session concludes this week, we call on the Legislature to pass Fair & Timely Parole, Elder Parole, and the Clean Slate Act.”

Background

The Fair & Timely Parole Act ([S.1415A/A.4231A](#)) would provide more fair and meaningful parole reviews for incarcerated people who are parole-eligible, and the Elder Parole Act ([S.00015A/A.3475A](#)) would require an immediate parole interview for people ages 55 and older who have served at least 15 years of their sentence.

The Clean Slate Act ([S.1553A/A.6399](#)) would create a two-step process to automatically seal and eventually expunge – permanently remove – certain past criminal convictions so New Yorkers have an easier time reintegrating into society.

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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