

# THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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Contact:

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

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

## ***Legal Aid to Albany: Reconvene Session Immediately to Pass Critically Important #CleanSlateNY Legislation***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society called on the New York State Legislature to immediately reconvene to pass the Clean Slate Act ([S.1553B/A.6399A](#)) – legislation that would create a process to automatically seal certain convictions after a designated period of time. The collateral damage of a criminal conviction can be wide-ranging and enduring — permanently barring many individuals from basic opportunities like employment and housing — a reality that many Legal Aid clients suffer from on a regular basis.

**Emma Goodman, Staff Attorney with the Criminal Defense Practice’s Special Litigation Unit at The Legal Aid Society**, stated - “The Clean Slate Act was moments away from passing last night when the Legislature turned its back on more than two million New Yorkers, the overwhelming majority from communities of color, by failing to pass this critical legislation.

This bill has wide-ranging support from a coalition of defense attorneys, advocacy groups, law enforcement, private companies, labor unions, grassroots community organizations, impacted New Yorkers and many others. This broad support is a testament to the bill’s potential to benefit communities through the state. It is a racial justice bill. It is an economic justice bill. It is a public safety bill, and it should have passed.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie made a promise to pass this legislation, and we call on the Legislature to return to Albany at once to make good on what our clients and so many others are rightfully owed.”

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