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Contact:  
Press Office  
[press@legal-aid.org](mailto:press@legal-aid.org)

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

***Legal Aid Statement on Commissioner of the Department of Correction  
Vincent Schiraldi's Comments on Rikers Island***

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to Commissioner of the Department of Correction Vincent Schiraldi's assertion in a recent press conference that slow court proceedings are a contributing factor to the ongoing humanitarian crisis on Rikers Island.

"The notion that churning out cases in Court is the solution to the culture of incompetence and violence created by decades of failed management at DOC is pointing the finger in the wrong place," said **Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. "While we respect Commissioner Schiraldi for many things, on this one he is very wrong."

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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 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.*

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