

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

October 19, 2021

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

Statement on Passing of Anthony Scott, Legal Aid Client Who Recently Attempted Suicide While in City Custody

(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 the [death of Anthony Scott](#), a client who recently attempted suicide while in City custody at central booking in Manhattan:

“We are devastated to learn of Anthony Scott’s passing, and extend the deepest condolences to his family, friends and community during this tragically difficult time.

Throughout his life, Mr. Scott was continually criminalized for his struggle with mental illness, and our criminal legal system has never had the comprehensive tools necessary to serve New Yorkers with acute needs like Mr. Scott. Furthermore, this bleak reality is exacerbated when our clients remain in the charge of the New York City Department of Correction (DOC) or the New York City Police Department (NYPD), agencies that have consistently failed in their legal and moral obligations to keep our clients safe.

Lastly, we call on our leaders in government to prioritize both policy and funding to support robust programming to prevent further suffering and loss of life.”

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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