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

***Legal Aid Statement on DA Clark Dismissing 133 Cases Involving Corrupt  
Former NYPD Detective Joseph Franco***

**(NEW YORK, NY) - Elizabeth Felber, Director of the Wrongful Conviction Unit at The Legal Aid Society,** released the following statement regarding Bronx County District Attorney Darcel Clark's decision to dismiss 133 cases where the purported evidence of guilt was obtained or produced by Joseph Franco, a corrupt former New York City Police Department (NYPD) detective:

“Criminal convictions largely based on the work of corrupt former or active NYPD officers who engaged in misconduct while executing their duties flies in the face of the oaths officers take to protect and serve New Yorkers.

This unconscionable and inexcusable behavior corrodes the public’s trust in law enforcement, and it has also caused harm and hardship to real New Yorkers, particularly Black and Latinx New Yorkers who are disproportionately targets of harassment and abuse from police officers.

The Legal Aid Society applauds District Attorney Clark for this action, but we urge that these reviews be conducted with full transparency whenever District Attorneys become aware of egregious police misconduct. All prosecutors must be willing to investigate these issues of misconduct within law enforcement, even in the absence of headlines or public pressure.”

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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)*