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

The Legal Aid Society Agrees With Chief Judge DiFiore: New York's Court System Must Be Simplified, More Effective and Just

(New York, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement today in response to New York State Chief Judge Janet DiFiore's State of Our Judiciary Address, calling on Albany lawmakers to enact the New York State Office of Court Administration's proposal to simplify and consolidate our court system:

“As [recognized](#) by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, the barriers to equal justice are extensive and systemic in nature, and we must take meaningful steps to correct what court officials themselves [call](#) a ‘second-class system of justice’ for low-income litigants of color.

We fully support Chief Judge Janet DiFiore's push to simplify and consolidate New York's overly complicated and duplicative court system. Moreover, we fully support measures that would address the longstanding racial inequities that have affected our clients and all New Yorkers of color for far too long.

We have an opportunity now to reform our courts and create a simple, modern, equitably-structured court system. Lastly, The Legal Aid Society calls on Albany to act immediately on the Chief Judge's plan to codify these necessary changes into law.”

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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