



March 10, 2022

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

Legal Aid Lauds Governor Hochul’s Announcement that New Yorkers with Marijuana Convictions will have Priority For Cannabis Retail Licenses

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society applauded Governor Hochul’s [announcement](#) that New Yorkers and their families who have shouldered the brunt of marijuana prohibition will have priority in the retail license process to sell cannabis-related products.

“The Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA) is explicit: New Yorkers and their family members who shouldered the brunt of marijuana prohibition should have priority access to licenses and resources to sell cannabis-related products, and we are thankful that Governor Hochul indicated that she would effectuate this provision with today’s announcement,” said **Taylor James, Staff Attorney with the Community Development Project at The Legal Aid Society**. “In the coming days, weeks, and months, Legal Aid will continue to advocate for our communities and work with our entrepreneurial clients to ensure that they are first to reap the rewards of this transformative legislation.”

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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