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

***Legal Aid Celebrates 45th Annual Servant of Justice Awards,
Raises over \$3M to Support Client Advocacy Efforts***

***Twyla Carter Announced as Incoming Attorney-in-Chief and
Chief Executive Officer***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society held its 45th Annual Servant of Justice Awards Dinner on Thursday May 12th, at Cipriani 42nd Street. The annual celebration was attended by over 600 guests, representing New York City's business and legal communities, and raised over \$3 million.

This year, the Servant of Justice Award was presented to [Bradley I. Ruskin](#), Senior Partner at Proskauer Rose LLP and [Janet Sabel](#), outgoing Attorney-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer of The Legal Aid Society, for their fierce advocacy on behalf of New Yorkers, life-long dedication to justice and lasting impact on the city's legal community. Kristen Clarke, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice, shared a special introduction to honor Ms. Sabel. A special musical performance by Ali Ewoldt, the first Asian American actress to star as Christine Daaé in The Phantom of the Opera on Broadway, was performed during the event.

National legal and policy advocate, Twyla Carter, was announced as the incoming Attorney-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer during the event. Carter will be the first Black woman and first Asian American to serve in this role in Legal Aid's 145 year history. Previously, she was the National Director of Legal and Policy at The Bail Project, a nonprofit organization that provides free bail assistance and pretrial support to thousands of low-income people every year.

“The communities we serve have weathered tremendous adversity in the last two years, facing system barriers to justice that were exacerbated by the pandemic,” said **Alan Levine, President of Legal Aid’s Board of Directors**. “We are proud to celebrate Legal Aid staff, who fought harder as new challenges turned up at every step. And we celebrate our city: New Yorkers are resourceful and agile, tough and compassionate. We bounce back, and this year, we celebrate New York City's resilience.”

Zachary Carter, Chair of Legal Aid’s Board of Directors, added: “The Legal Aid Society has faced the challenges presented by the pandemic and political forces determined to reverse historic criminal justice reforms with an unrelenting commitment to deliver access to justice to the unserved and unheard. I am proud to serve as its Chair.”

Event Co-Chairs included Stacey Allaster, Chief Executive Professional Tennis at USTA; Laura Buckland, Chief Cyber Transformation Officer at T-Mobile; Steve Ellis, Chair of Proskauer Rose LLP; Don Garber, Commissioner of Major League Soccer; Tom Rothman, Chairman & CEO at Sony Pictures Entertainment Motion Picture Group; and Adam Silver, Commissioner of the National Basketball Association.

Recording is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVxYp4p66eA>

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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