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

Legal Aid Statement on Juneteenth

“On June 19, 1865, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, thousands of enslaved Africans in Galveston, Texas, were finally informed of their freedom.

As we commemorate Juneteenth and celebrate its meaning, it also marks an opportunity to reflect on the continuing impact of slavery in the United States, 157 years after its abolition.

The Legal Aid Society is committed to addressing the insidious and systemic racism that permeates the criminal, civil and juvenile legal systems, the courts, our workplaces, housing, education, and all areas in our society. In court and in our communities, we are proud to fervently fight every day to deliver racial equity and justice for our clients and all New Yorkers.”

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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