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

Legal Aid Statement on DA Gonzalez Vacating Over 370 Convictions Involving Discredited NYPD Officers

(NEW YORK, NY) - Elizabeth Felber, director of the Wrongful Conviction Unit at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement in response to reporting that Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez will vacate over 370 convictions where the purported evidence of guilt was obtained or produced by 13 discredited New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers:

“The Legal Aid Society commends District Attorney Eric Gonzalez for his decisive action to dismiss these cases. While we applaud this decision, the people prosecuted in these cases were forced to endure hardships that should never have happened to begin with. Some individuals lost years of their lives serving prison sentences and many suffered collateral harm including housing instability, loss of employment, and severed access to critical services, all because of the words of these corrupt police officers.

We urge DA Gonzalez and all of the other New York City District Attorneys to conduct these reviews on an ongoing basis and with full transparency, not just in response to public pressure, but as their duty to ‘do justice.’ To do otherwise erodes the public’s trust in law enforcement and the criminal legal system.”

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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 over 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