



Justice in Every Borough.

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

***Legal Aid Releases List of Former and Current NYPD Officers with the Highest Lawsuit Payouts, Most Cases Concluded from Jan 1 - July 26, 2022***

***Report Includes Former Officers Joseph E. Franco and Louis Scarcella, and Other Officers Who Are Currently Employed by NYPD***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released a [list](#) of New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers who garnered the highest lawsuit payouts and who were defendants in the most civil rights lawsuits alleging police misconduct that concluded between January 1 to July 26, 2022, per City [data](#). Many of these officers are still on the force, policing NYC neighborhoods with a gun and a badge.

This analysis comes after a [report](#) released by Legal Aid last month which revealed that the City paid out \$67,663,389 million in lawsuits alleging police misconduct from January 1 to July 26, 2022.

This amount surpassed the \$62,093,491 paid out on lawsuit settlements and verdicts in all of 2020 and only falls roughly \$624,000 short of the litigation payout for the entirety of 2019. At this rate, the City could potentially payout over \$115 million in lawsuits alleging police misconduct for calendar year 2022. Also, these payouts do not account for matters that were settled with the Office of the New York City Comptroller prior to formal litigation, which brought the total payouts for claims of NYPD misconduct to [\\$206.7 million](#) in Fiscal Year 2021.

“There is a culture within the NYPD where officers believe that they can get away with violence and other violations of New Yorkers’ rights because they are so rarely held accountable,” said **Molly Griffard, staff attorney with the Special Litigation Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “Much police abuse – and the resulting lawsuit payouts – could be prevented if only the Mayor and Police Commissioner prioritized early intervention, swift disciplinary processes for abusive officers, and consistent penalties as called for in the NYPD’s disciplinary matrix. Instead, the NYPD allows officers like Daniel Rivera, who has racked up 23 lawsuits and over half a million dollars in payouts to continue patrolling our neighborhoods with a badge and a gun, almost guaranteeing that similar abuses will continue to occur.”

### Members of Service with Highest Payouts in 2022

<b>Officer</b>	<b># Cases Disposed In 2022</b>	<b>Total Payout From Cases Disposed In 2022</b>	<b>Total Payout From Cases Disposed Since 2013</b>
Medina, Ray (876721)	1	\$13,000,000	\$13,000,000
Melino, Albert J. (934307)	1	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000
Rodriguez, Pedro A. (942490)	1	\$12,000,000	\$12,050,000

Full list: <https://tinyurl.com/mt76wtp4>.

### Members of Service with the Most Cases Disposed in 2022

<b>Officer Defendant (Tax #)</b>	<b># Cases disposed in 2022</b>	<b>Total payout from cases disposed in 2022</b>	<b># Cases disposed since 2013</b>	<b># Cases filed since 2013</b>	<b>Total payout from cases disposed since 2013</b>
Franco, Joseph E. (925313)	6	\$1,295,000	10	11	\$1,515,100
Rivera, Daniel (927418)	6	\$162,000	18	23	\$505,501
Martinez, Robert A. (922716)	4	\$115,000	17	25	\$984,001

Full list: <https://tinyurl.com/3x8esbr2>.

## **Lawsuit Summaries**

### ***Mark Boyd v. City of New York, et. al.***

On December 11, 2018, around 11:00 PM, Officer Daniel Rivera, who is still employed by the NYPD, and four other officers stopped the plaintiff, Mark Boyd, without an arrest warrant, probable cause, reasonable cause, or any legal justification.

They then searched, grabbed, assaulted, battered, and detained him with excessive force, causing him great physical and emotional harm. Mr. Boyd was bruised all over his body, had bleeding in both his ears and on his head, had a foreign object lodged in his left ear that had to be surgically removed, suffered bilateral sciatica, numerous back and neck injuries that have limited his range of motion, and great mental anguish.

Officer Rivera and other officers also falsely arrested him and detained him for over 24 hours, subjecting him to a humiliating strip search, handcuffing, and photographing all without his consent and with no legal basis. All of this was done intentionally, willfully, and maliciously.

Payout: \$70,000

Lawsuit complaint: <https://tinyurl.com/4j5j63bn>.

### ***Roderick Hernandez v. City of New York et. al.***

On July 6, 2019 at around 12:15 AM, Detective Paul Zaino and four other officers stopped the plaintiff, Roderick Hernandez, without an arrest warrant, probable cause, reasonable cause, or any legal justification.

They then searched, grabbed, assaulted, battered, and detained him with excessive force, causing him physical and emotional harm. Mr. Hernandez had bruises around his face and on his arm, bleeding and scars on his face, and great mental anguish.

Detective Zaino and other officers also falsely arrested him and detained him for over 24 hours, subjecting him to a humiliating strip search, handcuffing, and photographing all without his consent and with no legal basis. All of this was done intentionally, willfully, and maliciously.

Payout: \$35,000

Lawsuit complaint: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxf2hew>.

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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](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*