

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

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

Legal Aid Unveils NYC's Most Comprehensive Database on Law Enforcement Misconduct - "Law Enforcement Lookup" - With More Than 450,000 Records Available for Public Use

For the First Time, Legal Aid Makes Available NYPD Misconduct Records Obtained via FOIL Requests, Discovery in Criminal Cases, and More

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society today [unveiled](#) the most comprehensive database on law enforcement misconduct records in New York City to date, named "[Law Enforcement Lookup](#)" or "LELU". LELU includes more than 450,000 misconduct and other records, available for public use, involving New York City Police Department (NYPD) and New York City Department of Correction (DOC) officers.

The LELU database includes:

- over 18,000 lawsuits filed against more than 14,000 NYPD officers between 2013 and June 30, 2022;
- over 190,000 Civilian Complaint Review Board records of allegations made against NYPD officers, including more than 1,000 full investigation closing reports obtained through FOIL requests and from partner organizations;
- roughly 9,000 NYPD internal misconduct records, including NYPD trial decisions and NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) records;
- nearly 15,000 District Attorney (DA) and judicial records, including Brady and Giglio disclosures from prosecutors, and DA "adverse credibility" records from four New York City counties;
- NYPD and DOC payroll and roster data for all currently employed members of service;

- over 1,000 archived media articles concerning NYPD officer misconduct; and
- hundreds of DOC staff discipline records.

Legal Aid plans to update LELU on a regular basis as records become available.

LELU builds upon the organization’s earlier version of the database, which was designed by and for public defenders to share police misconduct records prior to the repeal of Police Secrecy Law 50-a.

In 2018, Legal Aid piloted a public database, [CAPstat](#), which made a subset of this data available to New Yorkers. Today’s launch of LELU expands upon this prior project by combining the more than 450,000 records that Legal Aid has collected on officer misconduct together into one public database. Legal Aid hopes this will empower advocacy groups, journalists, civil rights attorneys, and the general public to investigate the records of NYPD and DOC officers and seek accountability for the abuses that too many of these officers have inflicted on New Yorkers, particularly those from communities of color.

For example, LELU can be used by community members in the wake of police violence to research the misconduct histories of the officers involved. One example is Wayne Isaacs, [the officer who shot and killed Delrawn Small](#) in an off-duty road rage incident in 2016, and who is still on the force while his disciplinary case has dragged on for years.

A search for the name “Wayne Isaacs” on LELU reveals five CCRB allegations and four lawsuits resulting in \$367,500 in payouts by the City. By making these records public, advocates will have additional information when seeking justice for the victims of police violence and accountability for the officers who too often get away with abusing their power and harming New Yorkers.

	Officer Defendant ↕	Tax # ↕	Disposition ↕	Payout ↕	Lit Start ↕	Disp Date ↕
	All	All	All	All	All	All
+	Isaacs, Wayne	953988	Settlement	\$195,000	2017-07-10	2021-11-29
+	Isaacs, Wayne	953988	Settlement	\$122,500	2017-09-20	2021-02-12
+	Isaacs, Wayne	953988	Settlement	\$30,000	2014-11-12	2015-08-11
+	Isaacs, Wayne	953988	Settlement	\$20,000	2014-12-18	2015-05-06

Note: Misconduct sources in LELU vary in the extent to which unique identifiers are provided for each individual law enforcement officer. As such, users are responsible for determining whether the results returned in their search represent the officer in question. For NYPD officers, the only stable and unique identifier of police officers is “Tax ID”, which is not consistently available from all sources of misconduct records. Badges/shield numbers, precincts, and officer names are subject to change and cannot be considered reliable identifiers.

“For too long, City Hall, the NYPD, and DOC withheld these misconduct records from the public, although these records contain critical information that all New Yorkers should have access to,” said **Tina Luongo, chief attorney of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “LELU is a powerful research tool, and for the first time, the general public will have access to the single most comprehensive set of law enforcement misconduct records in New York. This information will help shine a light on the culture of impunity that has existed for decades within these departments, allowing New Yorkers to better hold those who police their neighborhoods and staff local jails to account.”

“Legal Aid pioneered efforts to gather police misconduct information and make it publicly available,” said **Barry Scheck, co-founder of Innocence Project**. “This latest database will help defenders, prosecutors, police, and the public ensure that justice is done in our courts and witnesses tell the truth. Databases like this should exist in every city and state.”

“For decades, records of police misconduct have been shielded from the public, contributing to the NYPD’s culture of abusive policing with impunity,” said **Yung-Mi Lee, legal director of Brooklyn Defender Services’ Criminal Defense Practice**. “From the repeal of 50-a to the enactment of new discovery laws in the last several years, New York has taken strides towards making these patterns of law enforcement misconduct more transparent. In the latest critical step towards lifting the veil on NYPD and DOC misconduct and abuse, LELU gives the public access to the most thorough set of misconduct records seen yet and is a valuable tool to hold police accountable.”

“Justice for our clients cannot be achieved without transparency,” said **Stan Germán, executive director of New York County Defender Services**. “For decades, prosecutors were allowed to portray police officers as untainted and unbiased witnesses, while laws were used to shield the public and the court from the truth regarding the misconduct and misdeeds of those very witnesses. The Law Enforcement Lookup will provide transparency and real accountability where it is needed most: our courtrooms.”

“As public defenders representing people in The Bronx, we have seen for years how the city’s police have escaped accountability because misconduct records have been hidden from the public,” said **Justine Olderman, executive director at The Bronx Defenders**. “With LELU, public defenders, advocates, and the general public can visit one website to access the City’s most comprehensive database on police misconduct to date. Such access will allow us to further undo decades of police impunity and ensure true justice for those harmed by police.”

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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