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

***Legal Aid Honors Key Partners at 2022 Pro Bono Publico
Awards Ceremony***

***Jennifer L. Colyer of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP;
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP; and over 220 Individual
Attorneys Honored***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society held the 2022 Pro Bono Publico Awards Ceremony at the Prince George Ballroom on Tuesday, October 25th, honoring individual attorneys and law firms for their outstanding and sustained achievements in pro bono services.

Each year, The Legal Aid Society works with over 100 law firms and national law schools across New York City. The firms recognized were nominated by Legal Aid staff in every borough for their exceptional commitment to ensure that no New Yorker is denied the right to equal justice. **The Honorable Anthony Cannataro, Acting Chief Judge of the State of New York,** presented the awards to the honorees.

“The impact of pro bono volunteers on our ability to zealously advocate for our clients is indispensable and we are incredibly proud to honor the contributions of these individuals and

firms,” said **Twyla Carter, Attorney-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer of The Legal Aid Society**. “We are deeply appreciative of the undeniable impact their work has in the lives of our clients, and look forward to continuing to partner with these firms to advance justice for the communities we serve.”

The Public Interest Law Leadership Award was presented to Jennifer L. Colyer of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP in recognition of her extraordinary contributions as a volunteer attorney, for her constant support of The Legal Aid Society and our client communities, and as the leader of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobsen’s outstanding pro bono program since 2000. Colyer’s extensive and exemplary work focuses on immigration, LGBTQ rights, reproductive rights and criminal defense. She was honored in 2010 by Legal Aid for her work on behalf of clients applying for resentencing relief under the New York’s Drug Law Reform Act. Colyer’s tireless work on behalf of immigrants has also made her a mainstay within New York’s immigration advocacy community; most recently providing leadership and supervision to remote volunteer projects assisting clients with DACA renewals, naturalization and through Legal Aid’s Immigration Hotline.

The 2022 Honorable Jonathan Lippman New York Pro Bono Publico & Public Service Law Firm Award was presented to Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP for its exceptional pro bono commitment to Legal Aid’s organization and clients. In the past year, Kramer Levin has contributed nearly 3,000 hours of legal services to Legal Aid clients, and the firm has provided critical assistance to clients in areas as diverse as immigration defense, bankruptcy, criminal appeals, business development for low-income entrepreneurs and community justice programs, which impact hundreds of New Yorkers. Through their extraordinary pro bono commitment to Legal Aid Society’s client communities, Kramer Levin has demonstrated that the firm shares Judge Lippman’s goal of “making equal justice for all not just an ideal, but a reality.”

The Honorable Anthony Cannataro, Acting Chief Judge of the State of New York, said: “The New York courts remain committed to bridging the access to justice gap. We continue to work collaboratively with the legal services community and the bar to develop programs and implement procedures targeted at achieving a more effective and efficient delivery of justice services for all New Yorkers. Pro bono legal work is a crucial component of increasing access to justice, and we are pleased to acknowledge the noble and selfless service of attorneys and law firms who volunteer their time and talent to New Yorkers in need.”

Jennifer L. Colyer of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, said, “I am so thrilled to have been honored with this year’s Public Interest Law Leadership Award. Serving the Society’s clients and working with its expert attorneys has been a highlight of my career for

many years, and I am particularly proud of the partnerships that we put together to serve clients needing naturalization and DACA assistance remotely during the pandemic. Fried Frank's partnership with the Society is always rewarding for our attorneys, and we look forward to continuing it well into the future."

"We are honored to be recognized with this award from the Legal Aid Society, one of our greatest allies in providing pro bono legal service to the community," said **Paul H. Schoeman, Co-Managing Partner of Kramer Levin**. "Working with the Legal Aid Society inspires our lawyers to deliver critical legal assistance to low-income New Yorkers. We are proud to join the Legal Aid Society in its commitment to increasing access to justice for all New Yorkers."

"We look forward to this event every year because it provides us with an opportunity to say thank you to the legal professionals who donate their time, and to highlight the amazing work of Legal Aid Society staff who work with the volunteers providing mentorship and guidance," said **Lou Sartori, Chief Counsel of the Pro Bono Practice at The Legal Aid Society**.

Last year, 2,737 volunteers donated 201,460 hours of legal assistance to the clients of The Legal Aid Society. But no metrics can adequately quantify what pro bono assistance means to a family facing homelessness, a client whose rights are violated by unlawful police conduct, or a child in foster care whose educational needs are not being met. For over 140 years, The Legal Aid Society has worked together with the private bar to provide life changing legal assistance and deliver "Justice In Every Borough."

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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 140 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. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>