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

***Legal Aid Applauds New York State’s Appellate Division  
Modification of Discriminatory Bar Admission Question But  
Calls For Further Reform***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to a [report](#) that the New York State Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has pared back Question 26 of the Bar Admission test, which relates to prior encounters with law enforcement:

**Dawne Mitchell, chief attorney of the Juvenile Rights Practice at The Legal Aid Society,** said:

“After years of [advocacy](#), The Legal Aid Society applauds the Appellate Division’s decision to amend Question 26 of the Bar Admission application. While this decision is a step in the right direction, it fails to adequately address the exclusionary impact of the question on communities of color or bring the question into full compliance with the law. By continuing to require Bar applicants to divulge information about most sealed arrests and even some favorably terminated criminal proceedings, the Appellate Division continues to violate the New York State Human Rights Law. The Appellate Division must go further and bring Question 26 into compliance with New York’s anti-discrimination statute.”

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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)*

