



April 19, 2023

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

Legal Aid Celebrates Confirmation of Judge Rowan D. Wilson As First Black Chief Judge of New York's Highest Court

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to the confirmation of Judge Rowan D. Wilson as New York State Court of Appeals Chief Judge:

“The confirmation of Judge Rowan D. Wilson as the first Black Chief Judge of New York is a historic moment for the state. His confirmation marks a significant step in breaking down the systemic barriers that continue to stand in the way of progress, and we applaud the members of the New York State Senate who voted to help usher in this new era of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the State’s highest court.

“The lack of diversity in judicial appointments has undoubtedly contributed to the inequality in our legal system. It is only through diversifying our court system that we can begin to unravel these implicit biases that negatively impact millions of Black and Latinx New Yorkers moving through the state court system.

“Judge Wilson is thoughtful and intelligent, and we celebrate the new and long overdue perspective he will bring to the position of Chief Judge.”

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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.
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