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

Legal Aid Statement on DA Bragg Vacating 316 Convictions Involving Discredited NYPD Officers

(NEW YORK, NY) - Elizabeth Felber, supervising attorney of the Wrongful Conviction Unit at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement in response to New York County District Attorney Alvin Bragg vacating 316 convictions involving discredited New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers:

“We applaud District Attorney Alvin Bragg for taking further action to vacate convictions involving discredited NYPD officers.

“While we hope that this moment delivers some justice and closure to the New Yorkers impacted by these tactics, the sad reality is that many were forced to suffer incarceration, hefty legal fees, loss of employment, housing instability, severed access to critical benefits and other collateral consequences.

“The Legal Aid Society urges DA Bragg and other local prosecutors to continue to conduct these reviews on a rolling basis with full transparency. The same lens used on our clients charged with criminal conduct must be applied to those in law enforcement. Anything less will erode the public’s trust in the criminal legal system to hold those accountable for egregious acts of misconduct.”

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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