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

### ***Legal Aid Statement on the Exoneration of Reginald Cameron***

**(NEW YORK, NY) - Elizabeth Felber, director of the Wrongful Conviction Unit at The Legal Aid Society,** released the following statement in response to the Queens County District Attorney's Office exonerating Reginald Cameron, a New Yorker who was wrongfully convicted of murder in 1996:

"Earlier this month, the Queen's County District Attorney's Office requested that Legal Aid represent Reginald Cameron at today's vacatur hearing.

"Mr. Cameron, at the young age of 19, was coerced into providing a false confession, which he subsequently retracted. But, to avoid the 'trial tax', he subsequently pled guilty and lost nine years of his life to some of New York's most notorious and brutal prisons. This is an all-too-common reality for many of our clients who are innocent, but forced to accept a guilty plea over the alternative of a lengthy prison sentence.

"This case underscores the urgent need for Governor Hochul to enact the [Challenging Wrongful Conviction Act](#), which would ease the process for New Yorkers who pleaded guilty to bring post-conviction challenges. Current law prohibits such New Yorkers from bringing claims of actual innocence. This measure passed the full Legislature earlier this year.

"While we know that today will never fully compensate Mr. Cameron for the years he lost, we hope that it helps bring him some much needed closure."

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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)*