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

Legal Aid Lauds Governor Hochul for Signing the Clean Slate Act Into Law

***Clean Slate Will Automatically Seal Conviction Records and End Perpetual
Punishment for Millions of New Yorkers***

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** lauded Governor Hochul for signing into law the [Clean Slate Act](#), critical legislation that will automatically seal conviction records for more than 2.3 million New Yorkers, a disproportionate number of whom are from low-income communities of color.

“This is a moment for the millions of New Yorkers who have been forced to suffer under the cloud of a criminal conviction that has long impeded their ability to secure employment, housing, educational opportunities, benefits and other critical needs,” said **Tina Luongo, Chief Attorney of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “With the stroke of a pen, Governor Kathy Hochul has ended this nightmare and transformed the lives of so many of our clients and their families for the better. The Legal Aid Society lauds bill sponsors Senator Zellnor Myrie and Assembly Member Catalina Cruz for championing Clean Slate, and Governor Hochul for her action in getting New York State to this day.”

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