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Contact:

Redmond Haskins
Director of Media Relations
The Legal Aid Society
(929) 441-2384
rhaskins@legal-aid.org

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

Legal Aid Lauds Pardon Granted for Kayode Oseni, Client at Risk of Deportation

(NEW YORK, NY) – Mia Unger, Staff Attorney with the Immigration Law Unit at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement lauding the pardon granted to Kayode Oseni, a client at risk of deportation:

“Kayode Oseni has called New York City home for decades, but a conviction from his youth resulted in the loss of his lawful permanent resident status and has threatened to entirely upend his life, and separate him from his family and community. The Legal Aid Society thanks Governor Kathy Hochul for granting Mr. Oseni’s pardon, and we encourage the Governor to extend this relief on a regular basis to the many New Yorkers across the state who have commutation and pardon applications pending with her office.

“Lastly, today’s outcome would have never been possible but for the tireless work of Brooklyn Law School’s Clemency and Pardon Project, who prepared and submitted Mr. Oseni’s pardon application and never wavered in their advocacy for him.”

Background:

Kayode Oseni, 33, has lived a crime-free life for nearly 15 years. He came to the United States when he was six years old and has now lived here for most of his life. He is married to a United States citizen and they have a young child who is also a United States citizen. Since his conviction, he has earned an Associate's Degree and a Bachelor's Degree and has maintained employment.

He is active in his local community and helps care for his mother. Mr. Oseni was convicted of Robbery in the First Degree in 2010 for an offense occurring when he was 18 years old. A pardon will help him avert the threat of deportation so that he can remain in the United States with his family and community.

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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