

June 7, 2024

Contact:

Audrey Martin
AMartin@legal-aid.org

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

***Legal Aid Lauds NYS Senate Passage of Legislation to Reform the NYS
Commission on Forensic Science***

Public Defenders Call on Assembly to Immediately Pass Companion Bill

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the New York State Senate passing [legislation](#) that would reform the New York State Commission on Forensic Science:

“The New York State Commission on Forensic Science, which was established in 1994, has not kept up with advancements in the field of forensic science and technology. This lack of modernization has led to systemic issues including poor oversight measures, laboratory failures, and forensic misidentifications that make our clients — and all New Yorkers — less safe.

“This legislation, just passed by the New York State Senate, will provide critical updates and reforms to the Commission and bolster its ability to conduct meaningful investigations with greater forensic accuracy, strengthen ethical oversight measures, increase transparency and accountability to all New Yorkers.

“S9672 will enhance public trust of forensic science use in criminal courts, reduce the likelihood of any New Yorker being subjected to the devastating impacts of a wrongful conviction, and preserve the rights to a fair trial for the accused. We thank Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris for sponsoring this critical legislation and encourage the Assembly to make introduction of a companion bill a priority in the 2025 Legislative session.”

###

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