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

Legal Aid Calls on Governor Kathy Hochul to Sign Maintaining Criminal Record Confidentiality Act into Law

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** today called on Governor Kathy Hochul to sign into law the [Maintaining Criminal Record Confidentiality Act](#) (S940/A6637). This legislation would prevent certain entities, including employers and landlords, from requiring individuals to disclose criminal records that they have received through the Division of Criminal Justice Services' Personal Record Review process, which often contain sealed and confidential information. Instead, entities that seek to learn about individuals' criminal records must conduct background check searches through other available, lawful channels.

“The Maintaining Criminal Record Confidentiality Act will ensure that New Yorkers’ confidential and sealed records remain just that: confidential and sealed. It will prevent employers and landlords from circumventing existing protections for New Yorkers with arrest records, including the Clean Slate Act.

“New Yorkers should be able to access employment and housing opportunities without having to disclose confidential and sealed information. New Yorkers with past arrest records are no less capable or deserving of the opportunity to work and access housing.

“Governor Hochul must sign the Maintaining Criminal Record Confidentiality Act into law immediately to ensure that all New Yorkers have equal access to employment and housing opportunities.”

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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>