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

***Statement in Response to Governor Hochul Signing into Law Maintaining
Criminal Record Confidentiality Act***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to Governor Kathy Hochul signing into law the [Maintaining Criminal Record Confidentiality Act](#), legislation that will 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:

“Under this new legislation, New Yorkers with a criminal record will be better protected from potential employers and landlords unlawfully accessing confidential and sealed information that could be used to bar them from employment and housing opportunities.

“A prior arrest record – oftentimes from years or decades ago – should not inhibit an individual’s ability to work and live in New York. As we know, perpetually punishing individuals with past arrest records contributes to higher rates of recidivism and exacerbates the toxic cycle of incarceration.

“We thank Governor Hochul, as well as bill sponsors Senator Jamaal Bailey and Assembly Member Amanda Septimo, for advancing the Maintaining Criminal Record Confidentiality Act into law.”

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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>