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***The Legal Aid Society Announces \$8 Million Gift from Philanthropist  
MacKenzie Scott***

***The Investment will Advance Legal Aid's Mission Serving Low-Income New  
Yorkers as it Nears its 150th Anniversary***

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society**, New York's largest and oldest social justice law firm, today announced that it received an \$8 million gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott to further the organization's mission of providing essential legal services on a myriad of matters to low-income New Yorkers in need. Ms. Scott's gift comes as the organization nears its 150th anniversary in March 2026.

"We are profoundly grateful to Ms. Scott for her generous investment in our work and the millions of New Yorkers that benefit from our ability to blunt the devastating impacts of poverty on our communities," said **Twyla Carter, Attorney-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer of The Legal Aid Society**. "This gift is a testament to the hard work of The Legal Aid Society's team of nearly 2,300 attorneys, paralegals, mitigation specialists, investigators, administrative staff, and interns, in support of the people we serve."

Since its founding in 1876, The Legal Aid Society has provided millions of low-income New Yorkers with high-quality free legal services. The Society represents individuals on criminal, family, and civil matters such as immigration and housing. The organization also engages in strategic litigation and law reform advocacy to help bring meaningful systemic changes, and partners with local organizations, coalitions, and directly impacted communities to empower New Yorkers with resources and information.

"Each year, our direct representation of hundreds of thousands of low-income New Yorkers informs our advocacy and litigation work that impacts millions of people," said Carter. "Our greatest triumphs are measured in the lives of the people we've impacted and the difference we've made in our communities. This generous gift will enable us to make much-needed one-time investments in our organization's infrastructure to help those we serve."

“We applaud MacKenzie Scott for her recognition and support of The Legal Aid Society and other legal services organizations around the country that provide critical legal representation to the low-income population of our communities,” said **Alan Levine, President of The Legal Aid Society’s Board of Directors.**

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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 nearly 150 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](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*