



Justice in Every Borough.

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

Legal Aid Statement In Response To Ruling In Uniformed Fire Officers Association, et al. v. Bill de Blasio

(NEW YORK, NY) – **Corey Stoughton, Attorney-in-Charge of the Special Litigation Unit with the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**, issued the following statement in response to a decision rendered by SDNY Judge Katherine Polk Failla on the police unions' motion for a preliminary injunction in *Uniformed Fire Officers Association, et al. v. Bill de Blasio*:

"This decision rightfully rejects the police unions' baseless attempts to undermine the Legislature's decisive repeal of Police Secrecy Law 50-a and to continue hiding records of police discipline and misconduct. To live up to the values of transparency and accountability underlying that repeal, the City can and should immediately proceed with its plans to make police misconduct records accessible to the public, as promised by Mayor Bill de Blasio earlier this summer."

Background

Legal Aid filed two amicus briefs in opposition in *Uniformed Fire Officers Association, et al. v. Bill de Blasio* against union efforts to deny New Yorkers access to critical law enforcement officer disciplinary records. The first [amicus](#) brief was filed in opposition to a preliminary injunction before Judge Failla, and the second [amicus](#) brief was filed in opposition to the police union's efforts to restrain NYCLU from publishing. On June 12, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo enacted legislation that fully repealed Police Secrecy Law 50-a. Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP partnered with Legal Aid in drafting and filing the two amicus briefs.

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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 140 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/>