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

Statement on Mayor Mamdani Appointing Stanley Richards as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction

(NEW YORK, NY) — Tina Luongo, Chief Attorney of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement on Mayor Zohran Mamdani appointing Stanley Richards as the next Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction:

“Few people understand New York City’s jail system — and what is needed to reform it — more deeply than Stanley Richards. Drawing on his lived experience, prior senior leadership within the Department of Correction, and his tenure at The Fortune Society, he brings unmatched insight, credibility, compassion, and a deep commitment to advancing meaningful reform.

“Mayor Mamdani [stated](#) this past week that the appointment of a remediation manager presents a new opportunity to turn the page on Rikers Island and finally end its dysfunction, disorder, and depravity. We welcome that opportunity. We look forward to working alongside incoming Commissioner Richards to achieve this goal, bring about the long-overdue closure of a facility that has scarred this city for decades, and advance reforms that safeguard the rights, safety, and dignity of incarcerated New Yorkers.”

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The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit law firm that exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 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 the people we serve and helps improve our communities.

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