



March 9, 2026

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

***Legal Aid to Ring Nasdaq's Closing Bell Later Today to Celebrate 150 Years
Serving New York City***

*Bell Ringing is Part of a Suite of Events Legal Aid Will Celebrate with New Yorkers
Throughout 2026 to Commemorate this Historic Anniversary*

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society will [ring Nasdaq's closing bell](#) today at 4:00 p.m. to mark 150 years of delivering justice to low-income New Yorkers. Today's bell ringing is part of a suite of celebratory events the organization is holding this year to mark its 150th anniversary. The milestone will also be celebrated citywide through a series of "Community Joy" events at local museums, an exhibit at The New York Historical, building and bridge lightings from New York City up the Hudson to Albany in Legal Aid's colors, and a variety of other events.

"For 150 years, The Legal Aid Society has stood alongside New Yorkers who might otherwise face the legal system alone," said **Twyla Carter, CEO and Attorney-in-Chief of The Legal Aid Society**. "Ringing Nasdaq's closing bell is a powerful moment to reflect on the generations of people and communities we have long served — and continue to serve — who have shaped this organization and the ongoing fight for equal justice. As we celebrate this milestone, we remain focused on the work ahead — ensuring that every New Yorker, regardless of income, has access to the legal representation, dignity, and opportunity they deserve."

Background

Founded in 1876 as the German Legal Aid Society, the organization began as the nation's first legal office dedicated to serving low-income individuals who otherwise had no access to a lawyer. In its first year, Legal Aid handled 212 cases, primarily assisting German immigrants in New York City — laying the foundation for what would become an enduring movement for equal justice.

As New York City grew and evolved, so did The Legal Aid Society. For 150 years, the organization has adapted to serve new communities while driving systemic reforms to meet the changing needs of low-income New Yorkers.

Today, Legal Aid's work benefits more than 2 million low-income individuals, families, and households across the five boroughs facing challenges related to the criminal, civil, and juvenile legal systems, housing instability, immigration, employment, healthcare, education, government benefits, and more every year.

Through impact litigation, direct representation, and policy advocacy, The Legal Aid Society fights not only for impacted people, but also for lasting structural change that expands rights, protections, and opportunities for all New Yorkers.

From its defense of incarcerated people during the Attica Uprising, to its role in the landmark Willowbrook State School litigation, to decades of advocacy for unhoused families and people detained at Rikers Island, Legal Aid's history is deeply intertwined with the defining civil rights struggles of New York City.

For 150 years — and counting — The Legal Aid Society has been, and remains, a powerful force for justice.

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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.

www.legalaidnyc.org