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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bios and headshots attached

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LSHV Welcomes new board members

WHITE PLAINS, NY – Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV), announced the newest members of its board of directors:

Alejandro Cruz, Esq., Partner at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP

Tina Hwa Joe, Esq., Associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Alison J. Plenge, Esq., Senior Attorney, IBM

Luis Rivera, Esq., Senior Managing Director of Sterling National Bank

Evelicia Rodriquez, Assistant Teacher at Stein Yeshiva of Lincoln Park

Vicki Walcott-Edim, Esq., VP & Senior Managing Counsel,

Global Employment Law at Mastercard

“We are delighted to welcome our new board members,” said Erik Haas, newly elected board president. “Our board is comprised of a dedicated team of community members and we are excited to add this pool of talent, expertise and energy to the mix.”

Rachel Halperin, CEO stated: “It is an exciting time to have these dynamic individuals join our board. Leaders with diverse backgrounds and strengths are exactly what we need to lead us into the future. I look forward to their leadership, insight and vision in support of our mission.”

The new Board members join a group of dedicated and committed individuals who believe that “Justice for All” should be a promise for everyone, not just those who can afford it.

About Legal Services of the Hudson Valley

LSHV is the only provider of free, comprehensive civil (non-criminal) legal services to low-income and disadvantaged individuals and families who cannot afford an attorney when their basic human needs are at stake. This includes urgent legal needs such as: housing emergencies, domestic violence, healthcare, children's law and advocacy, disability and benefits, elder law, consumer fraud and more. Founded more than 50 years ago, LSHV serves the seven counties of the lower and mid-Hudson Valley (Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland, Orange, Ulster, and Sullivan), maintaining a staff of approximately 150 individuals working across ten offices throughout its service area. In 2020, we handled 12,142 cases and impacted 27,380 individuals across all practice areas.

For more information about Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, contribute or volunteer, please visit www.lshv.org, or contact Maureen Fox at 914-949-1305 x160 or mfox@lshv.org.



Alejandro Cruz, Esq., Partner at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP

Alejandro is a Partner in the Firm's Litigation department. Mr. Cruz represents clients in complex commercial litigation in trial and appellate courts, as well as in arbitrations and mediations. He was named a 2020 "Rising Star" by the *New York Law Journal*, a designation that "recognizes the region's most promising lawyers ages 40 and under."

Alejandro also maintains an active *pro bono* practice, including federal civil rights actions, housing disputes, disability discrimination, and claims related to religious land use and the First Amendment. In 2016, he received the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project's Champion of Justice Award for his commitment to pro bono service. Prior to joining the Firm, he was an associate at a New York law firm and served as a law clerk to the Hon. Eric N. Vitaliano of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York from 2011 to 2012.



Tina Hwa Joe, Esq., Associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Tina is an Associate in the Firm's Litigation department. Prior to joining the firm she served as a law clerk for Hon. Naomi Reice Buchwald of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York from 2016-2017. She graduated magna cum laude with a BA in Economics from Harvard University and received her JD from Harvard Law School.



Alison J. Plenge, Esq., Senior Attorney, IBM

Alison is a Senior Attorney for IBM providing general legal support to hardware, cloud and cognitive software brand clients in connection with alliances, antitrust, commercial, compliance, contracts, data security and privacy, employment, corporate, intellectual property, licensing, and mergers and acquisitions. She was named a Super Lawyer 2017 and 2018 Washington DC Rising Star. Alison graduated with a BA from Wesleyan University and received her JD from University of California at Davis School of Law.



Luis Rivera, Esq., Senior Managing Director of Sterling National Bank

Luis is the Senior Managing Director and Vice President for the Law Firm Banking Group at Sterling National Bank. Prior to joining the bank, he was the Executive Director of the Westchester County Bar Association. He holds a BA from SUNY Albany and a JD from Pace University School of Law. He is a member of the Westchester County and NY State Bar Associations.

Evelicia Rodriguez, Assistant Teacher at Stein Yeshiva of Lincoln Park

Evelicia is a former client of LSHV and an assistant teacher at Stein Yeshiva of Lincoln Park in Yonkers. She has an Associated Degree in Early Childhood from Ashford University.



**Vicki Walcott-Edim, Esq., VP & Senior Managing Counsel,
Global Employment Law at Mastercard**

Vicki is Senior Managing Counsel, Global Employment Law for Mastercard. She provides strategic advice and counsel on a wide variety of employment matters to help Mastercard attract, develop, and retain top talent. She has extensive prior volunteer and board experience in the non-profit arena with organizations such as New York Appleseed, the Appleseed Network, the Glenwood Lake Association, and the Posse Foundation. She holds a BA from The College of William & Mary and graduated cum laude with a JD from The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law.