



## **Governor commutes sentences of three CAL clients & pardons another**

Today, Governor Kathy Hochul granted clemency to our clients Eric, Michael, and Alex & Andres. The Governor commuted Eric, Michael, & Alex's sentences, allowing them to return home and rejoin their families and communities. The Governor pardoned Andres, allowing him to pursue naturalization.

- Eric has served 13 years of a 16-year-to-life sentence.
- Michael has served 20 years of a 45-year sentence.
- Alex has served 22 years of a 25-year-to-life sentence.

While in prison, each of them made significant personal changes and achieved major accomplishments. They received bachelor's and graduate degrees and became mentors, role models, and educators to those around them.

We applaud Governor Hochul for recognizing our clients and believing, as we do, that keeping them incarcerated would be a disservice not only to them but also to the community at large. Understanding that incarcerated persons are whole people, beyond just their convictions, is an essential part of changing the criminal legal system. We are happy to see the Governor do the right thing by commuting Eric, Michael, and Alex's sentences. Read the Governor's Press Release [here](#).

Chloe Serinsky, Director of CAL's Clemency Project, advocated for Eric, Michael, and Alex with the Governor's Executive Clemency Bureau. Former CAL fellow Sam Fishman assisted with Alex's application. Simpson Thacher represented Andres Pro Bono. These commutations demonstrate the continuing commitment of CAL and its staff to our clients, each of whom CAL has represented since their initial assignment to CAL by the First Department more than a decade ago.