

MEET

ELIZA ORLINS

for Manhattan District Attorney



Eliza Orlins is a Manhattan public defender and outspoken advocate for our city's most vulnerable. For more than a decade, she fought courtroom battles representing over 3,000 New Yorkers who otherwise would not have been able to afford a lawyer.

Every day, she sees firsthand how Manhattan's criminal justice system functions one way for the rich and connected, and another way for everyone else. In doing so, Eliza has earned a reputation as a relentless champion for the underdog. She has taken on the toughest of fights for the very people our system is most rigged against, including our black and brown neighbors and those in lower-income communities.

In 2020, Eliza announced her candidacy for Manhattan District Attorney, running on a platform designed to take on the inequalities in our system: transforming criminal justice in New York and making our city safer for everyone.

As she has throughout her career, Eliza brings to the DA race the courage and tenacity to take on powerful, entrenched interests—including DA Cyrus Vance and his cronies—to prevent vulnerable New Yorkers from being thrown in cages for “offenses” as petty as putting a bag of groceries on an extra seat in the subway, an enforcement practice that often costs New Yorkers their jobs or their apartments, and too often serves to perpetuate the cycles of poverty and disruption that plague our city.

Eliza's victories on behalf of the vulnerable have been profiled in the **New York Times**.

In addition, she has developed a reputation as a powerful advocate for justice in the court of public opinion, with work published in **Washington Post** and **Blavity**.

As a criminal defense attorney for The Legal Aid Society, Eliza has litigated in both New York State Supreme Court and New York State Criminal Court. She also trains new lawyers in the fight, bringing her court experience to teaching how to argue for bail, win suppression hearings, cross-examine witnesses, and compose powerful closing arguments.

Eliza has been a proud union member with the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys Local 2325, part of UAW 9A, since 2009.

Eliza is a graduate of Syracuse University and Fordham Law School, where she was symposium editor for the Urban Law Journal and led a symposium on the constitutionality of lethal injection.

In 2004, she competed on CBS's *Survivor*, an experience that netted her a national following, which she uses to advocate on behalf of criminal justice reform and other social justice issues.

Eliza's first fundraising deadline was a massive success, outraising all other candidates during the four month period since her campaign launch. Eliza also leads the field with the highest number of individual contributions: 3,568. The grassroots movement Eliza has built is unmatched, with 93% of supporters contributing \$100 or less.

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