

# **Reentry in California – Overcoming Legal Barriers to Community Reintegration 2018**

**San Francisco, Live Webcast and [www.pli.edu](http://www.pli.edu),\* August 10, 2018**

## **Why You Should Attend**

In the past three decades, incarceration rates have exploded in the U.S., such that today we incarcerate over two million people, more than any other country in the world. The result is that many more people encounter the criminal justice system at some point in their lives. Indeed, an estimated 1 in 3 adults in California has an arrest or conviction record, and low-income people and people of color are disproportionately affected.

A person with a prior record faces significant barriers to employment, occupational licensing, and other basic necessities like housing, even when the record is old or relatively minor. Now more than ever, immigrants face the threat of deportation based on criminal justice contacts as minor as an arrest that did not result in conviction. This training is designed to give lawyers a foundation in the collateral consequences of contact with the criminal justice system, as well as tools for representing clients in need of reentry legal services.

## **What You Will Learn**

- Walking the Talk in Allyship – How to Effectively Support Criminal Justice Impacted Communities
- Criminal Record Remedy Updates and Advocacy Strategies
- When Poverty Is a Crime and Justice Is Privatized – Bail, Court Fees, and Traffic Courts
- Overcoming Criminal Record-Related Barriers to Employment and Occupational Licensing
- Considerations and Best Practices in Planning and Hosting a One-Day Clean Slate Clinic

## **Who Should Attend**

All attorneys interested in or currently assisting pro bono clients with reentry legal services through representation or in clinical settings, law firm pro bono coordinators, managers and partners, law clinic students and faculty, and public interest and nonprofit organization attorneys and staff would benefit from attending this program.

## **AGENDA**

9:00

### **Opening Remarks**

***Maureen Kildee, Danica Rodarmel, Theresa Zhen***

9:15

### **Walking the Talk in Allyship – How to Effectively Support Criminal Justice Impacted Communities**

The purpose of this panel will be to discuss ways in which allies without direct experience with the criminal justice system can build stronger bridges and deeper relationships with those who do. Topics for discussion will be how even those who are well-intentioned may overlook their own blind spots when they are crafting policy, public statements, litigation, etc., if they are not actively and authentically engaging with impacted communities.

***Brandon L. Greene***

10:15

### **Criminal Record Remedy Updates and Advocacy Strategies**

The stakes of criminal justice reform have never been higher, particularly for immigrants at risk of deportation due to contact with the criminal justice system. This panel will focus on recent additions to the criminal record remedies toolkit, and strategies for assisting immigrant clients who have had contacts with the criminal justice system.

***Maureen Kildee, Ali Saidi***

11:15 Networking Break

11:30

### **When Poverty Is a Crime and Justice Is Privatized – Bail, Court Fees, and Traffic Courts**

As people are released from prison, or successfully complete the terms of their probation, they are faced with a staggering amount of debt related to their criminal convictions. As the debt goes unpaid, people are punished through extended supervision, further incarceration, driver's license suspensions, and late penalties. The result is that many poor people are further penalized for their inability to pay, and continue in a cycle of poverty. Courts charge people for

many aspects of their incarceration and supervision, including fingerprinting, writing pre-sentencing reports, and for costs associated with probation. People can also accumulate substantial court-ordered debt through traffic court, where a \$100 ticket can turn into a \$490 ticket. The median bail in California is \$50,000, and 10 percent – what would be needed to pay a bail agent for release – is \$5,000, an amount beyond the reach of most Californians. Additionally, as ending mass incarceration has become a bipartisan rallying cry, private industry has taken note and is gearing up to profit from decarceration through “alternatives to incarceration” programs like private probation, electronic monitoring, and creating risk assessment tools. This panel will discuss legal and political advocacy related to criminal court debt, traffic court debt, and bail reform.

***Danica Rodarmel, Theresa Zhen***

12:30

### **Overcoming Criminal Record – Related Barriers to Employment and Occupational Licensing**

Stable employment reduces the likelihood of recidivism and provides a path out of poverty for people with criminal records. Unfortunately, criminal records present significant barriers to securing employment and occupational licenses, a prerequisite to many jobs in California at a range of skill levels. Applicants and the employers or agencies screening them are frequently unaware of the legal requirements that apply to criminal record screening in the employment and licensing contexts. In addition, criminal record reporters – including commercial background check companies and public agencies such as the California Department of Motor Vehicles and Department of Justice – often report inaccurate or over-broad criminal record information. The panelists will provide an overview of existing laws that apply to criminal record screening by employers and occupational licensing agencies, privacy and consumer protections that limit the reporting of criminal record information, and procedures permitting record subjects to review and correct improperly reported information.

***Sadie Wathen***

1:30 Lunch

2:30

**Best Practices in Planning and Hosting a One-Day Clean Slate Clinic**

This panel will cover best practices and considerations in planning a one-day legal clinic. Panelists will share lessons learned in planning and running record clearance clinics in a variety of situations including mass clinics with over 200 clients in one day, regular clinics, clinics with one-time volunteers, and much more. This training will particularly focus on the clean slate clinics with lessons applicable to other one-day legal clinics such as, writing wills or signing people up for public benefits.

***Eva J. DeLair, Danica Rodarmel***

3:30 Adjourn

**Faculty:**

**Co-Chairs:**

**Maureen Kildee**

Staff Attorney and Clinical Supervisor, Clean Slate Practice  
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**Danica Rodarmel**

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