

Reentry in California – Overcoming Legal Barriers to Community Reintegration 2019

San Francisco, Live Webcast and www.pli.edu,* August 7, 2019

Why You Should Attend

In the past three decades, incarceration rates have exploded in the U.S., 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 or 8 million people in California have 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
- Removing Barriers to Employment for Criminal Justice Impacted Communities
- Crim-Imm Crash Course: Effectively Dealing with the Intersection Between Immigration and Criminal Law
- Juvenile Re-entry and Education Advocacy Updates
- Fair Chance Housing Advocacy Strategies

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

Morning Session:

9:00

Opening Remarks

Vinuta Naik

9:10

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.

Joseph Calderon, London Croudy, Aminah Elster, Brandon L. Greene

10:10 Networking Break

10:20

Removing Barriers to Employment for Criminal Justice Impacted Communities

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.

Sarah Crowley, Riana King, Jael Myrick

11:20 Networking Break

11:30

Crim-Imm Crash Course: Effectively Dealing with the Intersection Between Immigration and Criminal Law

This session will give you practical tools that you can put into practice right away, providing information for both the immigration attorney, the criminal defense attorney, and those working in related or supporting roles. We will cover how immigration and criminal defense attorneys can best work together, how to work with a client with both immigration and criminal legal issues, ways to secure immigration-safe dispositions, and the nuts and bolts of post-conviction relief. We'll end with a discussion of what challenges and solutions may be on the horizon given the climate in California and the federal administration.

Juan Cabrales, Rose Cahn, Autumn Paine

12:30 Lunch

Afternoon Session:

1:30

Juvenile Re-entry and Education Advocacy Updates

Young people involved in the juvenile delinquency system face many obstacles once they return to their community from juvenile hall or foster care placements. They are often stigmatized at school, denied their right to re-enroll in school, or forced to attend “alternative” high schools. In other cases, transition-aged-youth are rendered homeless after being kicked out by their parents or former legal guardians. School connectedness and stable housing are important protective factors that increase a youth’s likelihood to successfully complete probation and attend college or obtain employment. Even after they get off probation, many young people do not petition for juvenile record sealing because they mistakenly believe their entire juvenile record was automatically sealed once they turned 18 or got off

juvenile probation. This panel will discuss holistic, post-disposition advocacy for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Raúl Arroyo-Mendoza, Maureen Kildee

2:30 Networking Break

2:40

Fair Chance Housing Advocacy Strategies

Panelists will discuss "fair chance housing" advocacy, which aims to increase access to housing for people with past justice system involvement. We will discuss strategies including direct legal services, community organizing, and policy reform on the local, regional and national stages. The panel will provide an overview of the housing rights of people with arrest and conviction histories, legal avenues for challenging unlawful housing discrimination, and strategies for and lessons learned from reforming local and state housing policy. Finally, panelists will discuss building campaigns around "Ban the Box" housing ordinances and strategies for enforcement after such policies are adopted.

John Jones III, Chloe Noonan, Adam Poe, Deborah Thrope, Sonja Tonnesen, Tamisha Walker

3:40 Adjourn

Faculty:

Chair:

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