

Reentry in California and Beyond – Overcoming Legal Barriers to Community Reintegration 2021

Live Webcast

August 17, 2021

9:00 am – 3:40 pm (**Pacific Time**)

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
- Mitigating the Collateral Consequences of Criminal History: A National Perspective
- California Clean Slate Updates
- Fair Chance Housing Advocacy Strategies
- Crim-Imm Crash Course: Effectively Dealing with the Intersection Between Immigration and Criminal Law

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 (**All times listed in Pacific Time**):

9:00 PT

Opening Remarks

Jael Myrick, Sadie Wathen

9:10 PT

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. We will also address the common barriers that people face upon release from jail or prison.

Panel Leader: Maureen Kildee, Willard (Ali) Birts, Mel Siltanen, Debra L. Slone

10:10 PT Break

10:20 PT

Mitigating the Collateral Consequences of Criminal History: A National Perspective

The stakes of criminal justice reform have never been higher. Recently, there has been increased emphasis on eradicating collateral consequences of a criminal record. The panel will focus on national efforts to eliminate the consequences of criminal convictions.

Panel Leader: Erika Watts, Beth Avery, David Schlusser

11:20 PT Break

11:30 PT

California Clean Slate Updates

The panel will focus on recently enacted Clean Slate-related laws in California. Topics will include the newly implemented AB 1950 which limits probation to one year for most misdemeanors and two years for most felonies; SB 384 which offers a chance for some people to

petition to end their lifetime sex offender registration; and AB 1076 which will automate some forms of Clean Slate relief.

Panel Leader: Ariel Leitner-Zieff, Brandon C. Banks, Eva J. DeLair

12:30 PT Lunch

Afternoon Session (All times listed in Pacific Time):

1:30 PT

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.

Panel Leader: John Jones III

2:30 PT Break

2:40 PT

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 to seek effective post-conviction relief (PCR) remedies in California to assist noncitizen clients with immigration issues. The training will provide an overview of the definition of "conviction" in the immigration context, conducting an assessment to identify the right PCR remedies for the individual client, and the nuts and bolts of motions to vacate a conviction. 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.

Panel Leader: Ana Vazquez Pulido, Carla V. Gomez, Avantika Shastri, Su Yon Yi

3:40 PT Adjourn

Faculty:

Co-Chairs:

Maureen Kildee

Staff Attorney/Clinical Supervisor, Clean Slate Practice
Easy Bay Community Law Center
Berkeley, California

Jael Myrick

Co-Director, Clean Slate Practice
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Willard (Ali) Birts

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