

## Second chances coming to Santa Ana; Largest expungement clinic ever in Orange County

LOS ANGELES, September 13, 2017 — On September 30, 2017, attorneys and advocates from several organizations will be on hand to assist hundreds of community members at the largest expungement clinic ever in Orange County and in California this year. All residents will have access to free direct services for expungements, Prop 47 felony reductions, Prop. 64 petitions, and immigration and criminal law consultations. These services will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday at Santa Ana Community College in Santa Ana, California.

Individuals seeking help with clearing their criminal record must bring their criminal case docket, available from an Orange County courthouse or a California Department of Justice rap sheet. A Department of Justice Rap Sheet can be obtained through the widely-available Live Scan (fingerprinting) process. And should be completed as soon as possible to ensure it's available for the fair. A limited number of free Live Scans will be available on site.

Individuals interested in the expungement services must contact Legal Aid Society of Orange County at (714) 571-5265 to be screened and make an appointment.

In California, people with felony convictions can face up to 4,800 barriers that limit their access to jobs, housing and educational opportunities. 58% of these barriers are employment-related and 73% are permanent or lifetime bans<sup>1</sup>. A criminal record also prevents immigrants from becoming documented or citizens.

"People come to these events with thousands of barriers caused by a criminal record that prevent them from obtaining housing or a job," said Eunisses Hernandez, Policy Coordinator for the Drug Policy Alliance. "Removing these barriers helps our community members gain a pathway to citizenship, access to employment, housing, and other supportive services."

"Legal Aid has witnessed the tangible benefits of expunged records through our smaller-scale monthly clinics. After their records are expunged, our clients have been able to qualify for housing, obtain employment, and seek new achievements," said Lili Graham, Director of Litigation at Legal Aid Society of Orange County.

As Katie Tinto, Director of the Criminal Justice Clinic of UC Irvine School of Law states, "It is critical that people learn about the many ways California law allows people to clean up their criminal record, and even more importantly, that people take advantage of these opportunities to move forward in their lives and not be trapped by the mistakes of their past."

Roberto Herrera, the Community Engagement Coordinator for Resilience OC said, "We need to be more forgiving within our culture and society, as well as within our justice system. Providing this free service is going to positively impact Orange County residents and change people's lives."

This event is being organized by a partnership of organizations including: the Drug Policy Alliance, Legal Aid Foundation of Orange County, the University of California, Irvine School of Law, Resilience OC, Santa Ana Community College, and Mi Familia Vota.

---

<sup>1</sup> Kim Gihuly, Holly Avey, Megan Gaydos, Jonathan Heller, and Matthew Mellon, *Rehabilitating Corrections in California: The Health Impacts of Proposition 47* (Human Impact Partners: September 2014), available at <http://prop47impacts.org/>.