



CIVIL LEGAL AID IN ARIZONA HELPS WITH SUCCESSFUL RE-ENTRY & RECIDIVISM REDUCTION

LEGAL AID HELPS...



Remove barriers to employment and housing by setting aside or sealing criminal records, and by resolving or clearing credit issues



Increase ability to obtain and keep employment by reinstating a revoked or suspended driver's license



Increase ability to obtain and keep higher paying positions by reinstating professional licensing, certification, or employment requirements such as fingerprint clearance



Untangle outstanding court debt and child support issues



Secure fixes like reducing a felony to a misdemeanor and correcting errors in court or arrest records

STUDIES SHOW LEGAL AID MAKES A DIFFERENCE...

To address whether record clearing improves employment outcomes for people with criminal records, law professor Jeffrey Selbin and economist Justice McCrary conducted a study of a random sample of several hundred clients who received legal aid from the Clean Slate Clinic at East Bay Community Law Center. They found that after **legal interventions to clear a criminal record, average employment rates grew and average real earnings increased slightly during the first year of the intervention and rose rapidly thereafter.**

Preliminary findings from a University of Michigan study go further, showing that **fewer than 4% of those with records cleared were rearrested within 5 years of having their records cleared.**

Selbin, Jeffrey and McCrary, Justin and Epstein, Joshua, Unmarked? Criminal Record Clearing and Employment Outcomes (February 6, 2017). Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, Vol. 108, No. 1, 2017. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2486867> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2486867>

LEGAL AID IN ARIZONA HELPED...

Kimberly:

An Arizona legal aid organization recently helped Kimberly who, upon resigning from a long-term job for a better, higher-paying position, was shocked to learn that her Class 6, undesignated felony had not been re-designated as a misdemeanor as she believed. After telling Kimberly about the felony on her record, the employer promptly withdrew the job offer. Making matters worse, Kimberly's old position was already filled—leaving her jobless. Legal aid attorneys stepped in and discovered that the Order discharging probation was not completed in a timely manner due to “administrative oversight” and that her record failed to confirm she had completed the required community service hours. Legal aid attorneys helped Kimberly document her community service hours and prove she successfully completed probation over a decade earlier. The court was persuaded and Kimberly's felony was properly re-designated a misdemeanor. Kimberly has since accepted another higher paying position with a new company where she recently celebrated her one year anniversary on the new job.

Anthony:

An Arizona legal aid organization recently represented a homeless veteran named Anthony. An elderly man, Anthony lost his wife (and caregiver) to cancer five years ago. Since her death, Anthony has struggled to maintain safe and regular housing. After a 30 year old prior conviction prevented him from securing HUD senior housing, which best accommodated his needs, or any other public housing available, Anthony reached out to legal aid. Anthony's legal aid attorney contacted the HUD senior housing authority who reversed the denial decision after receiving additional information. Thanks to the legal aid attorney's help and referrals, Anthony has maintained housing for the last two years and is volunteering regularly with a local veterans assistance organization.