



Minnesota
Coalition of
Bar Associations
of Color



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Virtual Expungements and Pardons CLE and Clinic

Tuesday, June 29, 2021
4:00 PM – 6:30 PM CDT

On June 29, 2021, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office and the Minnesota Coalition of Bar Associations of Color will be hosting a free expungements and pardons CLE and clinic. Participating attorneys will be eligible to handle pro bono expungement matters following the CLE and training.



About the Event

Expungement is the process of sealing a criminal record so that it is not publicly available. Under Minnesota law, all misdemeanors and 50 non-violent felony crimes are eligible for expungement.

A criminal record is created for every person arrested or charged with a crime or offense. That is true even if that person is released without being charged or is found not guilty. Those records create barriers to housing, employment, and education, and the negative effects of these records disproportionately impact communities of color.

Criminal record expungement is an opportunity for qualifying individuals with old criminal records to remove those barriers, find stability, and become productive members of the community. This CLE and clinic will cover the fundamentals of criminal expungement law, including the impact of a criminal record, relevant law and procedure, and training of attorneys to prepare an expungement petition. Panelists will also discuss the impact of a criminal record and its correlation with mass incarceration. The CLE will include a presentation on the State's current pardon process, discuss the challenges associated with Minnesota's pardon process, and compare our system to those used in others states and the federal system.

Once registered for this session, you will receive a survey regarding your availability and interest in joining this important racial justice initiative. After the training, attorneys will be matched with low-income clients seeking representation on expungement matters based on availability and need.

The CLE and clinic will be presented by an esteemed panel of practitioners versed in expungement and pardon proceedings.

Panelists



Nilushi Ranaweera, JD is an Assistant Attorney General at the Minnesota Attorney General's Office. She is currently working in the Statewide Expungement Program by helping Minnesotans with convictions to have greater opportunities by getting their criminal records sealed. Recent presentation experiences include a CLE organized by the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Minnesota/Dakotas chapter, titled "Expungements and Crimmigation"; a CLE organized by the Volunteer Attorney's Network titled "An Introduction to Prosecutor-led Expungement of Criminal Records"; and a conference presentation organized by the Office of Justice Programs titled "Access to Expungement for Victims with Criminal Records."



Mark Osler is the Robert and Marion Short Professor of Law at the University of St. Thomas (MN). He also holds the Ruthie Mattox Preaching Chair at First Covenant Church, Minneapolis. Osler's writing on clemency, sentencing and narcotics policy has appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and The Atlantic and in law journals at Harvard, Stanford, the University of Chicago, Northwestern, Georgetown, Ohio State, UNC, William and Mary, and Rutgers.

A former federal prosecutor, he later won the case of *Spears v. United States* in the U.S. Supreme Court, with the Court ruling that judges could categorically reject a mandatory 100-to-1 ratio between crack and powder cocaine in the federal sentencing guidelines.

In 2020, Osler served as chair of the independent panel which reviewed the case of Myon Burrell and recommended that Burrell receive a commutation of sentence. Osler is a graduate of the College of William and Mary and Yale Law School.





Jon Geffen is currently the Director of the Re-Entry Clinic at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. He was formerly an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Minnesota in the Charities and Human Services Division. Geffen previously served as staff attorney at Southern Minnesota Legal Services, providing counsel to low-income clients. He was an adjunct professor at both William Mitchell College of Law and Hamline University School of Law beginning in 2003.

Please contact the MN AGO's Outreach Coordinator, Keaon Dousti, at Keaon.Dousti@ag.state.mn.us, with questions.

CLE Credits: 2.5 Elimination of Bias credits (Accreditation Pending)

Register

You must register to attend this free live webinar. To attend the June 29, 2021, CLE and Clinic, click the link or scan the QR.

Click the "Register" button, fill out the form, and then click "Submit." You will receive an email with event details upon registration



Scan to sign up

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/onstage/g.php?MTID=e5d11503276797e1f5923c792c449cdf8>