This workshop was held at the 2019 Equal Justice Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Title:
Legal Aid Collaboration in Juvenile and Criminal Records Relief

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Innovative approaches to overcoming challenges in juvenile and adult records relief. Two legal aid agencies collaborating with law students, pro bono attorneys, and other partners to provide individual assistance and systemic improvement to overcome barriers to jobs, housing, and education through records relief and community engagement.
Legal Aid Collaboration in Juvenile and Criminal Records Relief

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Why Expungements: The Problem
Why Collaboration?
The Help Desk Model
Engaging Volunteers: Law Students and Pro Bono Attorneys
True or False?

By the age of 18, approximately one out of four (1/4) Americans have been arrested.

True

Recent studies show:

By age 18, 30% of black males, 26% of Hispanic males, and 22% of white males have been arrested.

By age 23, 1 in every 3 people have been arrested, and nearly half of all black males.
True or False?

There are 1,000 laws in the U.S. that keep people with criminal records from working certain jobs.

**False**

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45,000

“...more than 45,000 statutes impose collateral consequences on people convicted of crimes, creating barriers to jobs, housing, benefits and voting. More than 80% of the statutes operate as denial of employment opportunities.”*

* In Search of a Job: Criminal Records as Barriers to Employment, Amy Solomon, Attorney General’s Reentry Council
Why Expungements: The Problem

- Impact on the population we serve
- Impact of people of color and people in poverty
- Collateral consequences
  - Jobs
  - Licensing
  - Housing
  - Immigration
  - Education

Latonya’s Story
Help Desks and Ethics: ABA Model Rule 6.5 Nonprofit & Court-Annexed Limited Legal Services Programs

(a) A lawyer who, under the auspices of a program sponsored by a nonprofit organization or court, provides short-term limited legal services to a client without expectation by either the lawyer or the client that the lawyer will provide continuing representation in the matter:

(1) is subject to Rules 1.7 and 1.9(a) only if the lawyer knows that the representation of the client involves a conflict of interest; and

(2) is subject to Rule 1.10 only if the lawyer knows that another lawyer associated with the lawyer in a law firm is disqualified by Rule 1.7 or 1.9(a) with respect to the matter.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2), Rule 1.10 is inapplicable to a representation governed by this Rule.

How we came to do this work
Adult Expungement & Sealing: Building with non traditional partners

Expungement Help Desks
- Clerk’s Office
- Chicago Bar Foundation

Live Call
- Presiding Judge’s Office
- Clerk’s Office
- State’s Attorney’s Office
- Illinois State Police

Juvenile Expungement: Building with non traditional partners

The initial challenges

The challenges of each partner
- LAF-LSC
- Clerk’s Office
- Juvenile Probation
- State’s Attorney’s Office
- Presiding Judge’s Office
- Local/ State Police
Help Desks

- Juvenile
- Adult

Questions for the audience
Overcoming challenges

- Law Students
- Pro Bono Attorneys
- Community Engagement

Laws Students
Pro Bono

Community Engagement
How Two Legal Aid Agencies Collaborate

Started a task force
Working with the court stakeholders
Constant communication

Building on strengths
- CGLA – Legislation, knowledge, and relationship with the clerk
- LAF – some personal connections – commitment to juvenile work
  - Employment law group
  - Immigration Expertise

Supporting each other in grant applications

Lessons Learned

Stay within yourself – know limitations
Build on strengths
Acknowledge expertise of other organization
Be open to non-traditional collaboration
Help desks as option for law students & volunteers
The importance of DATA
Failure → success → failure → success
Be willing to learn from everyone
Every day is a new challenge (To Fee or Not to Fee)
Be a lawyer – look at the statute.
Lessons Learned: Pro se petitioners

- What have we learned about their backgrounds
- Their frustrations
- Trauma and ability to listen to us

Questions?
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