Abilene Expunction Clinic to Provide Legal Assistance for Texans Seeking to Clear Criminal Records

Application Deadline is March 11 for April 29 Expunction Expo

ABILENE, TX – On April 29, members of the Clean Slate Texas coalition will host an expunction clinic to help community members clear eligible Texas criminal records through expunction and/or nondisclosure. Legal assistance will be provided only to those who submit applications, which are due March 11. The application link is available in both English and Spanish here.

The clinic is sponsored by Big Country Reentry Coalition, Goodwill-West Texas, Texas Center for Justice and Equity, Texas Fair Defense Project, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, and Blizzard & Zimmerman Attorneys, with food provided by H-E-B.

Application and Eligibility Information:
- Applicants must upload a copy of their DPS Criminal History Report when applying. This report can be obtained by making an appointment (http://bit.ly/identogo), paying $25.53, and getting fingerprinted. For application and potential fee assistance, applicants can contact Goodwill-West Texas at (325) 676-7925.
- Completion of the application is not a guarantee that applicants will receive assistance.
- Eligible applicants include those with criminal records in Texas who:
  - Were arrested but never formally charged in court
  - Had charges dismissed
  - Were acquitted or found not guilty at trial
  - Completed a pretrial intervention or diversion program
  - Have a conviction for unlawfully carrying a weapon
  - Have a first misdemeanor conviction
  - Have successfully completed deferred adjudication community supervision
- Felony convictions are not eligible for record sealing under Texas law.

Key Definitions:
- An Order of Expunction is an order to completely destroy all records related to the underlying criminal charge.
- An Order of Nondisclosure allows for all or part of an individual’s record to be sealed from the public (not including law enforcement or other state agencies).
- As nondisclosures and expunctions are state processes, the federal government can still access criminal records.

--MORE--
Event Details:
• The Expunction Clinic will take place on April 29, 2022, in Abilene. The event location will be emailed to eligible applicants along with their appointment time.
• Volunteer law students supervised by practicing attorneys will go over prepared expunction and/or nondisclosure petitions, help participants complete a Statement of Inability to Afford Court Costs, and provide guidance on next steps.
• This event will follow CDC, state, and local public health guidelines related to COVID-19. Participants will have their temperature taken and social distancing will be practiced. Mask wearing is highly encouraged during all portions of the event.
• Participants will not be charged for information or assistance received through the Expunction Clinic, but they are responsible for any fees assessed related to an expunction or nondisclosure.

# The Texas Center for Justice and Equity (formerly the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition) advances solutions and builds coalitions to end mass incarceration and foster safer Texas communities.