



Patricia Jones, M.Ed.

Founder, Chairperson

Waukegan Township Supervisor



Expungement Summit

Page 2

Coalition Legal

Page 3

New Legislative Updates

Page 5

Repatriate Words Of Wisdom

Page 6

INSIDE/OUT COALITION TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM



Jennifer Witherspoon

President

Cannabis Convictions!

What You Need Know About HB 1438 and Expunging Your Cannabis Convictions

On June 25th, Gov. Pritzker signed HB1438, an Illinois law that will end cannabis prohibition next January. The new law will allow many people with cannabis convictions to get their records expunged. The bill's supporters estimate that 770,000 cases in Illinois will be affected.

Here are HB1438 highlights for people who have been convicted of cannabis possession:

- Gov. Pritzker will automatically extend clemency for past convictions of up to 30 grams. These expungements will happen without need for a petition.
- For amounts over 30 grams but under 500 grams, the individual will have to petition a court for their conviction to be vacated, but the decision is left to a judge's discretion.
- A minority business owner with a cannabis-related conviction may qualify for "Social Equity Assistance" and may also be open to obtain job training, business licenses or low-interest loans.

What does this mean for you?

First, your convictions for possession of modest amounts of cannabis will be automatically expunged from your record. Expunging convictions of possession for larger amounts must be petitioned for as with any other offense.

Second, if you must petition for expungement, your entire criminal history will be taken into consideration by the judge. You will be successful if you have no recent criminal convictions and you can show that you are a stable and productive member of society.

Third, before you do anything, you need to know what your criminal record is. We can help you find your Lake County records, and your records from every other Illinois county except Cook County. To find your Chicago Cook County records, you will need to visit the Expungement Help Desk in the Daley Center.

Our Expungement Help Desk is open most mornings, from 8:00 a.m - 10:00 a.m; 12:00p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month and by appointment. We would be happy to help you assess your record, prepare petitions and appear with you during your expungement hearing. Please call us at 847-244-4900 for assistance.

Lake County AMNESTY WEEK

Monday, July 15th – Friday, July 19th
Interest & Collection Fees Waived

From the offices of
Erin Cartwright Weinstein
Clerk of the Circuit Court
&
Michael G. Nerheim
State's Attorney

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day

- All collection fees and accrued interest will be waived on any past due criminal and traffic fines
- Full and partial payments accepted (minimum of \$20.00 payment required)
- Pay in person at any Lake County Circuit Clerk location or by phone (847) 377-3239
- Online Payments can not be accepted for the amnesty period
- Accepted forms of payment include: Cash, Money Order, Credit and Debit Card*

*Please note credit and debit card payments will be subject to a 3% convenience fee

Expungement Summit

Volunteer Attorneys On-Site
To Assist You!!

"A felony conviction does not have to be
a life sentence".

Saturday, July 13, 2019
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
2401 Argonne Drive,
North Chicago

There are countless number of people have little to no insight into recidivism, expungement, sealing - or the importance of them. Those who do know, are mainly focused on whether the accused person is guilty or innocent; and how to retain an attorney to help lessen or eliminate the charges. While that is the key objective, there isn't a lot of knowledge on what happens afterward especially when there's been a conviction. The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism recognizes the urgency of expungement & sealing of records and the impact it can have on one's future. If you or someone you know can benefit from this invaluable information, please be sure to join us on **July 13th, beginning at 10:00 am**, for our Annual Expungement Summit. **Volunteers from the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, Lake County Circuit Clerk's Office and volunteer attorneys will be available to assist Lake County residents with the expungement and sealing process.**

This year's event features a panel of dynamic guest speakers, which include State Representative Rita Mayfield - 60th District, State Representative Joyce Mayfield - 61st District, Specialty Courts in Lake County Judge Christine Bishop, *Erin Cartwright Weinstein Clerk of the Circuit Court, Anthony Vega, Lake County Sheriff Office Chief of Staff, Mike Nerheim, Lake County States Attorney Office, *Lauren Beth Gash, Attorney.

Thank you to Mt. Sinai Baptist Church and Pastor Gerald Wilcoxon for opening your doors for this year's event. Special thanks to this year's planning committee for your continued support: Attorney Lacy Burpee, Leah Dziekan, Tameeca Russell, Warren Thomas and Johnnie Jenkins.

* denotes members of Summit Planning Committee

**Coalition To Reduce Recidivism
Welcomes
Coalition Legal, LLC
Opened our doors on June 7th and
we are ready for business!**



Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Appointments available Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
&

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

149 S. Genesee Street Waukegan, IL 60085

For information call Attorney Kathryn Vanden Burk or Johnnie Jenkins
at 847-244-4900 or
email coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com

Coalition Legal, LLC is a nonprofit legal aid clinic that arose out of the Coalition's efforts to help people expunge and seal their criminal records.

For several years, volunteer attorneys have met with Lake County residents at Waukegan Township Supervisor's Office and reviewed their Lake County records, as well as assisted clients with their petitions. Over time, we realized that most people were not filing their petitions because the process was complicated and intimidating. In Lake County, each case must be petitioned separately and each petition must be filed with six copies. If you need a fee waiver, that requires a separate hearing and going before a judge can be stressful, especially if you are not represented by a lawyer.

Coalition Legal, LLC, helps Lake County residents with case management. After your situation has been assessed, our volunteer attorneys help prepare your petitions and, if a person qualifies for a fee waiver, your cases will be certified so they can be filed without fees or a separate fee waiver hearing.

"A conviction should not be a life sentence." Coalition Legal, LLC provides the tools necessary to help you put your criminal past behind you.



On June 7, 2019, Coalition Legal, LLC held a ribbon cutting to commemorate the official opening of its doors to the public.

The office is located inside the Waukegan Township Supervisor's Office:
149 S Genesee St, Waukegan, IL 60085



Attorney
Kathryn Vanden Berk
- Executive Director

Attorney
David Weinstein
- Volunteer

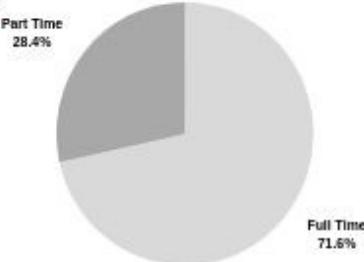
"A felony conviction does not have to be a life sentence"

The information below provides a breakdown of the individuals who, through our Employment Specialist, have completed the process of being assessed, interviewed and successfully employed (full and/or part-time).

Coalition Repatriate Employment Report:

January - June 2019

- Total Clients seen: 125
- Employed full time: 63
- Temporary Staffing: 25
- Average pay: \$14.50



Come meet our Employment Specialist
Mon-Fri from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
by appointment
call 847-244-4900
or email
jjenkins@waukegantownship.com



Today, Tomorrow, You! High School Youth Summit July 31st at CLC Grayslake Campus from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Demar Harris - Director of Programs and EEO Officer at Lake County Workforce

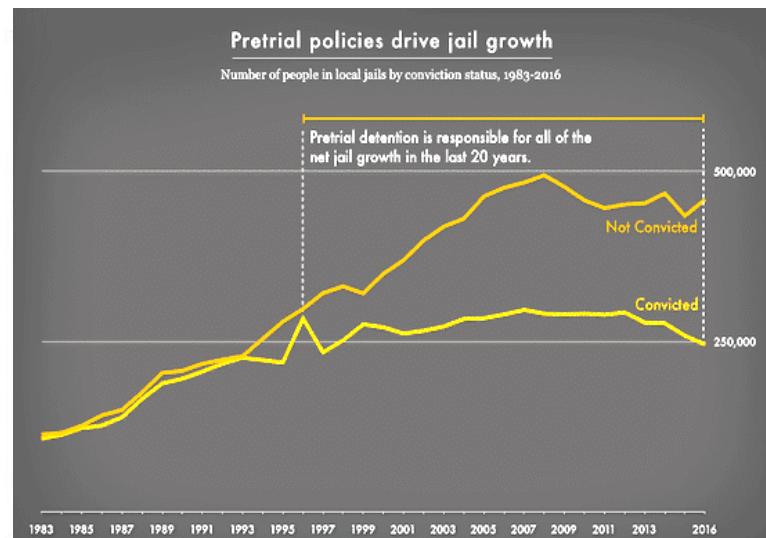
This year the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism is partnering with Workforce Development of Lake County to organize our Annual High School Youth Summit. The Summit will take place **Wednesday, July 31st at CLC Grayslake Campus, 19351 W Washington St, Grayslake, IL 60030 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.** It will include informative and engaging workshops, such as: Healthy Relationships, Financial Literacy, Police Officer Panel, Peer to Peer Mentors and Anger Management/Life Coping Skills. A special thanks to this year's committee members for their hard work planning this great event: Chair Sondra Haney, and members: Carolina Johnson, Denise Rotheimer, Shelby Obleton and Warren Thomas.

TRANSFORMATIVE BOND REFORM

The Illinois Supreme Court has recognized problems and inequities in the treatment of individuals charged with a crime and are awaiting trial. In this pretrial period the accused are often held in jail due to an inability to make monetary bond, making their incarceration a matter of personal wealth, not public safety. This pretrial detention results in a host of difficulties - personal, familial, economic, etc. - directly caused by the incarceration.

In response to this situation the Court has established the **Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices** to evaluate the impact of pretrial detention and how it is applied in Illinois, as well as disparate effect it has based on an individual's ability to pay a monetary bond for release.

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism has joined the Network for Pretrial Justice - a coalition of organizations in Cook County including the Coalition to End Money Bond and other organizations throughout Illinois, to support an Illinois Supreme Court Rule submitted by Cook County Public Defender Amy P. Campbell to the Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee. This rule would require an evidentiary hearing and a finding by a judge that an accused person is able to afford the amount of monetary bail set before the actual setting of the bail amount in any criminal case. Adoption of this rule would have a major impact in reducing the inequities caused by requiring monetary bond for release during the pretrial period. C2RR enthusiastically supports adoption of this rule and an end to money bond as the primary mechanism for release from pretrial detention.



According to www.prisonpolicy.org since the 1980s, there has been a significant, nationwide move away from courts allowing non-financial forms of pretrial release (such as release on own recognizance) to money bail. Nationally, in 2009, 34% of defendants were detained pretrial for the inability to post money bail. This report focuses on this important population: those who are detained pretrial because they could not afford money bail.

State Legislation Supported & Followed by The Coalition To Reduce Recidivism



Dr. Gary Oltmans
Secretary

The Coalition wishes to thank our Lake County Legislators for serving as sponsors and/or voting for many of these bills. These include Representatives Dan Didech, Mary Edly-Allen, Joyce Mason, Rita Mayfield, and Sam Yingling as well as Senators Melinda Bush, Julie Morrison and Terry Link.

Issues addressed by this legislation include:

- Time credit for satisfactory completion of various IL Department of Corrections programs, as well as time credit for securing college degrees while incarcerated
- State and local agencies are directed to focus their resources and services/programs on new strategies that research and practice have shown can result in significant reduction in recidivism and successful local reintegration of returning citizens.
- Elimination of the \$5 copay required for dental or medical services while incarcerated.
- In the case of a parent facing pretrial detention the defendant shall be released on their own recognizance if the judge finds that detention will harm any infant or child in the defendant's custody, unless defendant's release will harm the community.
- Task force for children of incarcerated parents, to examine how policies and procedures should change to reduce trauma and harm to Children when their Parent(s) is(are) incarcerated.
- Tasks the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority with collection and analysis of traffic stop statistical data (previously the responsibility of the Department of Transportation)
- Banning of state and local governments from contracting with private prison companies to run any kind of detention center in Illinois.

It is expected that Governor Pritzker has or will sign the above legislation.

In addition to the above legislation, the legislature passed a bill, signed by the Governor, legalizing the use of marijuana in Illinois. Provisions in this bill include the opportunity to expunge convictions for the possession of marijuana.

There's Support For You!

Consider attending the Repatriate Empowering Support Group for the formerly incarcerated and affected families:

Group meets 1st and 3rd Friday of every month from 5:30pm - 6:30pm.,
at Waukegan Township Supervisor's Office

149 S. Genesee Street

For information call 847-244-4900

Infinity and Beyond Workshops!

Infinity and Beyond Interview Training Workshops:

Meets 1st Monday of every month

10:00am - 11:30am. at 149 S. Genesee Street

Please call 847-244-4900 to register.



Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Strategic Plan

by: Dr Sylvia Johnson Jones

As the county's largest entity focused exclusively on leading and supporting the reduction of recidivism. The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism (C2RR) is a non-profit organization consisting of social service agencies: faith based organizations, educational institutions, medical Institutions, governmental entities, entrepreneurs, community advocates and repatriates (ex-offenders). We are engaged in the business of aiding ex-offenders in becoming re-acclimated to their community, as productive members of society; the additional purpose of the C2RR is the promotion of civic engagement in the Democratic process and the promotion of free equal elections.

In the strategic planning process, the Executive Board and members of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism identified emerging themes to support recidivism, prepare them for living independently and the workforce, continuously measuring success.

The strategic road map defines strategies that include:

- Continue to lower recidivism rates in Lake County.
- Continue to increase the employment rates among unemployed ex-offenders residing in or returning to Lake County.
- Serve ex-offenders, returning to the community of Lake County post-release.
- Expand awareness of the problem of recidivism in Lake County.
- Coordinate community efforts to become a part of the solution.
- Create and sustain partnerships with local organizations and businesses.
- No more victims in Lake County.

Prairie State Partners with The Coalition



PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES
Equal Access to Justice

For more information about PSL services, special projects and applying for legal help, see the Prairie State website, www.pslegal.org

Prairie State Legal Services may also be able to help clients with other types of legal problems including: housing, public benefits, family law, and domestic violence issues, among others.

Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS) provides free legal representation to low income clients. One program, the Ready to Work Program (R2W) helps clients with legal issues that are affecting their employment .

Criminal records can stop people from being hired for a job, keeping a job or getting a better job. The attorneys in R2W educate clients about their rights and eligibility for sealing and or expunging their records. In many cases, the Program will file petitions and provide representation in court to get criminal records sealed or expunged. The program also helps with other legal issues related to getting or keeping a job, including: driver's licenses issues, transportation issues, unpaid or underpaid wages, professional licensing denials, inaccurate credit reporting and identity theft.

Advice From Javier Valencia A Repatriate

How did you change your life for the better?

"Realizing that I was only surrounded by negative thoughts and people I had to change. I built a support system that provided me with much needed love and positivity. This system helped me understand not to settle for the minimum. I needed to strive for success even after rejection. Within time, I was able to knock down this long time barrier, returned to school and receive a degree in Business Administration and Information Technology. This allowed me to gain my current position as a Site Support Analyst."



A Message from Sheriff John D. Idleburg



Sheriff John D. Idleburg

Since coming into office, I've taken steps to restructure our inmate programming department. As sheriff, not only do I have a duty to protect our communities, and maintain the jail, but one of the most important duties is to provide inmates quality resources to better themselves which will ultimately benefit our society. Successful inmate programs must be a combination of educational, vocational and social programs helps address all aspects of a person's development. In the most recent months, we've introduced better programing like:

- **From Jails to Nails:** A program that teaches female inmates the theory of nail technology. Should a female inmate start the program at the Lake County jail and is later transferred to the Department of Corrections, the credits transfer and continue their education. By their release, they will be eligible for scholarships to complete the program and be a certified nail technician.
- **Art Therapy:** This new program provides participants an opportunity to express themselves through art and share their experiences.
- **IN2WORK Culinary Certification:** Is a three day 18-hour course that when completed and passed, inmates will have a SerSafe Certification, which is required to work in certain food service jobs. Our pilot had ten graduates of the program and a restaurant owner in Antioch has reached out to provide them jobs upon their release.

These new programs are in addition to our current programming that addresses GED, English as a Second Language, parenting, and religious services. Reducing jail population and reducing recidivism is no easy task, but I am committed to doing everything in my power to help inmates be fully invested members of society.

Upcoming Coalition Meetings:

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Executive Board meets the 1st Friday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., at Supervisor's Office 149 S. Genesee Street., Waukegan, IL.

The public meeting is the third Monday of each month at 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., at the United Way of Lake County Offices 330 S. Greenleaf Street, Gurnee, IL.

Please consider joining the growing movement in support of the formerly incarcerated. Annual membership dues goes directly to supportive services on their behalf.

Membership dues are as follows:

• Corporate Membership \$500	• Individual Membership \$50
• Faith Base Membership \$500 (Level 3) 301+	• Seniors (65+) \$20
• Faith Base Membership \$250 (Level 2) 101 - 300	• Student & Other \$20
• Faith Base Membership \$150 (Level 1) 1 - 100	
• Agency Membership \$150	



**Coalition To
REDUCE RECIDIVISM**

Patricia Jones, M.Ed., Chairperson
Attorney Jennifer Witherspoon, President
Attorney Kathryn Vanden Berk, Co-Chairperson

**16th Annual
Luncheon**

Coalition To Reduce Recidivism

OCTOBER 11, 2019

11:30 am - Networking

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Luncheon

New Location! Wedgewood Weddings

Location: Wedgewood Weddings

4555 W. Yorkhouse Road, Wadsworth, IL 60083!

**A Felony Conviction
Does Not Mean A Life
Sentence!**

Further Details to Come!

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism is a collective unit of social service agencies, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, medical institutions, criminal justice institutions, entrepreneurs, community advocates, governmental entities and repatriates; all geared to work with returning prisoners and help them become productive members of society.

SAVE THE DATE!

2019 Coalition Members:

Chairperson

Patricia Jones, M. Ed.

Honorary Chair:

Ill. State Representative Rita Mayfield

Coalition Officers:

Jennifer Witherspoon, President, Esquire

Stella Jones, Vice President, Community Renewal Society

Warren Thomas, 2nd Vice President, College of Lake County

Dr. Gary Oltmans, Secretary, Rosalind Franklin University (retired)

Arlene Day, Treasurer, Teacher (Retired)

Executive Board Members:

Gwen Beckwith, Board Member, Principal (Retired)

Sylvia M. Johnson Jones Ed. D., College of Lake County

Marc Jones, Board Member, Director, Eddie Washington Center

Mary Roberson, Ed. D., Past President, Consultant

Erin Cartwright Weinstein, Lake County Clerk

Stella Jones, Community Renewal Society

Mary Turley, MBA., UMMA Center

Demar A. Harris, Director, Lake County Workforce Development

Jacqueline Small, Catholic Charities

Jeff McBride, Waukegan Public Schools #60

Municipal Members:

Waukegan Township

Zion Township

City of North Chicago

Shields Township

Libertyville Township

Benton Township

Grant Township

Vernon Township

West Deerfield Township

Agencies Members:

- Catholic Charities
- College Of Lake County, Grayslake
- Harbor Lites Chapter, Links Inc.
- Lake County State's Attorney's Office
- Lake County Sheriff's Office
- Nicasia Behavioral Health Services
- National Assoc. of University Women
- Waukegan Housing Authority
- Schneider for Congress
- Lake County Workforce Development
- Lake County Veterans & Family Services
- Tenth Congressional District Democrats
- UMMA Center
- Community Renewal Society
- Community Action Partnership of LC
- Southwire
- Faith In Place
- Building Families Together
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
- Warren Township Democrats
- Indivisible Lindenhurst
- West Deerfield Township

Faith Base Members:

- First Baptist Church of Lake Forest
- Mount Sinai Baptist Church

Corporate Members:

- Harris & Harris

About Inside/Out

Inside/Out is a publication of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, which is based in Lake County, IL. The newsletter intends to raise awareness and discuss issues that affect the lives of men, women and children who are incarcerated and who have been released from incarceration. The views and opinions included herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Coalition's executive board or its individual members. If you have news or updates for our newsletter, you can send them to: ogarcia@waukegantownship.com.

How to Reach Us: By Phone: (847) 244-4900, Fax: (874) 244-5185, or email: coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com. Our website is www.reducerecidivism.org. The mailing address is Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, 149 S. Genesee St. Waukegan, IL 60085.

First Scholarship Recipient!

On May 20, 2019, the Coalition To Reduce Recidivism proudly awarded its Criminal Justice Scholarship in the amount of \$500, to Ms. Nikia Handy!

Ms. Handy will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her major is Criminal Justice and her goal is to become a successful attorney.

Interested in Placing an Ad?

We are proud to announced that we have officially begun offering advertisement opportunities in our seasonal Coalition newsletter. Don't miss out on having your ad distributed throughout Lake County!

call 847-244-4900 or email

ogarcia@waukegan township.com