

# Real Second Chances: Leveling the playing field through automatic record clearance

*California Budget & Policy Center - Policy Insights 2019 Conference*

*Cristine Soto DeBerry, Chief of Staff, San Francisco District Attorney's Office*



# Proactive Marijuana Conviction Relief

NOW  
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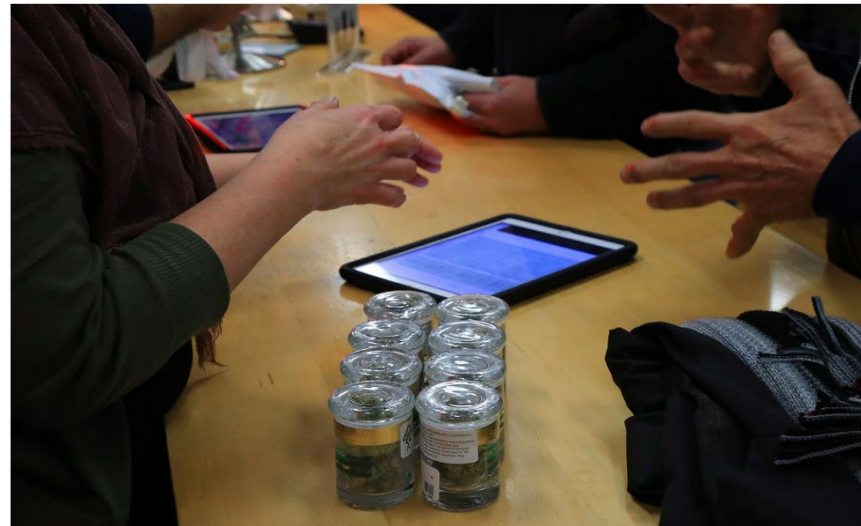
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You have to hire an attorney. You have to petition the court. You have to come for a hearing. It's a very

**George Gascón**

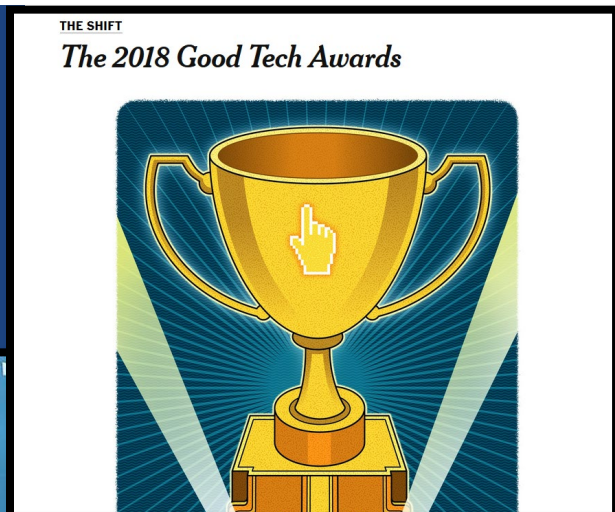
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
TO LOS ANGELES TIMES

*San Francisco Will Clear Thousands of Marijuana Convictions*



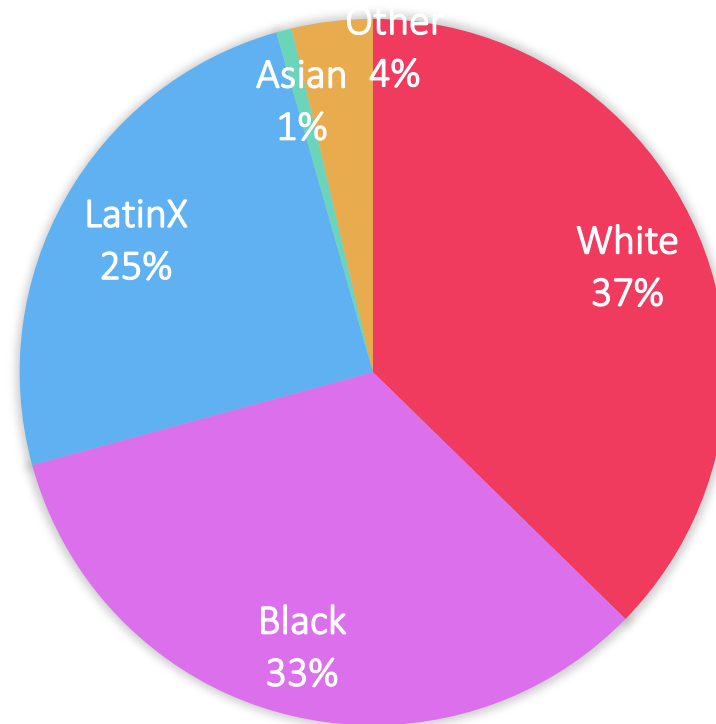
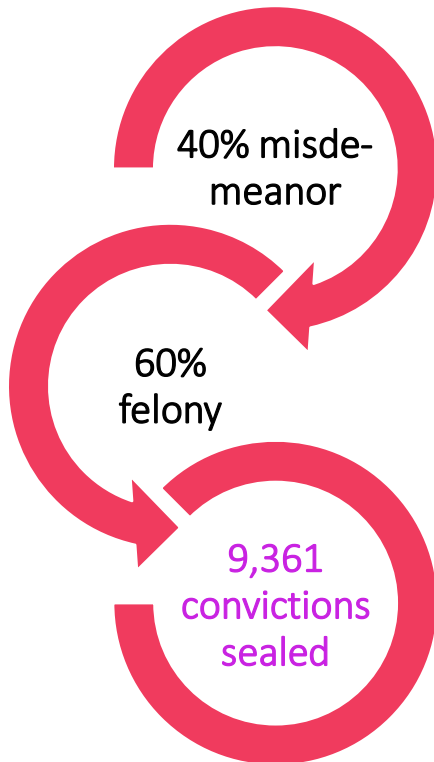
On Jan. 1, 2018, legal recreational marijuana sales began in California. Jim Wilson/The New York Times

# Proactive Marijuana Conviction Relief



Code for America, a nonprofit organization modeled after Teach for America, built [Clear My Record](#), a tool that helps people with old criminal convictions get them reduced or expunged, which makes it easier for them to find housing and get jobs. This year, the team formed a [partnership](#) with George Gascón, the San Francisco district attorney, to work on a new program that automates the process of expunging marijuana-related convictions under the state's legalization laws. [The group aims](#) to remove 250,000 convictions by the end of 2019.

# Prop 64 Impact in San Francisco



# Paper Prisons



**8 million** California residents have criminal convictions on their records that hamper their ability to find work, housing, secure public benefits, and access educational opportunities.

Having a criminal record reduces the chance of getting a job offer or callback by **50%**.

The U.S. loses roughly **\$65 billion** per year in terms of gross domestic product due to employment losses among people with criminal records.

# AB 1076: Automatic Record Clearance




The New York Times

*Rap Sheets Haunt Former Inmates.  
California May Change That.*



San Francisco Chronicle

Many Californians can clear criminal records, but don't. This bill would make it automatic

 Evan Sernoffsky | March 7, 2019 | Updated: March 7, 2019 7:27 p.m.



"We cannot keep people caged in a paper prison for the rest of their lives. AB 1076 will not only modernize our system of justice, it's a model for the justice system."

- DA George Gascon



# What Is AB 1076

AB 1076 is a groundbreaking, comprehensive clean slate effort that leverages technology to clear records at scale by automating existing laws.

- i. Automatically clears records for arrests that did not result in conviction after the statute of limitations has passed.*
- ii. Automatically clears convictions with local sentences to probation and jail once the sentence is completed for persons who have remained crime free.*

AB 1076 efficiently automates both arrest and conviction relief through centralized implementation at the California Department of Justice by updating records stored in statewide criminal record databases.