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

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Cristine Soto DeBerry, Chief of Staff, San Francisco District Attorney’s Office
Proactive Marijuana Conviction Relief

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

George Gascón
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TO LOS ANGELES TIMES

San Francisco Will Clear Thousands of Marijuana Convictions


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@CristineDeBerry
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

40% misdemeanor
60% felony
9,361 convictions sealed

White 37%
Black 33%
LatinX 25%
Asian 1%
Other 4%

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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

Rap Sheets Haunt Former Inmates. California May Change That.

“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 Gascón
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.