

INTERNATIONAL
OVERDOSE
AWARENESS DAY

AUG. 31
6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

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TURNING GRIEF
INTO ACTION.

PANEL.
REMEMBRANCE.
CALL
TO ACTION.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KATRINA JOHNSON OR MALIKA LAMONT
VOCAL WASHINGTON | katrina@vocal-wa.org | malika.lamont@defender.org

Clean Slate

washington

1 in 3 Americans have some type of criminal record.

In **Washington**, this translates into nearly **2.5 million** of the state's citizens. Many have only minor records, such as misdemeanors, summary offenses, or arrests without conviction.

Even a minor criminal record can present lifetime barriers to opportunity, putting jobs, housing, education, and more out of reach.

Enabling **Washingtonians** with a criminal records who have paid their debt to earn a clean slate would make it possible for them to get past these barriers, get to work, and provide for their families—while strengthening the economy and enhancing public safety.



Who benefits from a clean slate policy?

What is a clean slate?

The Clean Slate Act would automatically clear the records of qualifying criminal records for people who remain crime-free for a set period of time.

Everyone who qualifies gets a clean slate—regardless of whether they can afford a lawyer and expensive court fees and without having to navigate a complex court process.

People who have redeemed themselves are trapped by lifetime barriers. For instance, nearly 9 in 10 employers, 4 in 5 landlords, and 3 in 5 colleges use criminal record background checks, putting employment, housing, and higher education out of reach for many.

A clean slate is automatic. Individuals do not need to file record-clearing petitions one by one. This reduces a burdensome workload for the courts and makes it easier for those trying to find employment, housing, and other basic needs for their future success.

Washingtonians with certain criminal records will be able to move on with their lives, provide for their families, and become productive members of society.

Families and children of people with criminal records will benefit as their incomes increase, their housing improves, and other obstacles to family economic security are eliminated.

Washington's criminal justice system will not be burdened with the transactional costs of many thousands of record-clearing petitions each year.

Washington state will save money as a result of reduced incarceration, and the economy will benefit from not shutting qualified jobseekers out of the labor force, which costs the national economy \$65 billion a year in lost gross domestic product, or GDP.

Local Washington communities will be safer as a result of lower recidivism rates due to reduced barriers to successful reentry.

"By passing The Clean Slate Act, we can take a practical step towards fulfilling the promise of opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians."

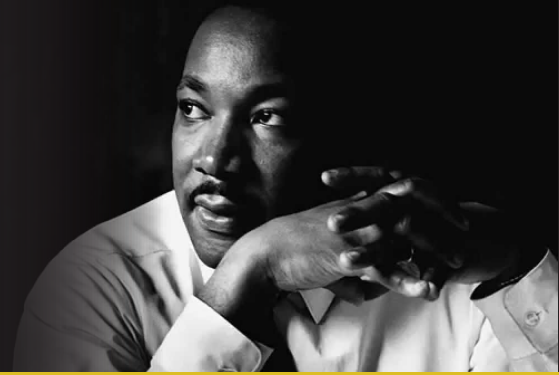
- Tarra Simmons, Civil Survival Project Director



SCAN ME

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF ADVOCACY

MONDAY
JAN 20
2020
STATE CAPITAL
OLYMPIA, WA



CIVIL SURVIVAL PROJECT

2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

ADVOCATING FOR CLEAN SLATE

HB 2793 automatically clear qualifying criminal records for eligible individuals who have completed the terms of their sentence and have remained crime-free for a set period of time. Everyone gets a clean slate—regardless of whether they can afford a lawyer or pay expensive court fees, and without having to navigate a complex court process.

RESTORING VOTING RIGHTS

House Bill 2292 | SB 6228 restores voter eligibility for all people convicted of a felony offense who are not in total confinement under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections.

VOLUNTEERING IN SCHOOLS

HB 2220 ensures that a parent, legal guardian, or grandparent, who has been issued a document demonstrating innocence, pardon, expungement, and other forms of rehabilitation, cannot be denied because of their past criminal convictions to volunteer in their child's schools.

ESTABLISHING REENTRY LEGAL AID

The **Statewide Reentry Advocacy Project** will help individuals navigate the many legal barriers associated with a criminal record. These barriers include issues such as legal financial obligations, obtaining a professional license, reinstatement of a driver's license, and vacating a criminal record to overcome barriers to employment and housing.



CIVIL SURVIVAL PROJECT

Founded in 2015, the Civil Survival Project organizes people who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system to build connections, gain knowledge and increase political participation. As an organization focused on criminal justice reform in Washington State led by formerly incarcerated individuals, we offer a unique perspective. We believe that people closest to the problem are closest to the solution. By investing in the justice-involved community of Washington State, we build coalitions for systemic reform in the legislature and beyond.

VISION: EQUITY
ACCESSIBILITY
DIGNITY **EMPOWERMENT**
INTERDEPENDENCE

CIVIL SURVIVAL PROJECT

EDUCATE | MOTIVATE | LIBERATE

You Can Help Support Our Community's Healthcare

Ask Me

Island Hospital is a non-profit community medical center. We rely on the generosity of people like you to help us provide quality and compassionate healthcare. For more information on how you can help, please contact the Island Hospital Foundation, or just **Ask Me!**

www.islandhospitalfoundation.org 360-299-4201

“Island Hospital is a great place for patients to receive comprehensive care. Our staff feels a personal responsibility to ensure our patients are treated well. The quality of medical and nursing staff that I work with makes this an enjoyable place to practice.”

- Dr. Jeff Hambleton, M.D.
Anesthesiology

ISLAND HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

You Can Help Support Our Community's Healthcare

Ask Me

“Island Hospital is a wonderful community hospital that provides high quality, compassionate care that reflects the values of the Anacortes community.”

- Dr. Robert Stewart, F.A.C.C.
Skagit Regional Clinics Cardiology

Island Hospital is a non-profit community medical center. We rely on the generosity of people like you to help us provide quality and compassionate healthcare. For more information on how you can help, please contact the Island Hospital Foundation, or just **Ask Me!**

ISLAND HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

360-299-4201 www.islandhospitalfoundation.org



CIVIL SURVIVAL.



IMPACT REPORT YEAR IN REVIEW 2019



OUR STORY

The Civil Survival Project organizes people who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system to build connections, gain knowledge and increase political participation. As an organization focused on criminal justice reform in Washington State led by formerly incarcerated individuals, we offer a unique perspective. We believe that people closest to the problem are closest to the solution. By investing in the justice-involved community of Washington State, we build coalitions for systemic reform in the legislature and beyond.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Legislation and Coalitions

Civil Survival created a coalition that collectively led the New Hope Act in 2019. This legislation vacates an unlimited number of misdemeanors and felonies, expands the law to include some new offenses, and reduces the eligibility time-frame. We supported the reinstatement of parole, the law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) expansion bill, volunteering in schools with a criminal history, voting re-enfranchisement for people on community supervision (probation), mandatory training for school resource officers, and the decriminalization of driving with a suspended license. During legislative session, we coordinated a Lobby Day where 50 Civil Survival members attended.

We now lead the Clean Slate coalition which will bring the New Hope Act to life by making it an automatic process. In addition, we formed the Voting Restoration Coalition and are currently members. We will be advocating for several sentencing and reentry reform bills in 2020.

Workshops

Civil Survival conducted four successful all-day Workshops in Tacoma, Seattle, Mission Creek Correctional Center for Women (MCCW), and Olympic College in Bremerton.

Game Changer Groups

We added a fourth Game Changer Group this year in Tacoma to our three existing groups in South King, Kitsap, and Thurston Counties. This outreach is a pivotal resource for our growing community.



Organizing & Advocacy Leadership

Civil Survival participated in #CUT50's National Day of Empathy in March, organizing with numerous local organizations to reduce our incarcerated population by 50 percent over the next 10 years. We are also leading the way to eliminating court-imposed debts through LFO Reconsideration Days. Over a thousand people with LFOs had their debts forgiven in Kitsap and Pierce Counties this year.

We are especially proud of members who were chosen to participate in our 6-month Leadership in Advocacy Fellowship.. 24 leaders graduated from our inaugural class this December.

Conferences and Presentations

Civil Survival educates and promotes social justice reform on the local and nationwide scene. These opportunities expand our voice and legislative agenda to a broad network of impacted individuals and their communities. Some highlights of 2019 include:

OUR WORK

Civil Survival envisions a world free from mass incarceration, where people who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system have the supports and skills necessary to build lives as fully participating citizens. We believe that directly impacted people play a key role in developing policies that impact them and their communities. Our trainings, workshops, organizing and legislative work helps by advancing racial and economic justice and increasing opportunities for thousands of former justice-involved individuals in our community.



- Tarra Simmons published in the Yale Law Journal
- Seattle University Law Symposium on voting re-enfranchisement
- Minority & Justice Commission on Second Chances
- Life after Conviction panel at Washington Historical Museum
- Legal Foundation of Washington fund-raiser
- CLE provided for the Pierce County defenders on collateral consequences
- Law School Admissions Diversity Conference in Atlanta, GA on barriers to the legal profession
- Stafford Creek Black Prisoner's Caucus Legislative Summit
- Clallam Bay Corrections Center Social Justice Forum
- Washington State Reformatory Concerned Lifer's Organization Summit on Foster care to prison pipeline
- Washington Leadership Institute panel on diversity in the legal profession
- Barriers to reentry panel moderator at the Access To Justice Conference in Spokane
- Keynote address at The Freedom Education Project Puget Sound graduation inside Washington Corrections Center for Women
- Panelist at American Bar Association Conference in San Francisco for the Legal Services Corporation Opioid Task Force
- Speaker at Council for State Governments West Public Safety Committee in Montana
- Global Homeboys Network Convening in LA

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Keynoted at the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence conference
- Keynoted at the Seattle University Evening with Equal Justice
- Civil Survival Staff spoke at the Unity Rally, Tacoma Healing Awareness Community event, and Washington Recovery Alliance Recovery in the Park
- Team members attended the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls FreeHer Conference, Brennan Center voting rights convening in NYC, and presented at the Kitsap Human Rights Conference
- Attended Equity & Inclusion meetings for Central Kitsap School District

Grants, Awards and Recognition

We are honored to be the recipients of numerous awards, appointments, and grants in 2019:

- Tarra Simmons was honored by Governor Jay Inslee at his State of the State Address in 2019, and has been appointed as an Advisory Board member to Washington State Supreme Court's Gender & Justice Commission, the Washington State Sentencing Task Force, the Public Defense Advisory Board, Governor Inslee's Statewide Reentry Council, and serves on the board of the Economic Opportunity Institute, National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, and the Legal Services Corporation Opioid Task Force
- Civil Survival is a proud recipient of several grants, including two from Seattle Foundation - Communities of Opportunity and Resilience, Legal Foundation of Washington, The Bernard & Audre Rapoport Foundation, and Healthier Here
- Civil Survival received distinguished awards from the League of Women Voters, Washington State Association of Justice, and Hilary Franz's DO EPIC award. Our Director Tarra Simmons was also honored with the YWCA Women of Achievement and Patty Murray's Golden Tennis Shoe Award.





LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY: Our goal is to develop more capacity in our impacted community members to lead legislative campaigns in 2020. We will lead the Clean Slate coalition, staff the Voting Restoration Coalition, and work on Volunteering in Schools to help children of formerly incarcerated parents. Additionally, we will support the Housing Justice Coalition and actively support several sentencing reform bills.

LEGAL SERVICES: Civil Survival is working to replicate LFO Reconsideration Day in several counties in 2020. We will also develop more accessible legal education and pro se materials that can educate our community through our GameChanger groups, as well as through online and social media platforms.

We hope to grow our staff to establish a statewide system for brief consultation and referrals on the

COMING IN 2020

OPERATIONS: With 3 full-time and 3 part-time staff, Civil Survival is will build more capacity in 2020. An attorney will join our staff in January to assist with our growing policy and systems reform work. This will also increase our ability to hold "Know Your Rights" trainings

ORGANIZING: Civil Survival will expand our GameChanger groups by adding three new groups in King and Snohomish Counties, and at Mission Creek Correctional Center for Women.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: In 2019, we launched our pilot Leadership Fellowship program. We hope to increase our capacity and repeat this successful program in 2020. Our fellows developed skills in the following areas:

- Race equity and anti-oppression in mass incarceration
- Breakthrough Action Leadership ®
- Leadership in legislative advocacy
- Criminal justice training
- The budget process and narrative storytelling
- The opportunities of conflict

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The work of Civil Survival would not be possible without your support. As we grow in capacity, build coalitions and advocate for systemic reform in the legislature, your help is essential. Please support Civil Survival with a generous gift.

MAKE A GIFT TODAY

Online: www.civilsurvival.org/donate/

***Mail:** 110 Prefontaine Place South, Suite 502
Seattle, WA 98104

*Your tax-deductible gift



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