

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Advisory

The logo for Safe & Just Michigan is a blue rectangle with the text "Safe & Just" in white, bold, sans-serif font on the top line, and "Michigan" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font on the bottom line.

Simple fix to Michigan's Clean Slate law could unleash economic opportunities for thousands, experts say

LANSING — A simple technical fix to Michigan's new Clean Slate expungement expansion laws could open up access to a fresh start to thousands of Michigan families, helping bring economic security within reach for people who have struggled to find good-paying jobs and safe, affordable places to live. The solution to this problem will be discussed during a **Livestream being held at noon on Thursday, Aug. 22. Register now for this broadcast at bit.ly/SJM24_FixCS**. Speaking during the broadcast will be Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director **John S. Cooper**, Michigan Attorney General's Office Expungement Unit Director **Michael Ajami** and Project Clean Slate Detroit Executive Director **Stephani LaBelle**, as well as moderator Safe & Just Michigan Clean Slate Program Manager **Kamau Sandiford**. This program is hosted by Safe & Just Michigan, a Lansing-based nonprofit that advocates for policies that make Michigan safer for everyone.

Part of the Clean Slate laws required a waiting period between a sentence for a conviction and an expungement for that conviction. Currently, any conviction during the waiting period makes the original conviction ineligible for expungement. This rule has become confusing in practice and has harsh consequences for people because it stands between them and their personal and economic success. This part of the law undermines the purpose of the Clean Slate and does not advance public safety. A

proposal to correct this situation would offer the courts better guidance and make expungements available to more Michiganders.

Expungements are a critical tool for both criminal justice reform and economic development. A 2020 study from the University of Michigan found that the average annual wage of someone who received an expungement rose 22 percent in the year after they received an expungement. Clearing a record also makes it possible for a potential tenant to tell a landlord that they don't have a criminal record, making that person eligible for a greater number of housing options.

To join this Livestream, please register at bit.ly/SJM24_FixCS.

WHO: **Michael Ajami**, Michigan Attorney General's Office Expungement Unit Director
Stephani LaBelle, Project Clean Slate Detroit Executive Director
Kamau Sandiford, Safe & Just Michigan Clean Slate Program Manager
John S. Cooper, Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director

WHAT: Let's Update Clean Slate

WHERE: Livestream

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 22 at noon: Register and get link at bit.ly/SJM24_FixCS

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Safe & Just Michigan (www.safeandjustmi.org) works to advance policies that end Michigan's over-use of incarceration and promote community safety and healing. We partner with Michigan organizations and leaders from across the political spectrum, including business and community leaders, faith communities, crime survivor organizations, formerly incarcerated individuals, prisoners and their families, as well as Michigan taxpayers statewide.