

SJSU's Record Clearance Project: 15 Years of Education and Service

May 12, 2026 5:30 - 8:00 PM
Smith Carlos Lawn
San José State University



The mission of the Record Clearance Project is to promote justice by providing needed services to those who cannot afford them and by educating undergraduates to deliver those services with dignity and respect.

To do this, the RCP's legal services program informs people regarding their legal rights to a clear record and provides the legal assistance necessary for them to achieve the second chance that the law promises. The RCP's Path to Expungement program provides guidance as people leave custody to move forward with their lives.

As undergraduates make a difference in the lives of others, they gain the experience and motivation to promote social justice, recognizing that with knowledge and kindness, they can change the world.



sjsu.edu/rcp



expunge@sjsu.edu



facebook.com/recordclearanceproject



[recordclearanceproject](https://instagram.com/recordclearanceproject)



RCP Staff

- Emily Benson**, Project Assistant
- Hamish Bonnar**, Project Assistant
- Sandra Carrillo**, Project Assistant
- Jennifer Castillo**, Mentor
- Carmen Chavez**, Mentor
- Everett Glynn**, Instructor
- David Gomez Cruz**, Project Assistant
- Diana Huynh**, Case Manager
- Kanita Ilic**, Project Supervisor
- Erika Larios**, Senior Project Assistant
- Jesse Mejia**, Program Manager
- Ocean Mottley**, Supervising Attorney
- Serey Nouth**, Administrative Coordinator
- Cristal Ortiz**, Project Assistant
- Stacy Quezada**, Lead Mentor
- Conrad Solarez**, Mentor
- Peggy (Margaret) Stevenson**, Project Director
- CT Turney-Lewis**, Supervising Attorney

“[RCP] truly believes that your past doesn’t have to dictate your future, and that everyone deserves the opportunity to start fresh. The compassion and support they offer don’t just help people move forward — they create lasting change and a second chance at life.”

Record Clearance Project client



Thank you to the Record Clearance Project's Volunteers

The Record Clearance Project's work is not possible without the assistance of volunteers. Attorneys help supervise students' legal work; over the past 15 years, they have enabled thousands of clients to clear their records and over a thousand students to learn from their guidance.

We are grateful to the following individuals for their assistance over the years:

Attorneys

Apple pro bono team
Audrey Calderon
Earl Cease
Michael Celio and the Gibson Dunn pro bono team
(a Celebration sponsor)
Caitlin Deck
Eva DeLair
Sharan Dhanoa
Betty Duong
Arielle Egan
Robert Greeley
Rachel Hoeger
Michael Hoosier
Sam Hwang
Cassie Licker
Katrina Logan
Alexandria Long
Shaun Naidu
Vinuta Naik
Jake Rhodes
Karen Rothschild
Monica Smith
Jay Peterson
CT-Turney Lewis
Kara Wilson and the Cooley LLP pro bono team

Other Volunteers

Maria Luisa Alaniz
Larry Brundage
Britney Carpenter
LaDoris Cordell
Diane Do
The Glynn Family and Maverick Mailing
Alana Hayman
Raj Jayadev
Jesus Ruelas
Patty Stevenson
and
Former clients too numerous to name who have been motivational speakers at record clearance rights presentations
RCP alumni too numerous to name who have conducted Speed Screenings/Record Reviews

"The [RCP] didn't just offer help with the practical aspects of life; they gave me something even more important: hope. I love this program because they believe in second chances, and because of their unwavering support, I no longer feel stressed or uncertain about my future. Instead, I feel empowered and ready to continue building a successful and fulfilling life."

Record Clearance Project client

15 Years of Impact

As the only undergraduate clinical legal services program in the country, RCP has...

Educated and engaged
1,150 students



Given **500** community legal
education presentations



Informed **2,700** clients in
record review interviews



Provided **150,000** hours
of volunteer service

Informed **17,300**
people of their rights



Achieved a **99%** success rate across
2,040 court petitions to clear records

Over the past 15 years, the Record Clearance Project at San José State University has increased access to justice and supported people seeking a second chance. Thank you for being part of this celebration of 15 years of impact as we take a moment to reflect on our past and look to the future.

The students are inspirational. They enroll in classes like those taught only in law schools. Ninety-one percent of RCP students are employed while in college, a third of those full-time. Seventy-five percent are the first in their families to go to college; sixty percent are children of immigrants. They come to the RCP with open minds, an eagerness to learn, and the desire to be of service to others. And over eighty percent of RCP alumni say that being part of RCP was central to the careers they have today.

The clients are inspirational. Many have overcome trauma and hardship unimaginable but for the fact that it happened. Yet they have found, in the hardest of rock-bottom depths, the strength to go forward and grow to recognize their potential and power. Clients' perseverance and courage make it an honor to be of assistance.

The donors are inspirational. They are willing to take a chance on the only program like the RCP in the US, to see the strength and potential that comes from the dedication and purpose of the students and clients and staff. Donors share and enable this vision of applied learning to become a life-changing, community-strengthening, love-generating reality.

Our community partners and colleagues are inspirational. Their hard work, creative energy, and unwavering dedication make the world a better, kinder, more just place for all.

Tonight we hear from people who have shaped this work. You will meet others among you who will inspire you and be inspired by you. Thank you for helping to celebrate this milestone! You are and always will be part of what makes the Record Clearance Project the force that it is.

SJSU's Record Clearance Project: 15 Years of Education and Service

5:30 pm

Registration & Buffet Dinner

6:30 pm

Program Speakers



Cynthia Teniente-Matson – President, SJSU

Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President of San José State University, is committed to advancing student success, equity, and community engagement. She has championed initiatives that expand access to education and support historically underserved communities. Her commitment to fostering inclusive excellence is reflected in her support for the Record Clearance Project's work.



Anne Marie Todd – Dean of College of Social Sciences, SJSU

Anne Marie has led the College of Social Sciences as Dean since 2023. Since arriving at SJSU in 2002, Anne Marie has taught in the Department of Communication Studies, created courses on environmental communication, and served in university administration. She was named SJSU's Outstanding Professor in 2015. She is a strong advocate of the RCP, reflecting her long-standing interest in community engagement and integrative learning.



Erica Yew – Judge, Santa Clara County Superior Court (retired)

Judge Erica Yew retired from the bench in January 2026 after 25 years of service; she currently is the CEO of American Leadership Forum. Judge Yew heard RCP record clearance petitions for four years, giving students the unparalleled opportunity to speak on behalf of their clients and offering clients and their families a chance to describe what clearing their records meant to them. Her long-standing commitment to community service has earned her multiple awards and honors.



Ericka B. Adams – Associate Professor, Department of Justice Studies, SJSU

Ericka B. Adams is an associate professor in the Department of Justice Studies at San José State University. Her research focuses on criminal record clearance in the United States; gang violence, community policing, and resident safety in Trinidad and Tobago; and street outreach conflict mediation programs.

The San José State University Treble Choir will be singing *Truth* (words by Gardenia Bruce, score by Andrea Ramsey) under the direction of **Corie Brown**, Associate Professor of Choir and Music Education, with graduate students **Morgan Healey** conducting and **Sian Wittke** playing the djembe.

The SJSU Treble Choir is SJSU's soprano-alto voice ensemble made up of both music majors and students from throughout the university who love to sing. Members were part of a pilot Elmwood Women's Jail Choir in Spring 2025 and hope to see a future collaborative program between the university and jail. Corie Brown is active nationally and internationally as a clinician, singer, arranger, and guest conductor.

Thank you to 15-year Anniversary Celebration Sponsors

HEROES



DESTINATION: HOME

Anonymous

LEADERS

GIBSON DUNN

HORRISON FOERSTER



Peggy Stevenson and Dave Flamm

SUPPORTERS



Maria Luisa Alaniz • Hon. LaDoris Cordell
Steve and Susan Ellenberg • Maureen and Doug Lowell

FRIENDS



DeAnza College



Anonymous • Gourab Basu and Nandini Mukherjee
Daniel Mayfield • Elizabeth Pipkin • Eric Wright

TimeDone Day

RCP partnered with the community organization and Celebration sponsor TimeDone in June 2025 at the California State Capitol on TimeDone Day. Former RCP clients, students, and staff helped to promote advocacy and awareness on clean slate initiatives and the importance of second chances. RCP looks forward to continued collaboration with TimeDone.



Artwork by Rodrigo Lara (left) and Ashante Davis (right)

“Artistic Freedom: The Liberating Art of the Formerly Incarcerated” Art Exhibit

In February 2024, RCP organized an exhibition of clients’ work at the Martin Luther King Jr. library. Dean Anne Marie Todd applauded the artists for their work at a reception where students, faculty and friends helped the artists and their families celebrate the event.

Destination: Home, a Celebration sponsor, has invited RCP to curate an artist exhibit at its national conference in September 2026, again featuring the art of people with lived experience.

“Just Mercy” Symposium

RCP hosted “Just Mercy and Life after Jail,” a symposium in connection with author Bryan Stevenson’s visit to SJSU in 2016. In a presentation MC’d by Raj Jayadev, head of Silicon Valley DeBug, a Celebration sponsor, former RCP clients, former RCP mentor Cheryl Lozano, and Justice Studies professors Alessandro di Giorgi and Edith Kinney spoke regarding the challenges people face as they leave custody.

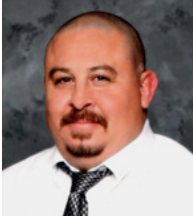
Maria Luisa Alaniz, a Celebration sponsor, arranged an opportunity for RCP students and staff to meet with Bryan Stevenson.



You are beautiful
You are enough
You must believe in that
Believe the truth

My roots are earth
Muddy river and honeysuckle
My roots are beautiful
My roots are strong

From the Poem *Truth* by Gardenia Bruce



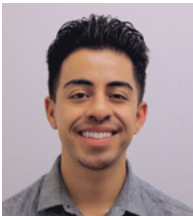
Armando Aguilar – Record Clearance Project Advisory Board

Armando Aguilar is a certified alcohol and drug counselor with over two decades of experience in addiction support, education, and prevention. Seeking to foster greater understanding and support for those affected by addiction, Armando is actively involved in community outreach, frequently serving as a motivational speaker where he talks about recovery and breaking the cycle of substance use and incarceration, encouraging people to envision possibilities for their futures.



Winnonah Perez – Record Clearance Project Advisory Board

Winnonah Perez has guided RCP since her days as an early client of the program. She joined RCP staff in 2014 as an inaugural peer mentor and provided essential direction in creating and building the Path to Expungement mentoring program in its early years. Winnonah frequently shares her experience, strength, and hope with people in institutions and in custody across Northern California. She has worked at a defense and aerospace company for over a decade.



Omar Arauza – Record Clearance Project Alumnus

Omar Arauza graduated from SJSU in 2020 and worked for the RCP for three years before enrolling in UC Law School San Francisco in 2023. During law school, Omar worked with criminal justice agencies at the state and federal level, provided legal services to youth in guardianship, dependency, and immigration matters, and served as a judicial extern for a federal judge. He graduates with his JD in May 2026.



Through their support, **Bette Loomis** (SJSU '67) and **Dave Loomis** (SJSU '63) have sustained the RCP's work educating students to assist people in moving forward with their lives for over a decade. Recently the Loomises established an endowment to ensure that the RCP endures into the future. RCP Founder and Director **Peggy Stevenson** presents the RCP Visionary Award to Bette and Dave Loomis in appreciation for their lasting impact on education, justice and opportunity.



MC: Paul Knepper – Chair, Department of Justice Studies, SJSU

Paul Knepper is professor and chair of the Department of Justice Studies at San José State University and a visiting professor at the School of Criminal Sciences, University of Lausanne, Switzerland. For 12 years, he was a professor in the School of Law at the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom; the clinical legal work there and elsewhere has given him a deep appreciation for RCP at SJSU.

7:15 pm

Dessert & Coffee

Over the past 15 years, the Record Clearance Project (RCP) developed a range of services to meet community need and provide an unparalleled opportunity for students. The results can be life-changing for all involved.

Legal Services: Clearing Records, Spreading Knowledge

Students use their education to help others, providing the legal assistance necessary for people with convictions to achieve the second chance that the law promises. The RCP has a 99% success rate in court on the petitions that students prepare.

Nearly 90% of people are unaware of their rights to clear their records. Students, accompanied by an attorney and a former client, give legal rights presentations in the community and in custody to inform people about opportunities for their futures. "You just changed my whole life," a recent participant said after a presentation.



Photo: Karl Mondon, Bay Area News Group

"RCP was the highlight of my undergraduate career. We learn how to make a difference."

Record Clearance Project student



Path to Expungement Peer Mentoring and Service Navigation

To assist people leaving custody in moving forward with their lives, in 2014 RCP hired former clients to design a program and serve as guides. Mentors provide inspiration through experience, while arranging support to meet clients' basic needs to help their clients achieve self-sufficiency.

With mentors' and staff guidance, students assist clients in tasks like getting identification, enrolling in college, and securing stable housing. Students also support mentors with client intake and record-keeping.

In 2025, the mentors (pictured at left) provided guidance to 232 people who were released from custody, connecting them to needed services 6,283 times.

Law Student - RCP Collaboration

In 2012, RCP began hosting an annual Alternative Spring Break week. Since then, students from Columbia, Stanford, Berkeley and UCLA law schools have spent their spring breaks at SJSU. RCP trains the law students and pairs them with RCP students to prepare court petitions for record clearance.

Since 2013, RCP has been an official pro bono program of Stanford Law School, training law students to work with RCP students in providing record reviews to inform clients how to clear their records.



“No part of law school has been more rewarding for me than working with the Record Clearance Project; than watching a judge and a justice system treat our clients with the dignity and respect they deserve but don’t always receive given their past convictions.”

MP, Stanford Law School

Digital Literacy Classes

To meet people’s needs as they leave custody, RCP offers “Computers and the Internet” classes. Staff teach these 8-hour classes focused on finding employment, while students provide one-on-one assistance to help participants learn and practice the material. Students also help participants with individualized searches, such as enrolling in college, making appointments, requesting documents and related needs. More than 100 people have successfully completed the program since 2023, earning the laptops they were trained on.



Record Clearance Weeklong Classes in Custody

Since people in custody repeatedly asked for more information following record clearance rights presentation, RCP developed weeklong practical legal skills classes. In summer 2025, teams of teachers and students (serving as small group facilitators) piloted classes in maximum security, minimum security and protective custody jail dorms, including a session and materials in Spanish.

Participants’ evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, commenting on the value of the material, the importance of the skills they learned, and the gratitude for RCP’s respectful, nonjudgmental approach. RCP plans to expand these classes.

Please Scan to Donate to the Record Clearance Project



Given limited resources, currently RCP can assist only a small fraction of those seeking help.
All donations supporting the Record Clearance Project are tax-deductible when designated through
The Tower Foundation of San José State University (Tax ID: 83-0403915), a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.