



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRIDAY APRIL 21, 2017

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA LEGAL SERVICES ANNOUNCES 7 EVENTS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL REENTRY WEEK

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS), the largest non-profit civil legal aid provider in Louisiana, announces a full week of events to celebrate the Department of Justice's National Reentry Week during the week of April 24-30, 2017. Seven events will be held in the Greater New Orleans area all aimed to use civil legal aid to help formerly incarcerated individuals remove legal barriers to jobs, stable housing, and family stability. Organizations across America are taking major steps to make our justice system fairer, more efficient, and more effective at reducing recidivism. An important part of that commitment is preparing those who have paid their debt to society for substantive opportunities beyond the prison gates, and addressing collateral consequences to successful reentry that too many returning citizens encounter. SLLS is committed to that mission.

Thanks to generous support from a Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program (JRAP) grant from the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) along with additional investment from Baptist Community Ministries for a Public Housing Youth Reentry Grant, SLLS is targeting critical civil legal services to Orleans Parish youth aged 14-24 who have past interactions with the criminal justice system to help them have more stable futures. Our Public Housing Youth Reentry programs provide community legal education, direct legal services, and legal clinics throughout Orleans Parish.

SLLS' Schedule for National Reentry Week is below:

Monday, April 24, 2017 6 p.m.- SLLS joins Nia Weeks of Women with a Vision on her weekly radio show Mass IncarcerNation on WBOK 1230 AM. SLLS will discuss Reentry Week, the collateral consequences of the criminal justice system, and resources available to assist those with successful reentry into their communities. Callers will be able to ask questions.

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 6-8 p.m.- With our JRAP partner, the Justice & Accountability Center, SLLS will hold an Expungement Day Workshop for residents living in and near Columbia Parc at the Pentecost Baptist Church. This event, made possible by our partners at Dillard University, will include a short Know Your Rights about Expungements. Participants needing legal help for expungements can talk to an attorney to review qualifications, documentation and the procedural steps required for an expungement. People who qualify may be eligible for legal representation to clear their record.



Wednesday, April 26, 2017- in conjunction with Liberty's Kitchen, SLLS will conduct a Know Your Voice presentation to new participants in Liberty's Kitchen Youth Development Program. The presentation will explore the importance and power of self-advocacy as a necessary tool for our cities' youth to achieve their dreams for themselves and their families.

Thursday, April 27, 2017 -SLLS returns to Liberty's Kitchen for a Know Your Rights presentation on Public Benefits for all participants in the Youth Development Program. The presentation will focus on ensuring that opportunity youth are aware of their rights and resources in their community.

Thursday, April 27, 2017- SLLS will tour the Louisiana State Penitentiary (Angola) and their Reentry Program, sponsored by Orleans Criminal Court Hon. Judge Laurie White. SLLS will gain first-hand knowledge of the resources available to individuals on the path to reentry and how we may best serve them upon exit. This will complement other work SLLS has been doing for the past year to provide pro bono assistance through the Louisiana State Bar Association's Collaborative Lawyering Project for Reentry Court participants in the greater New Orleans area.

Friday, April 28, 2017-SLLS, thanks to partners at HANO, Urban Strategies, and Providence Community Housing, will provide free legal clinics on site at Faubourg Lafitte at the Sojourner Truth Community Center @ 9:30-11:00 a.m. and at Bienville Basin in the Dell Technology Center @ 2:30-4:00 p.m. Residents can meet with attorneys and screened for potential ongoing legal representation. Walk-ins accepted. No appointment is necessary.

Friday, April 28, 2017 5-6:30 p.m. –With our partner, the Justice & Accountability Center of Louisiana, SLLS will hold another Expungement Workshop for the community of Guste Homes at the Progressive Baptist Church. This event is made possible by our partners at Dillard University and will include a short Know Your Rights presentation concerning the legal issue of expungements and will allow individuals seeking expungements to talk to an attorney to review qualifications, documentation and the procedural steps required to get an expungement. People who qualify will be accepted for full legal representation and assistance with cleaning their record through the expungement process.







SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA
LEGAL SERVICES



EXPUNGEMENT DAY

Tuesday, April 25, 2017
5:30 p.m.

EXPUNGEMENT ASSISTANCE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**Residents of Columbia Parc and
Surrounding Community**

Pentecost Baptist Church

1510 Harrison Ave.

These documents are needed to determine eligibility. Please try to bring them with you:

1. A copy of your record. (You can retrieve a copy of your record by calling or visiting the Clerk of Court in the Parish that you were arrested in.)
2. Ask the clerk for any expungement forms they require.
3. A copy of the minutes or docket master.

Bringing these items with you, helps ensure you are given the most accurate legal advice possible.

For more information, call SLLS at (504) 529-1000 ext. 243

**Other Civil legal help may be offered to other
low-income individuals through other project funding.**

This project is funded under the Juvenile Re-Entry Assistance Program (JRAP), a collaborative effort between the Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of HUD to assist justice involved youth to reintegrate into their communities and Baptist Community Ministries (BCM) which seeks to reduce barriers to re-entry through community outreach. Services are targeted to youth up to age 24 living in or near public housing.



CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS
NEW ORLEANS





SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA
LEGAL SERVICES



CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS
NEW ORLEANS

EXPUNGEMENT DAY

Friday, April 28, 2017

4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Expungement Assistance

Residents of Guste & Surrounding Community

Progressive Baptist Church

1214 South Robertson

These documents are needed to determine eligibility. Please try to bring them with you:

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