

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Record Clearance Project

Changing lives...one petition at a time.



The RCP has changed my life. I have a new chance at seeing my full potential and new career opportunities opened because of you guys.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

- RCP Client



As we pass the torch of justice to the next RCP class, we will take with us our clients' stories of survival -- beautiful fragments of fortitude that have transformed us into advocates of those whose voices that need to be heard and whose rights need to be fought hard for.

Although we will need to move on, we will keep on looking back to this semester in our lives.

- RCP Student



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 Donate: power.sjsu.edu/rcp

 Website: sjsu.edu/rcp

 expunge@sjsu.edu

 www.facebook.com/recordclearanceproject

Who we are

The SJSU Record Clearance Project (RCP) is the only undergraduate legal clinic in the country. Under attorney supervision, RCP students learn and apply legal skills to open doors to clients' new futures.



I feel like a heavy burden has been lifted that I thought I was going to have to carry for a lifetime. Thank you for this life-changing gift.

- RCP Client

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Student Engagement

RCP's unique curriculum offers students advanced-level engagement with people and the legal system through the following courses:

- JS 140 Practical Legal Skills: students learn a range of legal skills, including legal analysis, research, interviewing, writing and working with an interpreter.
- JS 141 Representation: Students assist clients seeking to get their criminal convictions dismissed. Under attorney supervision, they apply their education to help people change their lives.
- JS 142 Community Engagement: Students work with people as they come out of custody to move forward with their lives.

The Record Clearance Project truly "changes lives, one petition at a time" and it has changed mine. I look forward to continuing being part of the team through volunteering and assisting and, no matter how far I'll go, I will always remember and come back.

Thank you for making me feel like I belong to something so great and wonderful.

- RCP Student

RCP services

RCP students and a former client, accompanied by an attorney, give legal rights presentations to let people know about opportunities for their futures.

RCP students, under attorney supervision, provide individual interviews to review clients' records and advise them regarding their next steps in getting them cleared.

RCP provides legal representation in court to people with cases in Santa Clara County. Given limited resources, currently RCP can assist only a small fraction of those seeking help.

All RCP services are free.

Anyone who has changed their life for the better should do this. It is a wonderful feeling to have all of my past behind me, no longer haunting me.

- RCP Client



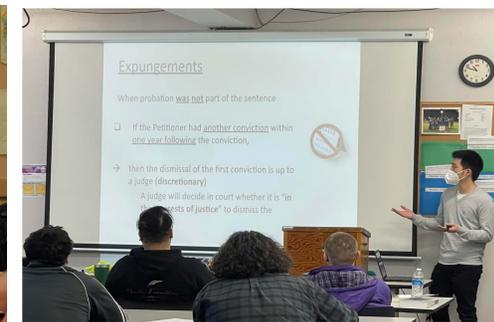
Client (third from left), his father and friends



Program Director Peggy Stevenson, client and her husband, Judge Erica Yew

The RCP client pictured above looked forward to becoming a nurse and directly assisting Spanish-speaking patients and others. Having been hospitalized as a child herself, the client wants to replicate the kindness of the nurses who helped her.

Student Kristine commented, "It has been a privilege to work with [client] for the past couple months. Her dedication to her family is exemplary. I know that she will make a difference to others."



RCP by the Numbers

The SJSU Record Clearance Project...

- Has a **99% success rate** across nearly **2,000 court petitions**.
- Has presented information regarding expungement law and procedure at over **350 community education presentations** to over **14,500 people** in the community and in custody.
- Has individually interviewed more than **2,200 people** at Speed Screening sessions.
- Trained over **800 students** to use their education to assist others by providing legal services with compassion and respect.

Expungement ... is a gift not only to the individual, but a gift that affects the person's family and entire community.

- RCP Client



Expungement of criminal records leads to increased employment and housing opportunities as well as greater earning capacity, increased tax revenue, and reduction of reliance on public assistance payments.

The estimated benefits of expungement outweigh costs by about \$6,500, per person in one year.

- SB 1106 Section 1(m)



Judge Erika Yew, Deputy Public Defender Ben Stewart and RCP students after a hearing

The program challenged me to look deep within myself and it made me believe that simple people like me do have the power to help others, if we have the right tools and guidance.

I cannot begin to thank everyone involved in the project for making this happen.

- RCP Student