



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First-ever Expungement Clinic to be held at Hall of Justice

LANSING, MI, October 18, 2019 – Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack today announced that a traveling expungement clinic will be held at the Michigan Hall of Justice on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. At the clinic, local judges, law enforcement, volunteer attorneys, and law students use [Michigan Legal Help](#) resources to screen eligible applicants and assist them in completing applications for expungements.

In addition to assisting with preparing applications, the clinic will help participants to secure hearing dates and file applications with the appropriate court. Interested residents of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties can preregister [here](#).

Expungement can help individuals secure housing, continue their education, and serve their local communities. For example, in a recent study conducted at the University of Michigan Law School, researchers found that people who received expungements saw their wages increase by an average of 25 percent within two years.

The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law received a grant from the Michigan State Bar Foundation to support traveling expungement clinics across the state, including this first-ever clinic at the Hall of Justice. For example, the clinic recently provided assistance in several rural counties (Gratiot, Wexford, Missaukee, Kalkaska, Crawford, and Otsego).

“Courts and judges must be accessible and must engage with their local communities,” said Clinton/Gratiot County Judge Michelle Rick. “The process of applying for an expungement can be a daunting task, so hosting these clinics to help applicants navigate the process was rewarding for everyone involved, while increasing access and community engagement,” she said. “As a result, courts earned public trust and confidence in our legal system.”

For more information about the clinics, contact Nicholas Schroeck, Director, Clinical Programs & Associate Professor, at 313-596-9817; or Rebecca Simkins Nowak, Clinical Program Coordinator, at 313-596-9409.

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