



Over the past 2 years, the Black and Brown Cannabis Guild (BBCG) has planned and organized expungement screening events with the aim of providing pro-bono legal assistance to those in our community who wish to have their criminal records expunged.

To that end, BBCG will be working along with Legal Aid of Western Michigan and National Expungement Week to organize and host another expungement screening event in anticipation of the new [Clean Slate Expungement Law](#) which is slated to go into effect on April 11, 2021.

As we anticipate a large turnout for this event, we are currently in search of volunteer attorneys who would be willing to provide pro bono-legal assistance in the following capacities:

1. Volunteer Attorneys needed to pre-screen individuals between April 11 to April 20 Registration Period.

Our in-person expungement screening event will take place on April 24th (Grand Rapids) and April 25th (Benton Harbor). Prior to both events, registrants will be directed to register online at [BBCG's website](#) from April 11-April 20th. Registrants will be asked to provide their names (aliases), dob, etc, and that information will be used to run ICHAT Background Reports (paid for by BBCG and National Expungement Week). By signing up for the program, registrants will agree that their participation will not establish an attorney-client relationship and that BBCG will share their information with legal partners for further research into their eligibility. The registrants who meet Legal Aid's income requirements will have their ICHATs and information forwarded to Legal Aid for further follow-up.

However, individuals who do not meet Legal Aid's criteria, will be assigned to our pool of volunteer attorneys. Volunteer attorneys will then be forwarded ichats and relevant information on each registrant that is assigned to them. We hope to assign 10 registrants per volunteer attorney, however, that number is subject to change depending on the volume of registrants and each attorney's capacity to screen.

As a volunteer attorney, you would be expected to review the individual's criminal history and provide a preliminary assessment of their eligibility under the new [Clean Slate Expungement Law](#). Expungement training materials on the new law will be provided to volunteer attorneys who sign up to participate. Once screened, the volunteer attorney would be expected to notify BBCG whether the individual is eligible or not and that individual would be invited to attend the in-person screening event.



2. Volunteer Attorneys needed for in-person screening for April 24th (Grand Rapids) and 25th (Benton Harbor).

The registrants who have been pre-screened and appear to be eligible under the new law, will then be invited to attend our in-person screening events on April 24th and April 25th. Once at the event, registrants will meet with volunteer attorneys, who will assist them in filling out materials needed for filing an expungement. The applicable forms will be provided to participants and volunteer attorneys at both events. Prior to meeting with attorneys, registrants will have to agree that their participation in either event will not establish an attorney-client relationship. However, if after the event has concluded our volunteer attorneys wish to continue assisting the individuals that they screened, they are certainly welcomed to do so.

3. Volunteer Attorneys Needed for Follow-up Consultations and Legal Representation after both events have concluded.

Given the broadening of the eligibility requirements for expungement under the April 2021 law, we anticipate that there will be a significant number of people who may require additional assistance in filing for an expungement and representation at their individual expungement hearings. With that in mind, we are also looking for volunteer attorneys who would be willing to assist those types of individuals.

The exact time and location of both events are close to being finalized, and that information will be provided to anyone that is interested in volunteering. Both events will be held outdoors and will comply with State and Federal Covid-19 protocols.

You will have the option of serving in all three roles listed above or you can choose to serve in a particular role. We deeply appreciate any time that you wish to volunteer towards our event.

Denavvia Mojet

Executive Director, Black & Brown Cannabis Guild

Kamau Sandiford

Attorney, Cooley Law School

Noah Joseph

Attorney, Legal Aid of Western Michigan