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Greetings:

I recently re-entered private law practice after eight years of government law work. I have worked as a civil lawyer for over thirty years. Twenty-five of those years have been on the Central Oregon Coast in Lincoln County. As I set out to re-establish my practice, I have had some unoccupied time and volunteered to work at our local Legal Aid shop. This is an office operated under the leadership of Linda Gast, a wonderfully capable lawyer and well-intentioned person.

Through Linda, I was informed that one of the best services I could provide is to assist clients with expungement of (almost always) ancient convictions that prevent these clients from achieving employment. I have represented ten clients in attempting to achieve expungement. Every one of these folks want to work; have been clean and crime free for more than ten to twenty years.

Unfortunately, they are always asked: "Have you been convicted of a crime". That question, answered honestly, ends the employment process. At least that is what my clients told me. I have developed strong feelings about the way our expungement process works, but I strongly recommend getting rid of the "box" and encourage the State Legislature to pass HB 3025.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

OUDEKIRK & HOLLEN

DAVID M. GORDON

DMG/
cc: dmg