

# Court-Clergy Conference 2022

## *Clearing up a Criminal Record*

**Speaker(s):** Hon. Lisa Rodriguez, Judge

**Monique Carter, Deputy Public Defender**

**Ana De Santiago, Deputy District Attorney**

What are three main points the clergy should know about “Clearing up a Criminal Record”?

- Cleaning up a record reduces barriers to employment, housing, education, and community engagement. It also helps reduce recidivism, making our communities safer.
- The laws in California have changed to make it easier for people with criminal records to clean up their records or at least to ameliorate the effects of that criminal record.
- The San Diego County Public Defender and the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office can assist a person in cleaning up their criminal record.

What are three ways in which clergy can help their congregants?

- Encourage members of their congregations to take steps to clear up criminal records and to encourage family members or friends to clear up their criminal records
- Educate their congregants on the impact a criminal record can have on a person’s life and livelihood and to make sure their congregants realize that the criminal justice system in San Diego County is here to help clear up their record where the law allows.
- Encourage congregants to reach out for help at the resources listed below.

Websites where clergy can go to learn more:

[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/public\\_defender/fresh\\_start.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/public_defender/fresh_start.html)

<https://www.sdcda.org/office/ConvictionReview/>

Contact names and phone numbers if clergy have questions:

San Diego County Public Defender Fresh Start Program: 619 338 4721

San Diego County District Attorney’s Office Collaborative Courts Division: 619 531 4431