

Know Your Rights Action Sheet

On an individual level:

- To attend in NYC- for everyone! If you are really motivated, I would start here:

New York Reentry Roundtable Discussion, Community Service Society Reentry Roundtable

Excellent monthly roundtable with guest speakers each month. Lunch is provided as well as time for networking opportunities. Attendees include community members, service providers, advocates, criminal justice officials and formerly incarcerated people. All are welcome. You can email Mr. Torres directly to be put on the email list to receive specific roundtable updates.

One Wednesday every month from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Community Service Society

105 East 22nd Street

New York, NY

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Community Service Society

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- Your own individual advocacy and actions. Talk to people, think outside the box, present yourself and situation creatively, ask questions, listen thoughtfully, advocate for yourself, friends and clients. Network, make meaningful connections. Educate yourself and others.

Organizations doing the policy and advocacy work- just a small sample:

Reentry Resource Center: New York; Reentry.net

<http://www.reentry.net/ny/>

Reentry Net/NY is a support network and information clearinghouse on prison and jail reentry, and the consequences of criminal proceedings in New York State. Attorneys, social service providers, policy advocates, individuals with criminal records, family and community members are encouraged to join for full access to the online resource library, monthly mailings, and calendar updates. Tons of information on all issues and links to resources.

Also includes: People's Guide to the Consequences of Criminal Proceedings *

The People's Guide section provides basic information about some of the many consequences of criminal charges, arrest, and incarceration in New York State. It describes the legal barriers that can arise for individuals who have been arrested and their families, and provides some help navigating those barriers.

The Legal Action Center - <http://www.lac.org/>

The Legal Action Center is the only non-profit law and policy organization in the United States whose sole mission is to fight discrimination against people with histories of addiction, HIV/AIDS, or criminal records, and to advocate for sound public policies in these areas. For three decades, LAC has worked to combat the stigma and prejudice that keep these individuals out of the mainstream of society. The Legal Action Center is committed to helping people reclaim their lives, maintain their dignity, and participate fully in society as productive, responsible citizens.

They have a link to click to obtain legal help and a good FAQ.

NELP ~ National Employment Law Project

http://www.nelp.org/index.php/content/content_issues/category/criminal_records_and_employment/

NELP has been a leader in the movement to restore fairness to the process of criminal background checks and remove unnecessary or badly-designed barriers to the employment of people with criminal records. We promote model employment policies and basic protections that allow qualified workers with records to attain and retain quality jobs, in the following areas: Federal and State Policy Reforms, City Hiring Initiatives, Employment Rights of Workers with Criminal Records and Transportation Worker Background Checks.

Reentry Policy Council ~ <http://reentrypolicy.org/>

The Reentry Policy Council is a national project coordinated by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, a national nonprofit organization that serves policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels from all branches of government. The Justice Center provides practical, nonpartisan advice and consensus-driven strategies – informed by available evidence – to increase public safety and strengthen communities. To learn more about the Justice Center, visit <http://justicecenter.csg.org>. They have an extensive list of issue areas and a great resource area to find local initiatives and resources.

The Correctional Association <http://www.correctionalassociation.org/>

Through monitoring, research, public education & policy recommendations, the CA strives to make the administration of justice in New York State more fair, efficient and humane. They have a Get Involved section with good information.