



American College of Trial Lawyers

CLEAN SLATE UTAH RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS 2022 EMIL GUMPERT AWARD

American College of Trial Lawyers selects Utah non-profit to receive a \$100,000 grant in support of their mission to help people clear their criminal records.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH (May 11, 2022) - The American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) has selected Clean Slate Utah (CSU) as the 2022 Emil Gumpert Award recipient. CSU is being recognized for its work to help low-income Utahns clear their criminal records and access new opportunities. Clean Slate Utah began its work in 2019, when its leaders helped advocate for the passage of a law to automatically expunge at least one criminal record of more than 450,000 Utahns.

The award, the highest honor conferred by the American College of Trial Lawyers on a single organization annually, recognizes programs whose principal purpose is to maintain and improve the administration of justice. It comes with a \$100,000 grant.

“We’re delighted to receive this award from such a prestigious organization and to play a role in honoring the legacy of the Hon. Emil Gumpert. This award will allow CSU to expand our reach in helping low income Utahns clear their records and access new opportunities,” said Noella Sudbury, Executive Director of Clean Slate Utah. “Everyone makes mistakes, but when people turn their lives around, they deserve second chances.”

CSU’s primary goal is to provide access to criminal record expungement in Utah. Over one in four Utahns have some type of criminal record. Criminal records—even very old and minor ones—can create huge barriers for people trying to find safe housing, good employment, and other opportunities that can help them move forward in their lives. Although Utah has a legal expungement process, that process is so costly, time-consuming, and complicated that more than 90% of people eligible to clear their records haven’t made it through the process.

The \$100,000 grant will allow CSU to start its first official program to help eligible individuals expunge their records in Utah. This program will help individuals determine whether they are eligible to expunge their criminal records, and if additional legal work is needed to complete the process, help individuals complete the application process and cover the cost to apply.

“The College is thrilled to present the Emil Gumpert Award to Clean Slate Utah,” said Michael O’Donnell, ACTL President. “Access to Justice is at the center of the College’s mission and CSU is an organization that has developed a clear path for individuals in Utah to access opportunities and services that can help eligible individuals on their journey towards a better life.”

About the Emil Gumpert Award

The Emil Gumpert Award is the highest honor conferred by the College on any organization and was established to recognize programs whose principal purpose is to maintain and improve the administration

of justice. The programs considered may be associated with courts, law schools, bar associations or any other organization that provides such a program. This award is made in honor of the late Honorable Emil

Gumpert, Chancellor-Founder of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Judge Gumpert, throughout his more than half-century professional career as an eminent trial lawyer, State Bar president and trial judge, substantially and effectively devoted himself to the administration of justice and to the improvement of trial practice.

About the [American College of Trial Lawyers](#)

The American College of Trial Lawyers comprises the best of the trial bar from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico and is widely considered to be the premier professional trial organization in North America. Founded in 1950, the College is an invitation only fellowship. The College thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. The College maintains and seeks to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics, and the administration of justice through education and public statements on important legal issues relating to its mission. The College strongly supports the independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings.

About [Clean Slate Utah](#)

The mission of Clean Slate Utah is to raise awareness of Utah's Clean Slate law and to create pathways for justice-involved Utahns to access new opportunities. CSU is working to ensure that Utahns don't miss out on opportunities, such as safe housing and steady employment, because of their past. CSU's work includes advocacy, as well as direct services to help justice-involved individuals access Utah's legal expungement process.

CONTACTS:

Sarah Stokes
American College of Trial Lawyers, Senior Communications Manager
949-752-1801
sstokes@actl.com

Noella Sudbury
Clean Slate Utah
801-913-9675
noella@cleanslateutah.org

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