

California Legal Resource List

PLEASE NOTE: The following list has been compiled by Ella Baker Center but has not been vetted by us. We do not have personal relationships with many of the organizations listed below.

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES

ACLU of Northern California - Takes legal requests regarding prison conditions, denials of access to courts/counsel, freedom of religion and speech violations, and prosecutor and officer misconduct.

- 39 Drumm Street San Francisco, CA 94111 (put "Intake" in Address Line 1)
- Legal assistance telephone: (415) 621-2488
- [Aclu.org](http://aclu.org)

ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties - Takes legal requests on issues of concern to people in prison. Provides referrals if unable to take cases directly.

- P.O. Box 87131, San Diego, CA 92138
- Phone: (619) 232-2131
- info@aclusandiego.org
- Aclusandiego.org

ACLU of Southern California - Takes legal requests for post-conviction matters, habeas corpus, prison conditions; provides referrals.

- 1313 West Eighth Street (put "ACLU/SC Legal Intake" in Address line), LA, CA 90017
- Legal intake phone: (213) 977-5253
- Aclusocal.org

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – is civil rights organization serving the low-income Asian Pacific American communities. They focus on housing rights, immigration and immigrants' rights, labor and employment issues, student advocacy (ASPIRE), civil rights and hate violence, national security, and criminal justice reform. Immigration attorneys at ALC are available to provide legal advice on your options to fight deportation.

- To request an intake form that will help them assess your options please send a letter to the Immigrant Rights Program (All information that you share will be confidential).
 - Asian Law Caucus, 55 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94111
- (415) 896-1701 <https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org>

California Coalition for Women Prisoners - Visits people in women's prisons; advocates on behalf of incarcerated people; provides support for former prisoners; publishes biannual newsletter free to people in prison.

- 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608
- (415) 255-7036 x 314
- info@womenprisoners.org
- www.womenprisoners.org

California Innocence Project - provides pro bono legal assistance to people in prison who maintain their factual innocence in the participation of the crime(s) for which they were convicted. In such cases, new, strong evidence of innocence must exist. They only accept cases where the conviction occurred in the following counties: Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. Spanish speakers and applications in Spanish are available.

- 225 Cedar Street, San Diego, CA 92101

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- (619) 525-1485
- mike@californiainnocenceproject.org
- californiainnocenceproject.org

California Correctional Health Services (formerly California Office of the State Public Defender) - Provides care that includes medical, dental and mental health services, to California's prison population at all 35 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) institutions statewide. Provides services in Spanish.

- P.O. Box 588500 Elk Grove, CA 95758
- (916) 691-3000
- Lifeline@cdcr.ca.gov
- <https://cchcs.ca.gov/>

Center for Health Justice - CHJ serves people in the Los Angeles County Jails and throughout CA, and also provides a free national prisoner HIV prevention & treatment hotline service that accepts collect calls from incarcerated people during regular business hours (Monday-Friday 8 to 3pm PT). Their hotline provides support for callers who are ill or newly diagnosed HIV+, and advocacy support regarding medical care, medications, or other health-related issues inside the jails and prisons across the country.

- 900 Avila St, Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- 510-437-1554
- ron@healthjustice.net
- healthjustice.net

Centro Legal De La Raza - is a legal services agency protecting and advancing the rights of low-income, immigrant, Black, and Latinx communities through bilingual legal representation, education, and advocacy. Centro Legal provides free legal services in the areas of tenants' rights, workers' rights, and immigrants' rights, including services for immigrants in detention or facing deportation. Services are provided in Spanish, English, and Mam. Through our translation service we can provide services in hundreds of languages and dialects.

- (510) 437-1554
- 3400 E.12th Street , Oakland, CA 94601
- centrolegal.org
- info@centrolegal.org

Community Legal Information Clinic's Penal Law Project - This organization provides legal referrals and information packets on penal information, including but not limited to the following topics: Habeas Corpus, the 602 appeals process, Three Strikes, civil rights action, expunging a criminal record, and rights for people on parole. The organization is an undergrad program of paralegal interns and, therefore, cannot offer any legal advice. The work is non-profit, nation-wide, and offers resources in Spanish as well.

- 25 Main Street, Chico, CA 95928
- (530) 898-4354
- clipcpenal@csuchico.edu

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF) - Assistance is generally limited to providing basic disability civil rights informational materials and referrals, with attention to CDCR state prisoners. Our direct service includes 1) a parent training and information (PTI) program that serves parents with special needs children in 28 Northern California counties 2) legal representation in disability rights laws, mainly high impact litigation and class action lawsuit; we

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don't provide individual legal representation 3) provide referrals in the area of disability rights laws. Services available in Spanish and Chinese and other languages by appointment.

- 3075 Adeline St, Suite 210, Berkeley, CA 94703
- 510-644-2555
- info@dredf.org
- dredf.org

Just Detention – Formerly called Stop Prisoner Rape, JDI seeks to end sexual violence against incarcerated people. JDI provides information and advocacy on sexual abuse and the exploitation of prisoners including support and advice for victims and targets of allsexes including information on psychological and health consequences, legal action, and survivor options. Incarcerated people may communicate confidentially with us using legal mail, addressing correspondence to Ms. Cynthia Totten, Esq., Bar #199266, at the above address.

- International 3325 Wilshire Bl, Suite 340 · Los Angeles, CA 90010
- 213-384-1400
- info@justdetention.org
- justdetention.org

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area - Works to advance, protect, and promote the legal rights of communities of color, and low-income persons, immigrants, and refugees through the following services. Bail Clinic: Bay Area adults with legal issues related to bail contracts can call (415) 236-0332 or email bailclinic@lccrsf.org to request legal assistance.

- 131 Steuart Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94105
- (415) 236-0332
- bailclinic@lccrsf.org
- lccrsf.org

Legal Service Prisoners with Children (LSPC) – LSPC provides information services to California legal services offices on the rights of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, including parents and their children, and related civil legal matters. LSPC's primary areas of substantive/procedural expertise are family law; probate guardianships; prisoner rights law; domestic violence; criminal and parole law and appeals; restoration of civil rights for formerly incarcerated people, including aspects of employment law, housing, benefits and voting; and legislative and administrative advocacy.

- 4400 Market Street, Oakland, CA 94608
- (415) 255-7036 (x 324)
- info@prisonerswithchildren.org
- prisonerswithchildren.org

Loyola Law School's Project for the Innocent Alarcón Advocacy Center – If after a thorough investigation of a case, a true claim of innocence is provable, clinic students will help draft a habeas petition so that the case can be litigated in court. The Project is only able to represent inmates from the state of California who claim factual innocence, have exhausted all their appeals, and are no longer represented by an attorney.

- 919 Albany St · Los Angeles, CA 90015
- 213-736-8141
- lls.edu/academics/experientiallearning/clinics/projectfortheinnocent

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National Lawyers Guild – Provides legal support for activists and community/grassroots organizations.

- (San Francisco Bay Area chapter:) 558 Capp St, San Francisco, CA 94110
- Office Phone: 415-285-5067
- Demo Jail Line: 415-285-1011
- Demo Public Line: 415-909-4NLG
- nlgsf.org

Northern California Innocence Project – works to exonerate those wrongfully convicted of a serious felony in one of the 48 Northern and Central California counties from Monterey, Kings, Tulare and Inyo County up to the Oregon border. There must be a significant chance that substantial new evidence may be found to support a claim of innocence.

- Northern California Innocence Project, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053
- (408) 554-4790
- ncip.org

Prison Law Office - Nonprofit public interest law firm based in Berkeley, California that provides free legal services to adult and juvenile offenders to improve their conditions of confinement.

- Address letters to Prison Law Office:
General Delivery,
San Quentin, CA 94964

Prisoner Advocacy Network (PAN) is a volunteer network of activists, attorneys, legal workers, and law students. We are supervised by attorneys and thus operate under attorney-client privilege and can use legal mail. PAN is not a litigation team. PAN no longer takes on individual representation but will research your question and provide current information in response to your request, including searching for case law if you provide a specific citation.

- 558 Capp St. SF, CA 94110
- For legal mail: Jesse A. Stout, Esq. CASBN #284544
- (415) 285-5067
- prisoneradvocacynetwork.org
- pan@nlgsf.org

Re:Store Justice – Southern California-based non-profit working on felony murder resentencing (SB 1437), Survivor Support, and Restorative Justice, who can provide legal information, templates, and blank resentencing petitions via mail.

- 1370 N. St. Andrews Place, Los Angeles, CA 90028
- (213) 358-7057
- Restorecal.org

Root & Rebound - provides direct support to people with arrest and conviction histories - as well as their family members and the people who support them - across the state of California through the following services. Currently incarcerated people can write to us via confidential, legal mail.

- 1730 Franklin St. Suite 300, Oakland CA 94612
- info@rootandrebound.org
- rootandrebound.org

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Root & Rebound Reentry Legal Hotline (every Friday) – Hotline is for anyone with questions about the impact of a criminal record on their legal rights. Call any Friday 9am – 5pm Pacific Standard Time – 510-279-4662

Request the Roadmap to Reentry Guidebook – a resource of legal information that people can turn to about issues along the path of reentry. It is comprehensive in scope, covering nine areas of law and civic life: Housing, Employment, Parole & Probation, Education, Cleaning Up Your Criminal Record, ID & Voting, Family & Children, Public Benefits, and Court-ordered Debt. Reentry planning toolkit:

<https://www.rootandrebound.org/resources/reentry-planning-toolkit/>

Stanford Justice Advocacy Project Stanford Law School - represents people serving unjust prison sentences for minor crimes, assists released prisoners successfully reentering their communities, and advocates for fairer and more effective criminal justice policies in CA and across the country.

- 559 Nathan Abbott Way · Stanford, CA 94305
- 650-736-7757

Swords to Ploughshares – provides support and legal counsel to military veterans. *Please note: this organization provides legal support for veterans seeking help with receiving veterans' benefits ONLY. They do not provide legal support for criminal cases.

- 1060 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 252-4788

The Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) SmartLaw of the Los Angeles County Bar Association – nonprofit public service that allows members of the public to find a qualified attorney in Southern California and get general information about common legal issues.

- (213) 243-1525 (Monday through Friday, 8:45 am to 5:00 pm Pacific Standard Time)
- Find an attorney online: www.smartlaw.org

Transgender, Gender Variant, and Intersex Justice Project (TGIJP) – The TGI Justice Project works mainly with people incarcerated in CA; they work on alternative sentencing, writing advocacy letters trying to help transgender people get access to hormones, finding attorneys and preparing cases for attorneys.

- 370 Turk St. #370 San Francisco, CA 94102
- (415) 554-8491
- <http://www.tgijp.org/>

Transgender Law Center – Transgender Law Center (TLC) has grown into the largest trans-specific, trans-led organization in the United States. Their advocacy and precedent-setting litigation victories—in areas including employment, prison conditions, education, immigration, and healthcare—protect and advance the rights of transgender and gender nonconforming people across the country.

- PO Box 70976 · Oakland, CA 94612-0976
- Telephone: (510) 587-9696
- Collect Line for people in prison: 510-380-8229- Hay publicaciones en Español.
- <https://transgenderlawcenter.org/>

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UC Davis Civil Rights Clinic– UC Davis law students use their legal skills to assist persons with problems related to incarceration in state prison. Students advocate on their clients' behalf with officials at the institution where the prisoner is housed. Cases have included claims of denial of medical or dental care, correctional officer misconduct, denial of freedom of religion, violation of due process, excessive force, and false imprisonment.

- UC Davis School of Law, Clinical Legal Education
One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616
- (530) 752-5440

UCLA Law School Clinics – UCLA law students engage in a number of communications, advocacy projects and a Re-Entry Clinic. Law students at the Incarcerated Persons' Correspondence Project connect incarcerated people with legal resources. The Reentry Legal Clinic prepares expungement petitions and takes advantage of existing legal means to clear criminal records.

- UCLA School of Law, 385 Charles E. Young Drive East, 1242 Law Building, Los Angeles, California 90095
- (310) 825-4841

UnCommon Law—California-based non-profit; works with people who are incarcerated for months or years in advance of their parole board hearings and offers representation in both parole hearings and in court petitions challenging the parole board and the governor.

- 220 4th Street, Suite 103 Oakland, CA 94607
- (510) 271-0310
- Email of Executive Director Keith Allen Wattley: kwattley@uncommonlaw.org
- <https://www.uncommonlaw.org/>

University of Southern California (USC) Gould School of Law Post-Conviction Justice Project (PCJP) - PCJP fights for second chances — through parole representation, parole-readiness workshops in prisons, courtroom representation and legislative advocacy. PCJP has limited resources and receives numerous requests for assistance. If you believe your case fits within the parameters of the types of cases PCJP handles, please send a brief description of your case by mail to:

- Post-Conviction Justice Project, USC Gould School of Law, 699 Exposition Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0074
- Contact for Co-Founder and Attorney Heidi Rummel:
 - o Phone Number: (213) 740-2865
 - o Email: hrummel@law.usc.edu
- <https://pcjp.usc.edu/>

Veterans Legal Institute - and former service members. Areas of support include: discharge upgrades, veteran benefits, expungement, legal clinics, and immigration.

- 1231 Warner Avenue, Tustin, CA 92780
- (714) 852-3492
- info@vetslegal.com
- <https://www.vetslegal.com/>

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NON-PRO-BONO RESOURCES

The following is a list of attorneys who will probably require payment for their services. Please note: The Ella Baker Center has limited direct personal experience with the following attorneys.

Charles Carbone Esq.: Attorney representing people in California prisons on conditions of their confinement including Parole Hearings, En Banc and Rescission Hearings, Appeals of Parole Denials, State and Federal Appeals of Criminal Convictions, Civil rights, visiting issues, and custody issues, Appeals of Rules Violations, Clemency and pardon applications before the Governor, and Sentencing modifications.

- PO Box 2809, San Francisco, California 94126
- Telephone: 415-981-9773
- <https://www.charlescarbone.com/>

Escovar Law: Southern California-based post-conviction law firm. If you are still suffering the consequences of a prior conviction, such as immigration, employment, or reputational consequences, we may be able to vacate, eliminate or reduce the conviction to remedy the negative impact you are presently suffering.

- 78 Orange Place, Pasadena, CA 91105
- (626) 577-7700
- <https://www.escovarlaw.com/>

Law Offices of Grech & Packer: Writ of Habeas Corpus attorneys.

- 7095 Indiana Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92506
- (951) 291-0105
- <https://www.riversidecriminaldefense.com/>

Law Offices of Ronald Ziff: attorneys specializing in appeals.

- 10866 Wilshire Blvd., 4th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90024
- (888) 953-9433

Michael Beckman, California Parole Lawyer: Affordable law firm specializing in representing incarcerated people in the following: Parole suitability hearings and related matters: Rescission/En Banc and Parole Reconsideration hearings, Youthful Offender Parole Hearings (SB 260 and SB 261), Elderly Parole Hearings, Habeas Corpus petitions challenging parole denials/governor reversals, and compassionate release.

- 1732 Aviation Blvd., PMB 326, Redondo Beach CA 90278
- (310) 394-3138 (collect calls accepted)
- Email: thecapper2@aol.com
- <http://calparolelawyer.com/contact/>

Nieves Law Firm: San Francisco Bay Area criminal defense attorneys specializing in post-conviction relief cases as well as assault, contempt, domestic violence, drug charges, DUI, expungement, fraud, gang crime, gun crime, juvenile crime, restraining orders and sex crime.

- 160 Franklin St Ste. 210, Oakland, CA 94607
- (510) 262-2847
- www.thenieveslawfirm.com

Rutledge & Rutledge Law Firm: Attorneys specializing in criminal law, appellate law, prison law, lifer law, parole hearings, and immigration law.

- <http://www.rutledgeattorneys.com/>

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- **Richard K. Rutledge**
820 Bay Avenue, Suite 230C
Capitola, CA 95010
Telephone: (831) 475-9999
- **Katera Estrada Rutledge**
820 Bay Avenue, Suite 230F
Capitola, CA 95010
Telephone: (831) 854-2777

The Law Offices of Seth P. Chazin: SF Bay Area criminal defense attorney. Practice areas include drug crimes, violent crimes, sex offenses, as well as post-conviction representation, pardons, and alternatives to jail.

- <https://www.bayarea-attorney.com/>
- **San Francisco Office**
360 Ritch St. Suite 201
San Francisco CA 94107
415-222-6188
- **Berkeley Office**
1604 Solano Ave
Berkeley, CA 94706
800-499-9902
- **Albany Office**
1164 Solano Ave #205
Albany, CA 94706
800-499-9902

Shouse California Law Group: Criminal Defense Attorneys that cover a range of cases throughout Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura, Riverside, San Diego, Orange County, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Will represent victims of abuse, misconduct, excessive force and neglect by California jail and prison guards.

- (866) 589-3450
- <https://www.shouselaw.com/ca/>
- **Sacramento Office:**
1383 Garden Hwy
Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 94833
- **Los Angeles Office:**
695 S Vermont Ave
Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90005

Sugarman & Cannon: attorneys who handle all types of post-conviction matters, such as appeals and habeas corpus petitions. They also file pretrial writs to an appellate court while the charges are still pending in the trial court

- <https://www.sugarmanandcannon.com/>
- **San Francisco Office:**
737 Tehama Street, No. 3
San Francisco, CA 94103
Telephone: (415) 362-6252
- **Oakland Office:**
Grand Avenue, Suite 300 Oakland,
Ca. 94610
Telephone: (510) 272-0600

Donald R. Hammond Law: Criminal Defense Attorney specializing in DUI defense, as well as criminal defense, traffic defense, and post-conviction relief information.

- Address: Law Office of Donald R. Hammond, 21515 Hawthorne Blvd, Ste 590, Torrance, CA 90503-6559
- (323) 529-3660
- Email: don@donhammondlaw.com

The Law Office of Tracy Lum: Tracy Lum is dedicated to helping lifers gain their freedom. Tracy has freed countless lifers through the Board of Parole Hearings and by filing habeas corpus petitions in court. Tracy Lum provides legal representation for cases in all of California.

- Law Office of Tracy Lum, 46 S Del Puerto Ave Ste B #106, Patterson, CA 95363

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- Collect Calls: (209) 894-7794
- Email: trlum@hotmail.com
- <http://www.parole-attorney.com/index.php>

The Law Offices of Laura R. Sheppard: The firm specializes in Post-Conviction Criminal Defense. Criminal Law encompasses infractions, misdemeanors, felonies, and juvenile delinquency charges.

- Law Office of Laura R. Sheppard, PO Box 5763, San Diego, CA 92165
- Phone Number: (858) 204-1290
- Email: lrsheppardlaw@gmail.com

Law Offices of Richard Darington Pfeiffer: Richard Darington Pfeiffer has more than two decades of experience representing clients in criminal and juvenile cases, fighting systems that can often be unfair. Rich's expertise extends to both the trial cases in Southern California and appellate court cases throughout all of California.

- Law Office of Rich Pfeiffer, 14931 Anderson Way, PO Box 721, Silverado, CA 92676
- (714) 710-9149
- Email: highenergylaw@yahoo.com
- <http://highenergylaw.com/about-us/>

Law Office of Michele Garfinkel: Focus on Parole Suitability/Defense, SB260/261, Elder and medical parole, Writs from suitability decisions, and Immigration Law in Northern and Southern California counties.

- The Law Office of Michele Garfinkel, 11310 Prospect Dr, Ste 10, Jackson, CA 95642-9369
- (209) 283-3009
- Email: liferlaw@gmail.com

Jeffrey Mendelman: Lawyer focusing on representing clients in criminal cases, habeas petitions, resentencing petitions, civil rights litigation, and parole board representation in Northern and Southern California counties.

- Case Law Ltd., 580 California St Fl 12, San Francisco, CA 94104-1033
- Phone: (833) 227-3583
- Email: admin@caselawltd.com

PARALEGALS

- Lee West Paralegal
 - (559) 240-2902
- Cheryl "Mini" Law Clerk
 - (760) 965-6744
- David Lynn
 - (619) 346-3708
 - firstflightinvestigations@gmail.com

NATIONAL RESOURCES:

(Updated March 2021)

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Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws - ACSOL is dedicated to protecting the Constitution by restoring the civil rights of registrants and their families in both Federal and local jurisdictions in a number of states. In order to achieve that objective, ACSOL will educate and litigate as well as support or oppose legislation.

- 1215 K Street, 17th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
- (818) 305-5984
- <https://all4consolaws.org/>

Innocence Project— Independent non-profit closely affiliated with the Cardozo School of Law. Works to exonerate factually innocent people who have been wrongfully convicted. The Innocence Project represents clients seeking post-conviction DNA testing to prove their innocence. The Innocence Project ONLY considers cases that are Postconviction, there is physical evidence of innocence, the crime occurred in the United States, but not: Arizona, California, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, or Puerto Rico.

- 40 Worth Street, Suite 701 New York, NY 10013
- (212) 364-5340
- <https://innocenceproject.org/>

National Center on Institutions and Alternatives— NCIA assists incarcerated people in assessing their chances for parole, and developing strategies that will increase their likelihood of obtaining parole release. Additionally, NCIA's Criminal Justice Services group has extensive experience preparing clients for sentencing in Federal court, where they advocate for alternative sentencing options and sentencing mitigation.

- 7130 Rutherford Road Baltimore, MD 21244
- (443) 780-1300
- <http://www.ncianet.org/>

National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women— Organization in Philadelphia that works for justice on behalf of battered women charged with crimes.

- 990 Spring Garden Street, Suite 703, Philadelphia, PA 19107
- (215) 763-1144
- (800) 902-011 x 3 (toll free)

National Immigration Project—Criminal and Deportation Defense— Provides support, referrals, and technical assistance to advocates, community organizations, and families on deportation defense and custody issues. Also provides information and referrals to families and detained immigrants navigating the detention system. These services are available free of charge to practitioners everywhere.

- 14 Beacon Street, Suite 602 Boston, MA 02108
- (617) 227-5495
- <https://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/index.html>

People's Law Office— Chicago-based law firm that has been successfully fighting for the civil rights of victims of police brutality, wrongful convictions, false arrest and other government abuses for over 40 years. Issue areas include False Arrest, Police Brutality, Unlawful Searches and Wrongful Convictions.

- 1180 North Milwaukee Avenue Chicago, IL 60642-4019
- (773)-235-0070