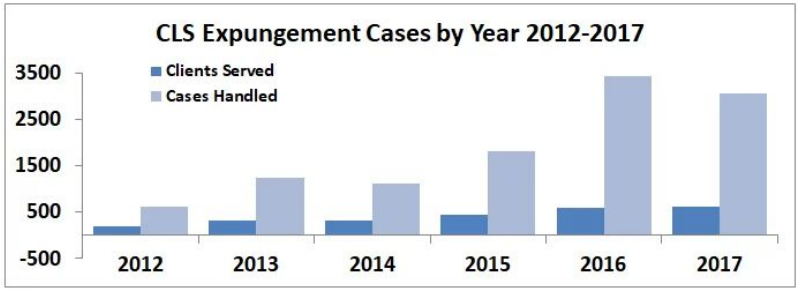
Automated Record Clearing Tools for Your Legal Aid Practice

Why You Need Them and How to Get Them

Why use automation tools?

Expungement Generator

Developed in 2011, the Expungement Generator reduced production time for a record clearing petition from several hours to several minutes. The software has been shared freely with non-profit attorneys and with pro bono clinics around the state and has been used to generate over 30,000 petitions statewide.



Client's Name

First Name *Last Name*

Date of Birth

mm/dd/yyyy

MM/DD/YYYY

Address

Street Name, Number

City *State* *Zip*

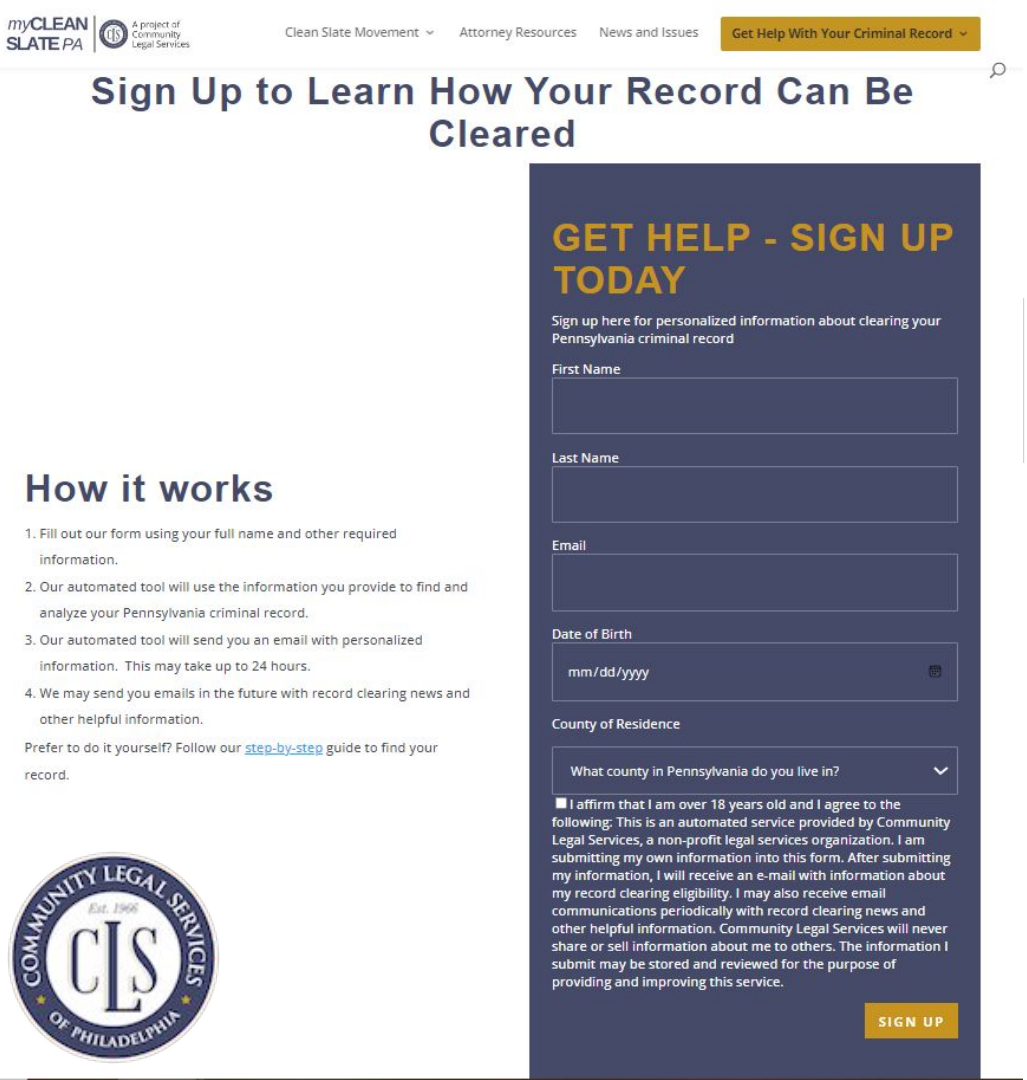
Social Security Number

###-##-####

◉ Search CPCMS for me

○ I would like to upload my own dockets

Start Expunging



MyCleanSlatePA Screener

We are contacting you because you signed up for help on MyCleanSlatePA.com. We were able to find cases related to your name and date of birth. This email contains detailed information about your record and explains how you might be able to clear it.

CP-XX-CR-000XXXX-1999 (Summary)

Charges

- **Charge: Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol**
- Grade: M2
- Disposition: Guilty Plea
- Disposition Date: 1999-XX-24
- *Next Steps: It looks like this conviction is eligible now for sealing, but a petition must be filed in court. Speak to a lawyer about filing a sealing petition.*
- **Charge: Dr W/Bl Alc Lev .10% Or Greater 6th Off**
- Grade: Could not determine grade
- Disposition: Guilty Plea
- Disposition Date: 1999-XX-24
- *Next Steps: Unfortunately we could not find important information about this charge. You will have to speak with a lawyer about your record.*

JanuaryAdvisors

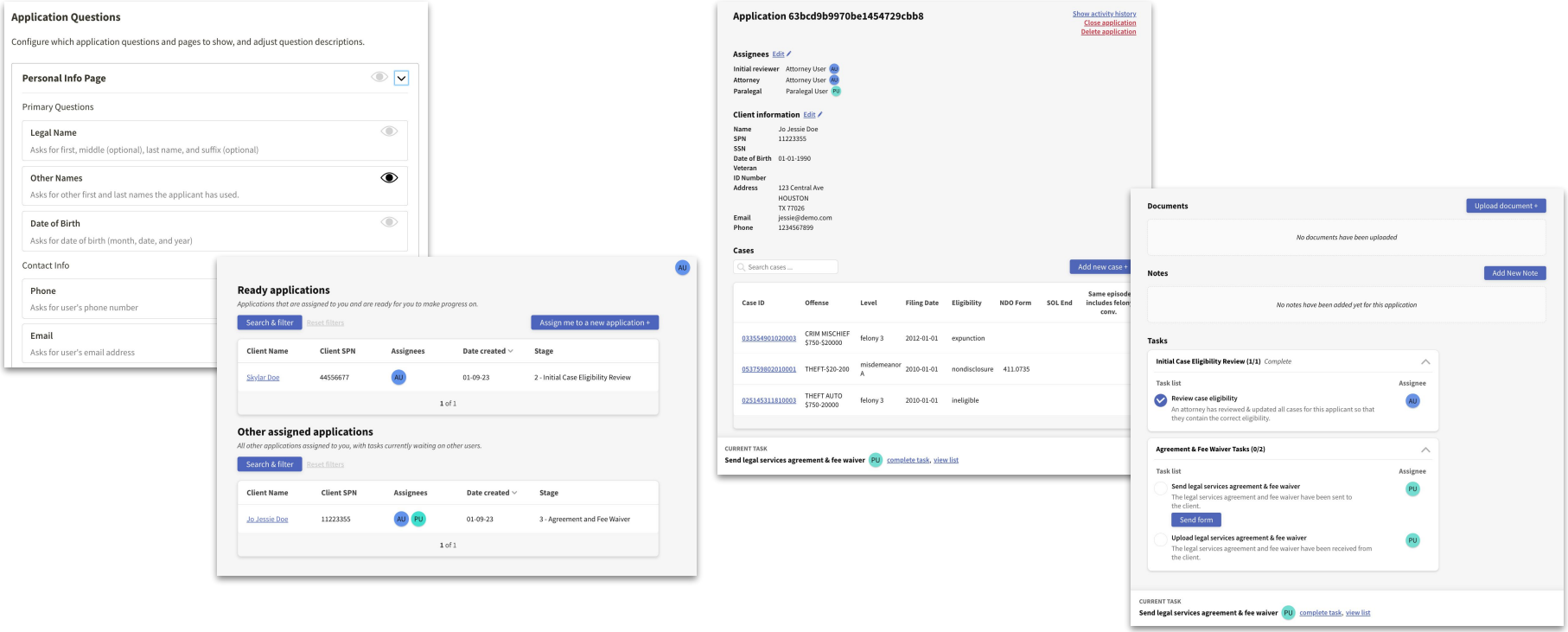
Data science consulting for public and nonprofit sector clients

Services

- Research & data analysis
- Web application development
- Program evaluation
- Consulting
- Data visualization
- Data training

Jeff Reichman jeff@januaryadvisors.com https://www.januaryadvisors.com https://www.linkedin.com/company/januaryadvisors

Tool Example: Harris County Public Defender's Office Clean Slate



rasa

Rasa is a new public benefit corporation with a mission to make the expungement process simple and affordable for everyone.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- $15 Rasa eligibility tool
- $500 representation in up to 3 cases ($250 per additional case)*
- $500 offense reductions

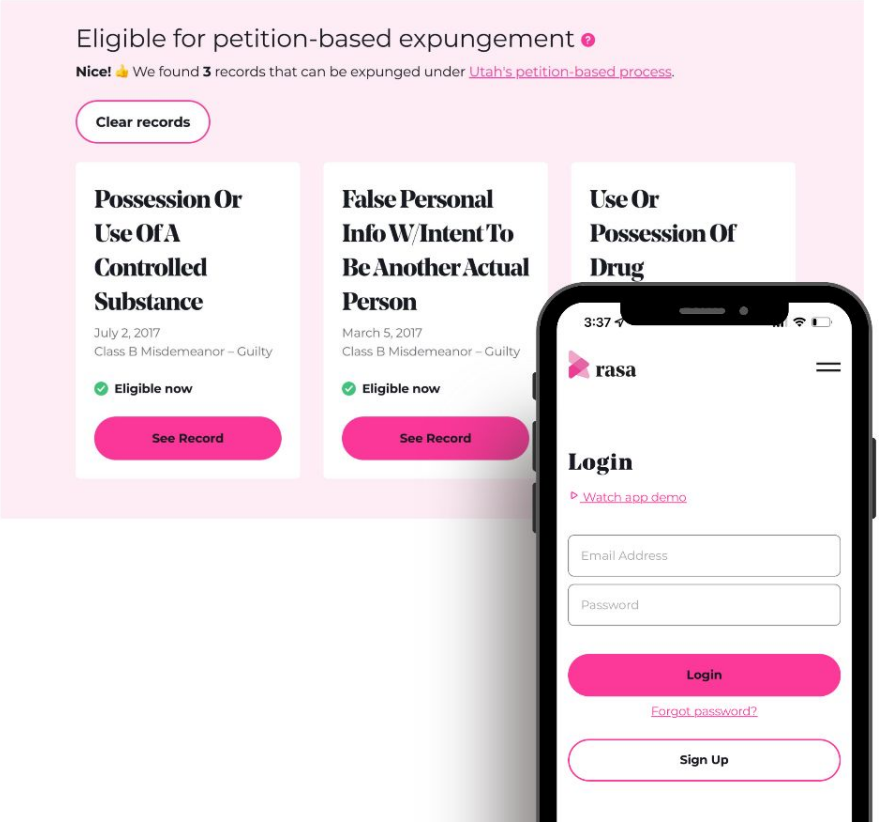
*Compared to 2-3K for most other lawyers. Does not include the cost of government fees.

For more information visit
www.rasa-legal.com>

eligibility

RASA ELIGIBILITY TOOL:

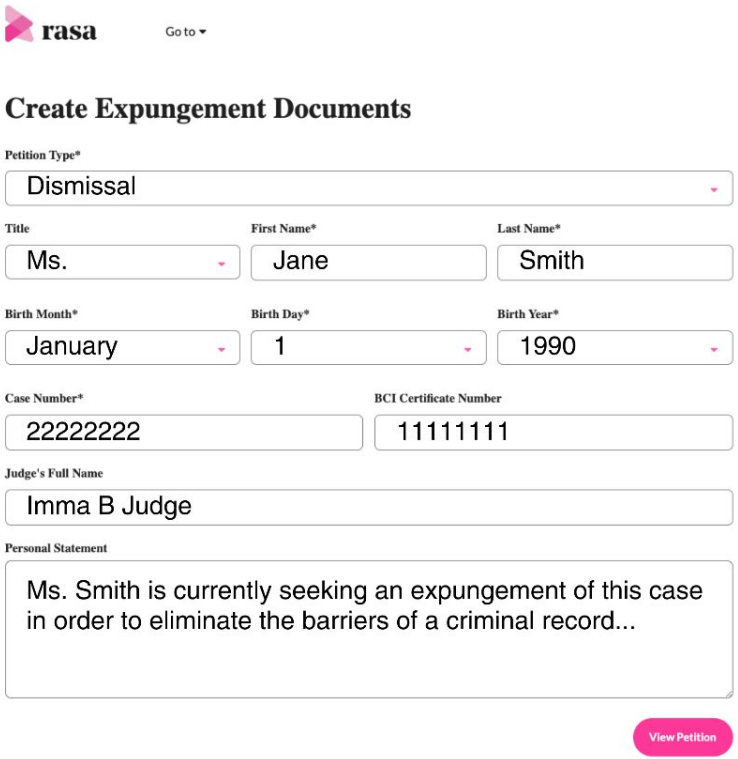
- Powered by court data
- Does not replace state police or court determination
- Tells you what is on your record
- Tells you whether you are likely to be eligible for expungement now or in the future
- Need last four digits of SSN for identity verification



document automation

STREAMLINES THE FOLLOWING:

- Drafting and filing expungement petitions
- Drafting and filing offense reductions
- Building in workflow automation and electronic filing (where possible)



RecordSponge

Oregon status quo: private lawyers offering record expungement often charge ~$1000 per case

Software Features:

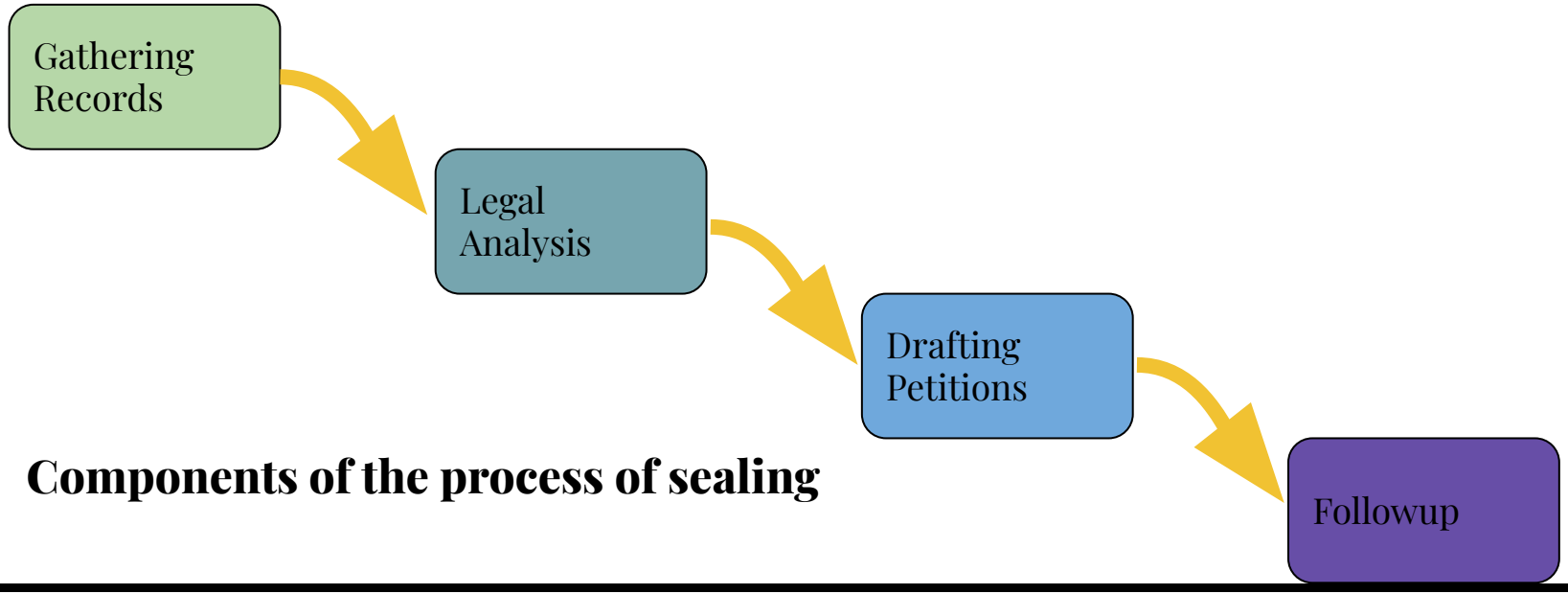
- Performs record search, eligibility analysis, and generates petition paperwork
- Empowers a statewide legal aid network to administer expungement service, usually for free

Why RecordSponge works:

- Oregon Expungement rules and application are highly objective and thus automatable
- Criminal records are searchable with online subscription

Automating in Pieces: Where could you use automation?

The Sealing Pipeline



Components of the process of sealing

Gathering Records

- Web Scraper
- Court System Contract
- Manual Data Entry into a web application

Legal Analysis

- Flowchart
- Custom Code

Drafting Petitions

- Mail Merge in Excel and Word
- Specialized Document Assembly Software

Followup

- Calendar Reminders for advocates
- SMS Chatbots with a job queue

86%

2020 survey: 86% of surveyed legal aid organizations are not utilizing technology to help with petition-based record clearing processes

What is holding us back?

Hiring Experts

Technology projects cost money!

That shouldn't scare you away. It just requires good planning, including:

- Clear **requirements** and a business case/cost benefit
- Clear and achievable **scope** for the first phase
- Accurate **budget** for development and maintenance
- Strong **value proposition** to funders / budget holders
- Good vendor/**partner**
- **Time** you spend managing the project
- Budget for **phase two**

Other Options?

Volunteer Tech Help

- Find & entice a volunteer programmer
- Limitations
- Upkeep

In-House Expertise

- Cultivating expertise
- Simpler tools

Project Management and Communication

Effective communication

Mutual understanding

Tips

Questions?