

Submitter: Jesus Maciel
On Behalf Of:
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My name is Jesus Maciel, PI-ID #113316, and working in public defense has been incredibly eye-opening for me working as a defense investigator, in the criminal justice system in Oregon.

Seeing the tyranny of the state cycle our clients through the criminal justice system firsthand is what makes me so passionate to advocate for our clients. Watching the state charge an individual for a crime who is clearly innocent, or the arresting officers completely misinterpreting a scenario or situation, that then puts a person's civil liberties at stake and uproots their entire lives shows their power. Along with, how easily they can implement that on fellow members of our community. Being a catalyst for our clients we represent and providing those clients with a zealous representation to combat the tyranny of the state is what this is all about.

Along with zealous representation comes restorative justice, something I would like to see implanted in more counties throughout Oregon, as the County I work in, Marion County, Does not recognize Restorative Justice as a resolution for specific type of cases. Seeing Restorative Justice implemented in Marion County, and all counties of Oregon would be a large step forward in the right direction to help address and tackle the public defense crisis which has plagued the State of Oregon for the last few years. Moving cases outside of a criminal prosecution, to then find remedies which will prevent them from reoccurring is really what will help cut the public defense crisis, and remove individuals who have become victims to the tyranny and cycle of the State.

Coming into criminal defense as a defense investigator is a new career path for me, and looking at the history of public defense in America with cases like Strickland Vs. Washington and Gideon Vs. Wainwright shows how far we've come when it comes to advocacy and zealous representation and now potentially, Restorative Justice. Clarence Gideon paved what criminal defense is for us today, and a lot of the times our clients, like Gideon, are the most susceptible to abuse from the state in the state systems because of their social economic background, and their lack of resources to help them analyze the situations that they face. This is why we do the work that we do. Why our work in criminal defense is so incredibly important. We need to be able to adequately represent each one of our clients, zealously. Providing each one of our clients the best of us, regardless of the charges at hand. Misdemeanor or Measure 11, all our clients deserve our very best, to combat the oppression and tyranny of the state. Again, why implementing Restorative Justice as an alternative to criminal prosecution when specific criteria is met is absolutely crucial in the criminal justice

system of the state of Oregon.