



Santa Clara County PD Seeks Assistance for Early Representation Team

Available to Multiple Volunteers

Project Title

Santa Clara County PD Seeks Assistance for Early Representation Team

Scope of Work

This project will require volunteers to become an expert in early representation, meet with in custody clients, initiate exigent investigations, communicate with family, loved ones and the District Attorney, appear at arraignment and bond hearings.

Timing

Jurisdiction

CA

Contact Information

Please contact Guerby Noel (guerby@lawfirmantiracismalliance.org) if you are interested in taking on this matter.

Description

The Santa Clara County Office of the Public Defender has one of the first and most respected early representation units in the country. Their team is called Pre-Arrest Representation and Review or PARR. Early representation means engaging in-custody clients at least 24 hours before their arraignment to commence work on their case and prepare for effective release advocacy. They are seeking fellowship attorneys and bar-certified law students to support their PARR team and learn the skills associated with this unique form of advocacy.

Santa Clara County's PARR team addresses the fundamental inequality of the haves and have-nots in pre-trial justice. The PARR team begins conversations with clients within the first 48 hours of incarceration and at least 24 hours before arraignment. In addition to learning about the circumstances of the client's arrest, PARR team members drill down on a person's community ties, employment, family situation and overall life circumstances. This allows PARR attorneys to advocate on behalf of clients robustly and do so early in the criminal process, often before charges have been filed. After PARR team members meet with clients, they communicate with clients' families, conduct exigent investigations, communicate with the prosecution regarding charging decisions, connect clients with community resources, and advocate to the pre-filing magistrate and/or the arraignment judge. Studies show that incarceration for as little as 36-72 hours can profoundly impact a person and his loved ones. (Money Bond Process Experiences and Perceptions (2016), Catherine S. Kimbrell and David Wilson, George Mason University, Department of Criminology and Society.) Early advocacy like the PARR program protects against harms that flow from even brief periods of incarceration such as loss of stable employment, housing, and support needed by dependent family members.

Subtasks (0)