

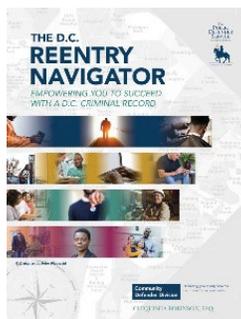
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The D.C. Reentry Navigator: Empowering You To Succeed With A D.C. Criminal Record

D.C. Reentry Navigator Launch Press Release

*****For Immediate Release*****



March 18, 2021 --- On this 58th anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) is pleased to announce its publication of ***The D.C. Reentry Navigator***, a 900-page, 16-chapter book that is a comprehensive compilation of expert knowledge and reentry resources for people arrested, charged, tried, and/or convicted under District of Columbia law. For more than 60 years, PDS has provided high quality representation to indigent people facing a loss of liberty in the District's criminal, juvenile, and mental health systems. PDS created ***The D.C. Reentry Navigator*** as a resource for persons working to regain their lives following arrest, conviction, and/or incarceration. Readers will learn more about:

- Preparing for release from incarceration and succeeding on supervision
- Accessing public benefits, healthcare, housing, employment, and education
- Using technology and transportation
- Obtaining personal records, managing personal finances, and building family ties
- Understanding legal protections and rights
- Registering to vote and resuming an active civic life

PDS intends that people will use ***The D.C. Reentry Navigator*** to educate, support, and empower themselves as they steer through the turbulence of life following criminal system involvement. For the first time, people affected by the system will have easy access to the resources at their fingertips – in hard copy or online – so that they may plan for their futures.

PDS sought input on the needs of people affected by reentry from community members and community-based organizations who are featured throughout the book. In addition, PDS worked with a number of organizations and federal and District of Columbia agencies, including Bread for the City, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, George Washington University Law School Prisoner & Reentry Clinic, Voices for a Second Chance, D.C. Department of Employment Services, D.C. Department of Corrections, D.C. Office of the Attorney General, Mayor's Office on Returning Citizens' Affairs, and many more, to ensure the breadth of resources available in ***The D.C. Reentry Navigator***. With the help of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons (BOP), PDS will prioritize distributing hard copies of the book to persons serving sentences for D.C. Code violations in the BOP who have release dates within the next ten years and people in D.C.-area halfway houses. In addition, hard copies and PDFs will be provided to the D.C. Department of Corrections for residents and staff. Hard copies will also be shared with stakeholders. ***The D.C. Reentry Navigator*** is now available online to all by visiting <https://www.pdsdc.org/need-legal-advice/dcreentrynavigator> and below in PDF format:

[The D.C. Reentry Navigator: Empowering You to Succeed with a D.C. Criminal Record](#)

[The D.C. Reentry Navigator: Empowering You to Succeed with a D.C. Criminal Record 508 Accessible Version](#)

As explained by ***The D.C. Reentry Navigator***'s author, Chiquisha Robinson, Deputy Chief for the Prisoner & Reentry Legal Services Program:

*“Whether someone is reading this book in a bunk in a prison cell with years left on their sentence, or is reentering our community and trying to figure out how to take the Metro, access public benefits, reunite with their family, seek an education, or search for employment with a criminal record, this book is for them. It was carefully designed to compile all the guidance and resources needed to navigate life with a criminal record. PDS is publishing ***The D.C. Reentry Navigator*** because the information and resources it extensively covers should be available to everyone.”*

Chiquisha Robinson is available for comment or interview at crobinson@pdsdc.org.