



# COCONUT GROVE SECOND CHANCE EVENT



The  
**Carrie Meek**  
Foundation



**NAACP**  
SOUTH DADE BRANCH 51AC



**PREPARED BY:**

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# Florida Justice Center

## About Florida Justice Center

As Florida's only nonprofit legal aid organization focused on helping people who have criminal legal system involvement, Florida Justice Center (FLJC) serves a unique purpose. Our mission is to empower individuals by providing legal support, community education, and removing barriers to success caused by the criminal justice system. We achieve this by combining our in-house legal services with community partners that provide complementary services to address the underlying factors leading to criminal justice involvement.

## Coconut Grove Second Chance Event

### Executive Summary

The Second Chance Event was held on March 23, 2024, from 10am to 4pm at the Greater St. Paul AME Church in the Coconut Grove neighborhood of Miami, Florida. Co-hosts included the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association, REFORM, the Carrie Meek Foundation, Miami-Dade County, and the NAACP South Dade Branch. Despite occurring during heavy rains and a flood warning, the event drew over 125 registrants with 428 unique legal and social service needs. Additionally, more than 20 community service providers were in attendance conducting intakes, distributing information, and providing direct services on-site.

The majority of those in attendance sought help with sealing and expunging arrest records, driver license reinstatement, finding affordable housing, and job placement. A large number also received assistance with mugshot removal, obtaining government benefits, restoring voting rights, and with early termination of probation. With a median income of just \$14,400, those seeking services earned less than a living wage. 89.6% of those attending the event self-identified as Black, multi-racial, Native American/First Nation, or Hispanic/Latinx.

As always, Florida Justice Center provided its standard services that included:

- Clemency
- DNA database removal
- Driver license reinstatement
- Early termination of probation
- Firearm rights restoration
- Internet mugshot removal
- Sealing and expungement
- Voting rights restoration
- Warrant assistance



# Impact Report

## Client Profile

### Gender

Female	53.6%
Male	46.4%

### Annual Income

Mean	\$17,701
Median	\$14,400

### Age

Mean	39.6
Median	38.3
Range	20-71

### Racial Identity

Asian/Pacific Islander	0%
Black/African American	60.8%
Hispanic/Latinx	26.4%
Multi-Racial	1.6%
Native American/First Nation	0.8%
White	10.4%

### Dependents

Mean	1.6
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### **Total Clients**

**125**

## Services Provided

### Matter Type

<u>Matter Type</u>	<u>Clients</u>
Child Custody	9
Child Support	7
Clemency – Automatic	19
Divorce	7
DNA Database Removal	7
Driver License Reinstatement	36
Education	15
Employment Assistance	34
Firearm Rights	16
Government Benefits	29
Housing Assistance	35
Identification	4

### Matter Type

<u>Matter Type</u>	<u>Clients</u>
Immigration	9
Landlord/Tenant Law	17
Medical Care	15
Mental Health Care	10
Mugshot Removal	33
Name Change	5
Probation – Early Termination	23
Probation – Modification	7
Restraining Order	1
Sealing and Expungement	61
Voting Rights Restoration	25
Warrant	4

### **Total Services Provided**

**428**

## Referral Source

Banner	1.7%
Department of Corrections	11.6%
Email	2.5%
Facebook	30.5%
Family or Friend	30.5%

Flyer	4.1%
Google	7.4%
Instagram	2.5%
LinkedIn	0.8%
Other	8.4%

## Social Media Reach

Facebook	9,293
Instagram	353

LinkedIn	621
Website – FLJC.org	4,818

### **Total Reach**

**15,085**



# Organizations in Attendance

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**Agape Network**  
**Alive & Well Community Partners**  
**Andrew Kemp-Gerstel, Esq.**  
**Catholic Legal Services**  
**Circle of Brotherhood**  
**Collective Empowerment Group**  
**Coral Gables Adult Education Center**  
**Dade Legal Aid**  
**David Pina, Esq.**  
**Empowerment Zone Reentry Initiative**  
**Engage Miami**  
**Florida Health**  
**Goodwill South Florida**  
**Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association: Lotoya Brown, Esq.**  
**Florida International University**  
**Florida Justice Center**  
**Law Office of TerryAnn S. Howell: TerryAnn Howell, Esq.**  
**Legal Services of Greater Miami**  
**Miami Bridge / LSF**  
**Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office: Sophia Montenegro, Devon Silverang, Esq.**  
**Midway Specialty Care Center**  
**MVP Law: Melba Pearson, Esq.**  
**NAACP South Dade Branch**  
**Oluwu Law: Michael Oluwu, Esq.**  
**Re-Entry One**  
**REFORM**  
**Suited for Success/Dress for Success Miami**  
**Three Hundred Letters**  
**VoteRiders**  
**Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Bar Association**  
**YMCA of Greater Miami**  
**YWCA of South Florida**

# Event Media

## COCONUT GROVE SECOND CHANCE LEGAL & RESOURCE FAIR

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**Greater St. Paul AME Church**  
3680 Thomas Ave  
Miami, FL 33133

**Saturday**  
March 23, 2024  
10am - 4pm

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**Legal Assistance**

- Driver License
- Expungement
- Eviction
- Immigration
- Mugshot Removal
- Probation
- Voting Rights

**Social Services**

- Education
- Employment
- Family / Child Care
- Government Benefits
- Housing
- Medical and Mental Health
- Reentry Services

**SCAN ME**

**More Info:**  
[FLJC.org/Grove](http://FLJC.org/Grove)

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Hosts

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Vendors

Event Flyer





**Attendees braved the rain to meet with lawyers and social service providers.**



**Leadership of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association and Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association**



**GSCBWL A President Lotoya Brown and Carrie Meek Foundation Vice President Matthew Beatty with FLJC's Jonathan Bleiweiss and Alex Saiz**



**Attorneys meet with clients to discuss a wide variety of legal issues from driver license reinstatement to evictions to sealing and expunging arrest records.**

**Miami-Dade Public Defender employees Devon Silverang and Sophia Montenegro meet with clients.**







**Attendees were greeted by over 20 community organizations with a wide range of services to help justice-impacted individuals get back on their feet.**





**Social service organizations provided information, goodie bags, and services on-site to those in need of help.**





**Florida Justice Center Director of Legal Services Alex Saiz meets with clients.**



**Attorney Michael Olowu provides assistance with personal injury and criminal defense matters.**



**Attorney and FIU Instructor TerryAnn Howell poses with FIU Law School student volunteers at the Greater St. Paul AME Church in Coconut Grove.**