



NEWS FROM:
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PD Hosts Seal/Expunction Workshop; Nearly 200 Participate



L-R: Pastor Jones, PD Matt Shirk, Mrs. Jones, Hugh Wilkinson

Jacksonville, FL (April 11, 2011): In a time when the State Attorney's Office is fighting for harsher sentences among the criminals in Jacksonville, the Law Offices of Public Defender Matt Shirk are gearing up for a battle of a different sort on behalf of their clients. On Saturday, April 9th Public Defender Matt Shirk, along with attorney, Hugh Wilkinson, gathered with approximately 200 people at the Life at the River International Church to conduct a Sealing/Expungement of Records Workshop.

“Within this city, much attention is devoted to putting criminals behind bars, but little concern is given to them after they are released from prison,” noted Shirk. “How do they go about finding a job and becoming productive tax paying citizens once they re-enter society?”

These are some of the issues that Mr. Shirk wants to address among people who have criminal records and have been released back into the community. The April workshop was one of several that Mr. Shirk has conducted across the city in hopes of reaching people with a record in a positive way. Pastor Ardel Jones was happy to host the event.

Shirk continued, “For people who have served substantial time in prison, there is often little choice but to revert back to old habits once released. However, it is the belief of our office that if we can reach out to these people and help them legally seal a record, they become better equipped to find a decent job.”
