

# Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc

*Providing Information and Tools to Help Change Lives*

Phone 860-823-1571 Fax 860-425-0656 [www.connecticutpardonteam.com](http://www.connecticutpardonteam.com)

**Testimony of  
Jacqueline Caron  
Founder and CEO of  
The Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc  
Norwich, Connecticut  
February 23, 2009  
Before the  
Appropriations Committee**

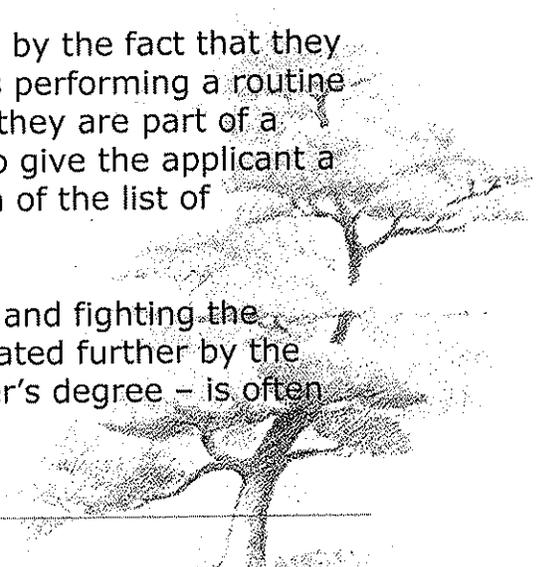
Good afternoon. Chairman and members of the Appropriation Committee It's a pleasure to be able to testify before you today on the efforts of the Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc and the importance of why we are here on behalf of the many people in the state of Connecticut who continue to work with The Connecticut Pardon Team to move forward in their lives.

As we work with individuals and families on the daily basis, the question from many who have served their time and reintegrated back into their communities and given back and have become productive tax paying members of society who may have gone back to school or started their own business, but because of a mistake they made and paid for continues to eliminate any opportunities to successfully rebuild their lives to the fullest is How Long Is Long Enough?

For any man or woman convicted of a crime, successfully completing their sentence, along with any assigned parole or probation, is just the beginning. After their release from confinement, they are faced with re-integrating themselves back into their community – often in the same area and with the same influences that provided them opportunity to break the law in the first place.

Their search for employment is often stonewalled by the fact that they now have a conviction on their record. Employers performing a routine search find the negative information, and unless they are part of a progressive federal or state program, or willing to give the applicant a second chance, the applicant is put at the bottom of the list of candidates – if they remain on the list at all.

The goal of improving their own economic status and fighting the impulse to return to their former ways is complicated further by the fact that even advanced education – like a master's degree – is often



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not enough to convince a potential employer to give them another chance.

Apartment leases, home mortgages, opening a bank account or a credit card, and many other processes that non-offenders take for granted are often closed to these individuals. This situation continues for as long as the conviction stays on their record, and with the advent of computers, the information is even easier to find.

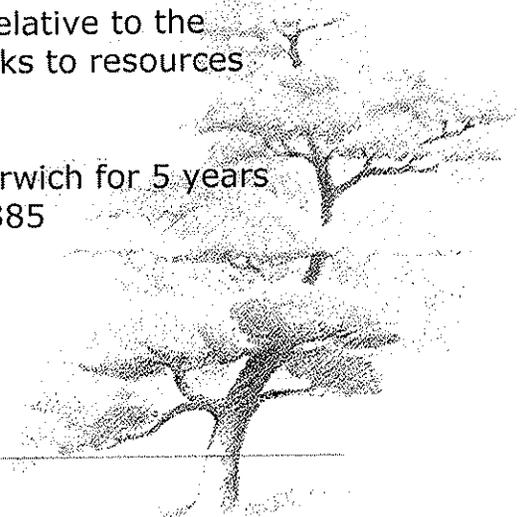
How long is long enough for a person convicted of a crime, who has successfully completed their parole and / or probation, to continue to pay for that crime? The Connecticut Pardon Team was founded in 2004 to provide tools and information for individuals convicted of a crime who are interested in clearing their record through the Expungement/Provisional Pardon within our state through our Expungement/Provisional Pardon Assistance Program.

The Connecticut pardon Team is a non-profit organization that has provided many people an avenue to a better quality of life. Many of our clients have gone on to successfully live the "American Dream." Without the Pardon Team, many of them would have been unable to attain their success.

Most people are unaware that the pardon process is available or how it works. From my personal experience, almost everyone that attempts the process needs help with the paperwork and coaching to follow through to the completion. Our program concentrates on the individual and devotes time, energy and resources from the start of the pardon process to the end. Our team members are personally involved in each step of the process. We perform these services at no cost to the client. All time, information and resources are provided free of charge. We maintain a website to educate and advocate the pardon process. The website lists all information relative to the Connecticut Pardon Team and provides updated links to resources relating to the pardon process.

We have been in existence in our home base of Norwich for 5 years and have continued to grow. In 2008 we served 1385 participants in the State of CT.

307 Main Street, Second Floor  
Norwich, Connecticut 06360



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These numbers do not reflect the true numbers of who benefits from our services such as the wife, Husband, children, mother, father and the family as a whole who ultimately benefits when a loved one can have all the advantages of obtaining employment or housing or education without the barrier of having a conviction on their record. Community groups and others throughout the State have requested that we stage "informationals" in their towns. Our reputation of excellence is based on our commitment to aid the individuals who need us.

Legislators have seen the value of our program and have introduced legislation last year and this year to provide funding to support the work of the Connecticut Pardon Team by continuing to provide Information and tools to help change lives.

As Founder of the Pardon Team, and its first client, I can tell you how important this program is. Most of our clients would have no access to this life changing information without this program. Please visit our website for a more detailed look at what we do. If you would like any further information, please don't hesitate to call or email me.  
I thank you for your consideration and continued support of this life changing program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Caron,  
Founder/CEO  
Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc

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Norwich, Connecticut 06360**



**Oct 2007 through January 01, 2009  
Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc.  
has served**

\* indicates no information forum has be done in the county

Fair Field County -----227 Participants

Hartford County-----422 Participants

New Haven County-----312 Participants

New London County-----209 Participants

Windham County-----69 Participants

Middlesex County-----59 Participants

\*Litchfield County-----58 Participants

\*Tolland County-----27 participants