

CCDLA  
"Ready in the Defense of Liberty"  
Founded 1988

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Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
April 1, 2011

**TESTIMONY OF JENNIFER L. ZITO, PRESIDENT OF THE  
CONNECTICUT CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, IN  
SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL NO. 1228**

Dear Chairman Coleman, Chairman Fox and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

CCDLA strongly supports Raised Bill 1228, **An Act Concerning The Erasure Of Criminal Charges That Have Been Nolled Or Dismissed Or For Which The Defendant Has Been Found Not Guilty**, which seeks to require erasure or deletion of records of charges that have been nolled or dismissed, or where a person has been found not guilty even if other counts against the defendant are not entitled to erasure. The purpose of the bill is to allow erasure of an entitled count whether it is contained in a single or multi count information when the case is disposed of. This is particularly necessary in today's electronic age where arrest and conviction records are readily available to the public. Access to records containing dismissed or not guilty counts interferes in employment opportunities for defendants who have been charged in multi-count indictments of far more serious charges than those for which they were convicted.

Connecticut law should evenly apply its erasure provisions to all charges that are nolled, dismissed or the subject of acquittal regardless if the charges were coupled with others for which convictions stand. Erasure should remain automatic so as not to prejudice pro se parties and should be observed by all police, courts, including CSSD, and State's Attorneys as required by law.

Respectfully Submitted, CCDLA  
By Jennifer L. Zito, Its President

