State of Connecticut

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Testimony of
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Raised Bill No. 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

Public Hearing - Judiciary Committee
April 1, 2011

The Office of Chief Public Defender 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.* The bill would require that whenever a charge against a person has been nolled or dismissed or whenever a person has been found not guilty, that charge shall be erased regardless of whether other counts are entitled to erasure. Current law provides for erasure only when *every* charge in a particular docket are nolled or dismissed or when a person is found not guilty. As a result, a record continues to exist because not all of the charges are subject to the existing erasure statute.

Under current law, the erasure provisions apply to all police, court records and records of the prosecutor. Erased records cannot be disclosed to anyone except the subject of the record in accordance with the Chief Court Administrator's guidelines. Passage of this bill would insure that charges nolled, dismissed or where a person was found not guilty are erased regardless of whether contained in a single or multi count information.

For these reasons, the Office of Chief Public Defender urges support of this bill.