Testimony of
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Office of Chief Public Defender

Raised Bill No. 454
An Act Concerning Automatic Erasure of Criminal Records

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing – March 18, 2016

The Office of the Chief Public Defender supports passage of ***Raised Bill 454, An Act Concerning Automatic Erasure of Criminal Records.*** This bill will would amend C.G.S §54-142a by requiring "automatic" and immediate erasure of criminal records where there is a finding of not guilty, a dismissal has been entered, or where there is a final determination of an appeal sustaining a finding of not guilty or a dismissal.

This bill is an important step in providing greater uniformity and consistency in the way criminal records of state and municipal agencies are erased, while protecting persons who have been unfairly burdened by protracted waiting periods between the time there is a dismissal or a finding of not guilty, and the time the case records are actually erased. The bill provides for a uniform procedure for destruction of records, including fingerprints, photographs or physical descriptions of the subject of the records, and requires notice be sent to the person who is the subject of the erasure.

The Office of the Chief Public Defender strongly urges this Committee to act favorably on this bill. Thank you.