

# Unsung Hero Award Nomination (2025) – Kamau Sandiford

Name of Nominee: *	Kamau Sandiford
Title:	Clean Slate Program Manager
Firm or Organization:	Safe & Just Michigan
Address:	119 Pere Marquette Drive Ste 2A Lansing, Michigan 48912
Phone:	517.482.7753
Email:	Kamau@safeandjustmi.org
Name of Nominator: *	Christi Henke
Title:	Director
Firm or Organization:	Cooley Law School
Address:	300 S. Capitol Ave Lansing MI 48933
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Explain the merits of your nomination, submit any supporting materials for your nominee by email, fax, or mail. Give specific examples.

Kamau Sandiford serves as the Clean Slate Program Manager at Safe & Just Michigan (SJM), an organization dedicated to advancing criminal justice reforms aimed at ending mass incarceration and fostering safer communities.

At Safe & Just he oversees expungement outreach initiatives across the state, assisting individuals in removing old criminal records that hinder access to better housing and employment opportunities. He personally oversees every expungement fair in the state. The coordination of each of these events takes weeks/months. He will visit a site, work with state representatives, facility managers, local attorneys, law suits, the list goes on for days, to ensure that each fair is a success. He has personally had a hand in most expungements in the state over the last several years. He has trained hundreds of attorneys to assist and he never tires of being asked the same question over and over.

Before joining Safe & Just in 2021, he spent six years as an expungement attorney at Cooley Law School's Access to Justice Clinic in Grand Rapids. During this time, he witnessed Michigan's expungement laws evolve from being highly restrictive to becoming some of the most expansive in the nation, notably introducing the automatic expungement of certain felonies. He is currently the foremost expert in expungement law in the state. His commitment to public interest law is evident through his extensive work in expungement, where he has helped numerous individuals overcome the barriers posed by past convictions.

Kamau has also been instrumental in increasing public awareness of the new Clean Slate laws and assisting individuals in navigating the often complex expungement petition process. His dedication to criminal justice reform and his efforts to assist justice-impacted individuals in reintegrating into society align closely with the criteria for the State Bar of Michigan's Unsung Hero Award. This award honors attorneys who exhibit the highest standards of practice and commitment for the benefit of others.

His unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those affected by the criminal justice system makes him a compelling candidate for this recognition.

**Professional Membership:** Kamau has been a member of the State Bar of Michigan since 2014, holding the ID Number P78429.

**Public Speaking and Advocacy:** Kamau has participated in various public forums and webinars to discuss the impact of expungement laws and advocate for criminal justice reform.

– he has hosted countless training sessions for attorneys on the expungement process all over the state.

**Clean Slate Program Manager at Safe & Just Michigan (SJM):** Since 2021, Kamau has led expungement outreach initiatives across the state, organizing expungement fairs and educational forums to increase public awareness of the new Clean Slate laws.

**Member Spotlight by the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH):** Safe & Just Michigan, with Kamau as the Clean Slate Program Manager, was featured in MCAH's Member Spotlight, highlighting their work in advancing criminal justice reforms and assisting justice-impacted individuals.

There should be a million awards Kamau should have received, but he is in the background and never seeks any praise. He comes in the heat of the night and is the last one out the door. He is exactly what this award states: an unsung hero. I hope that the Michigan bar will recognize this.

Optional: List news, magazine, radio, and TV features about the nominee's accomplishments (do not submit actual articles or DVDs). Feel free to include any hyperlinks to these stories, if they are still online.

State date/page and media e.g.  
12/12/07, p. 12, Lansing State Journal, "Lawyer Begins TLC Program in Schools"

Member Spotlight; Michigan Coalition for Homeless– January 25, 2024:

[https://www.mihomeless.org/2024/01/25/member-spotlight-safe-just-michigan/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.mihomeless.org/2024/01/25/member-spotlight-safe-just-michigan/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)