



## **FRRC Leader Sheena Meade Named National Managing Director of ‘Clean Slate’ Initiative**

**Orlando, FL (May 19, 2020)** - The Clean Slate Initiative (CSI) announced the hiring of former [Florida Rights Restoration Coalition](#) (FRRC) Director of Programs/Organizing Sheena Meade as its new National Managing Director. CSI is a bipartisan national movement to automate the clearing of criminal records that block second chances for tens of millions of Americans.

A longtime leader of FRRC and Floridians for a Fair Democracy, Sheena Meade played an integral role in the success of the Amendment 4 campaign, which restored the right to vote for 1.4 million returning citizens, and was an invaluable asset in the growth and emergence of FRRC being a powerful voice of returning citizens and families impacted by the criminal justice system.

Sheena is a tenacious leader and skilled organizer with 20 years of experience. She has mentored numerous young women who have followed in her footsteps to effect transformative change in their communities.

“Sheena Meade is a powerful and passionate leader who is going to take her wisdom, experience and organizational skills to help people with past convictions all across the country,” said Neil Volz, FRRC’s Deputy Director. “The Clean Slate Initiative’s mission lines up with Sheena’s values and belief in the power of forgiveness, redemption and restoration. It is a great initiative that just got better.”

Following decades of overcriminalization, between 70 million and 100 million Americans have some type of criminal record—nearly half of children in America have a parent with a record. In the digital era, with nearly 9 in 10 employers now using criminal background checks, any criminal record—no matter how old or minor—can be a life sentence to poverty. Tens of millions of these people are eligible to have their records expunged or sealed in court. But the complex process for filing a record-clearing petition—not to mention the exorbitant legal costs—means the vast majority never get the relief they need.

“I know from experience how painful it can be to live with a criminal record. Watching my loved ones being held back because of old criminal records inspired me to find my purpose and passion: dismantling barriers for impacted people and their families,” said Sheena Meade, the Initiative’s new Managing Director. “In joining the Clean Slate Initiative, I am taking that pain and

turning it into power. I'm honored to join this initiative with a mission that is more important than ever. Together, we'll continue building a movement to translate millions of those same pain points to create policies that will give millions of people a smoother path to find their own purposes and lead happier, healthier and fuller lives."

No one is more excited for Sheena than her husband, FRRC Executive Director Desmond Meade. The term "power couple" is an understatement when it comes to the amazing things this duo has accomplished together.

"No one knows more than me the immense capability of Sheena and the cornucopia of experience, ingenuity, and commitment that she brings to her work," Desmond Meade said. "In her new capacity, I am confident that CSI will be more impactful in its effort to transform countless lives and communities."

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FRRC is a grassroots, membership organization run by Returning Citizens (Formerly Convicted Persons) who are dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions and creating a more comprehensive and humane reentry system that will enhance successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety.