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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Criminal record clearing clinic set for Jan. 15 in
2 Brattleboro

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 Attorney General Charity Clark will host a free criminal
6 record clearing clinic on Thursday, Jan. 15, with appointments
7 available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

8 Attorneys from the Attorney General's Office will offer
9 free assistance with petitions for Vermont-specific "qualifying"
10 criminal convictions and dismissed charges. Vermonters must
11 schedule appointments in advance by calling the Attorney

12 General's Office at 802-828-3171 or emailing

13 AGO.Info@vermont.gov by Tuesday, Jan. 6.

14 Eligible participants will be given an in-person
15 appointment at the Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro on the
16 day of the clinic.

17 Sealing a record allows an individual to wipe from their
18 criminal record specific convictions and dismissed charges after a
19 certain period of time has passed, including records relating to
20 contact with the criminal justice system, like arrest or citation,
21 arraignment, plea or conviction, and sentencing.

22 Under Vermont's updated law, most misdemeanors,
23 various nonviolent felony offenses, and all dismissed charges can
24 be sealed. The free clinic will focus on sealing criminal charges
25 and convictions from Windham County, and will be open to the
26 public by appointment only.

27 "For many years, my office has assisted Vermonters with
28 clearing old criminal records that are holding them back from
29 securing stable housing, getting better jobs, and participating
30 fully in their communities," Clark said in a news release. "These
31 clinics are a way for us to help Vermonters who have paid their
32 debt to society and stayed out of trouble get a fresh start and
33 strengthen the community as a whole. I want to thank Windham
34 County State's Attorney Steve Brown, Interaction (formerly Youth
35 Services), and the Brooks Memorial Library for their assistance in
36 hosting this clinic."

37 More information on sealing and expungements is
38 available at Vermont Legal Aid's website at
39 vtlawhelp.org/expungement.

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42

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43

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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