Advocating for Clients Across the Gender Spectrum:

Challenges with Name and Gender Marker Changes, Credit Reports, and Other Legal Issues

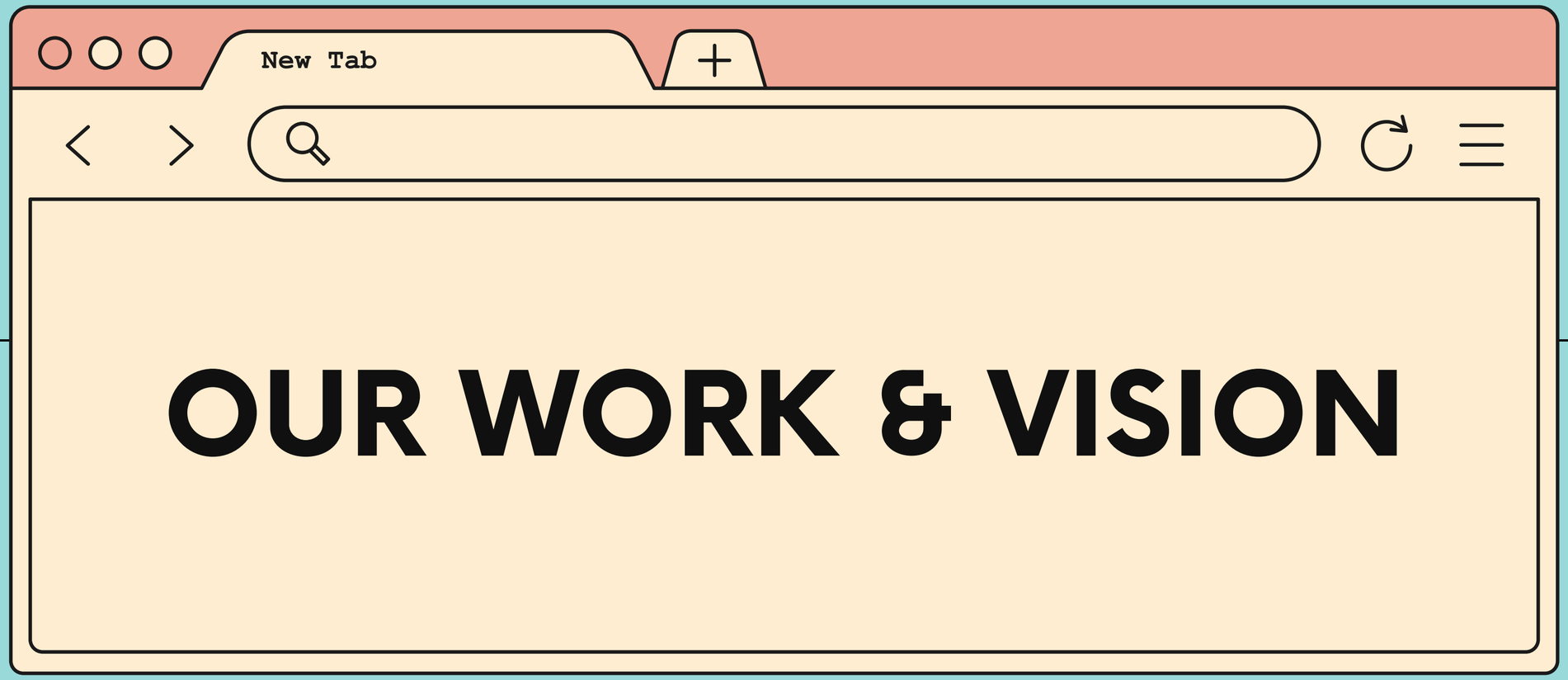
Special Guest Presenters:

Lee Blinder
Trans Maryland

Phillip Westry
FreeState Justice

Hosted By the Human Trafficking Prevention Project

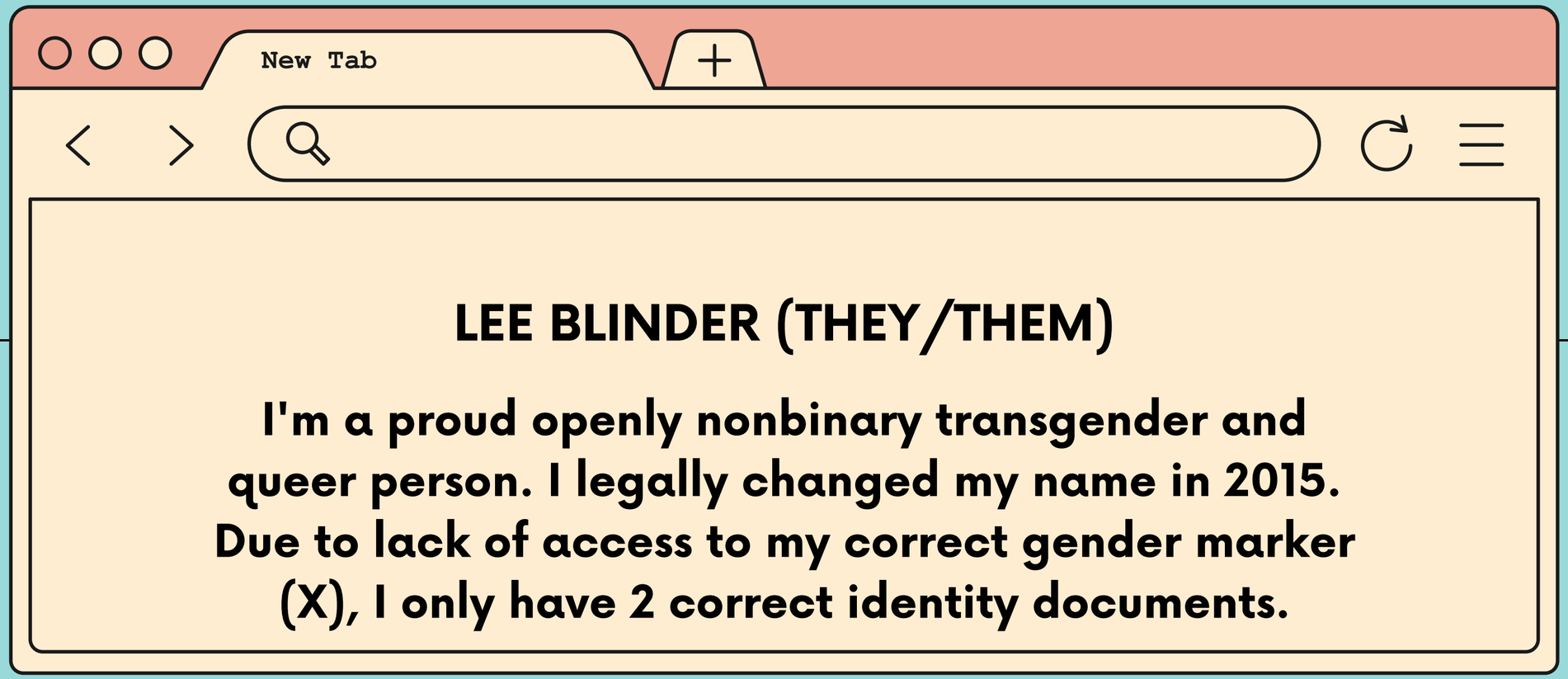
Human Trafficking Prevention Project



OUR WORK & VISION

TRANS MARYLAND

Lee Blinder (they/them)
Executive Director
Trans Maryland


New Tab
LEE BLINDER (THEY/THEM)
I'm a proud openly nonbinary transgender and queer person. I legally changed my name in 2015. Due to lack of access to my correct gender marker (X), I only have 2 correct identity documents.

Trans Maryland's Impact

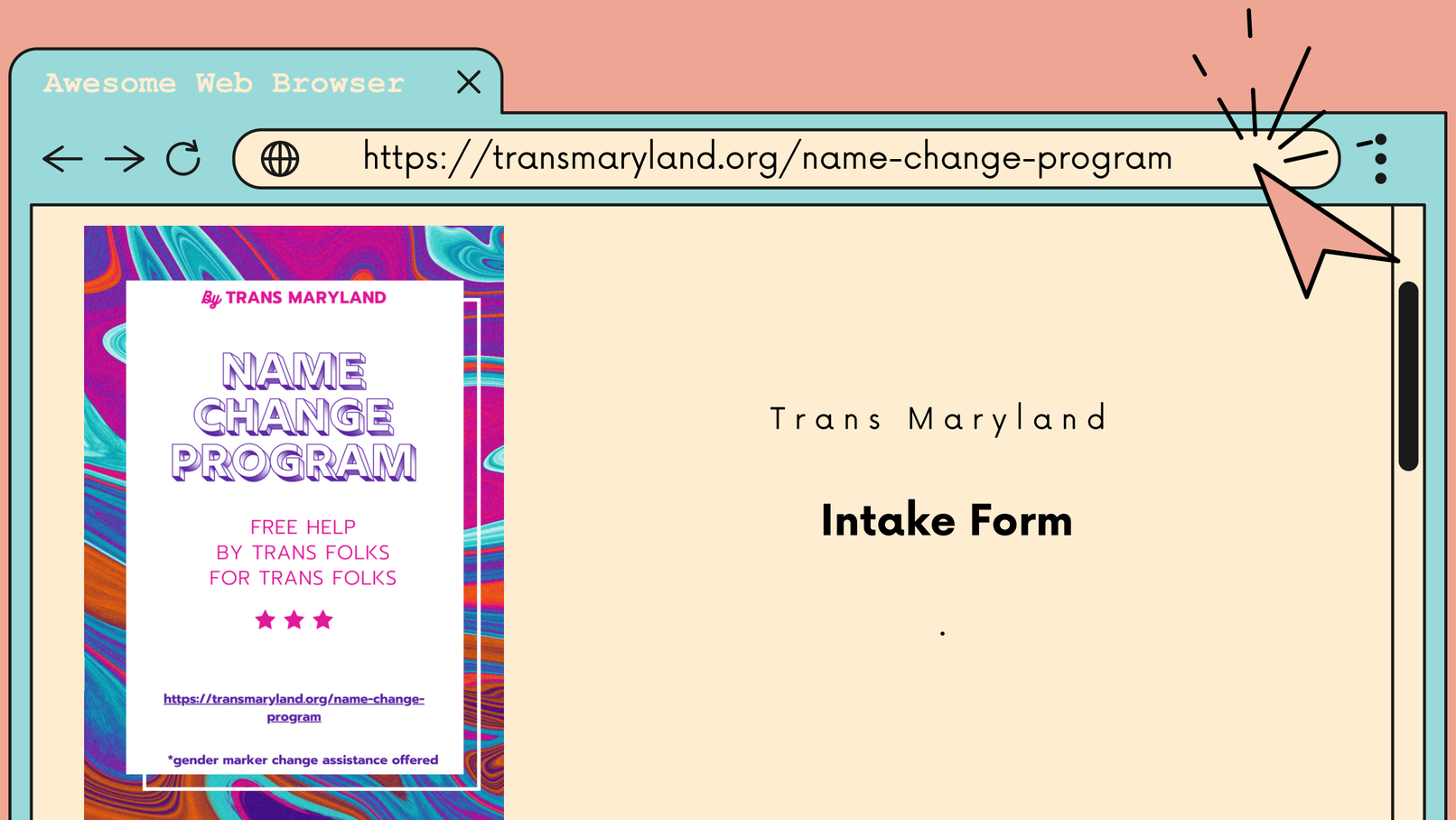
1. We have sent name change forms to 700+ trans people who've completed our intake since 2020

2. 426 Court Orders secured for trans Marylanders since 2020

3. 197+ people have updated with SSA (we are the only program based in Maryland that assists folks with SSA)

TMD INTAKE

Trans Maryland's Name and Gender Marker Change Program

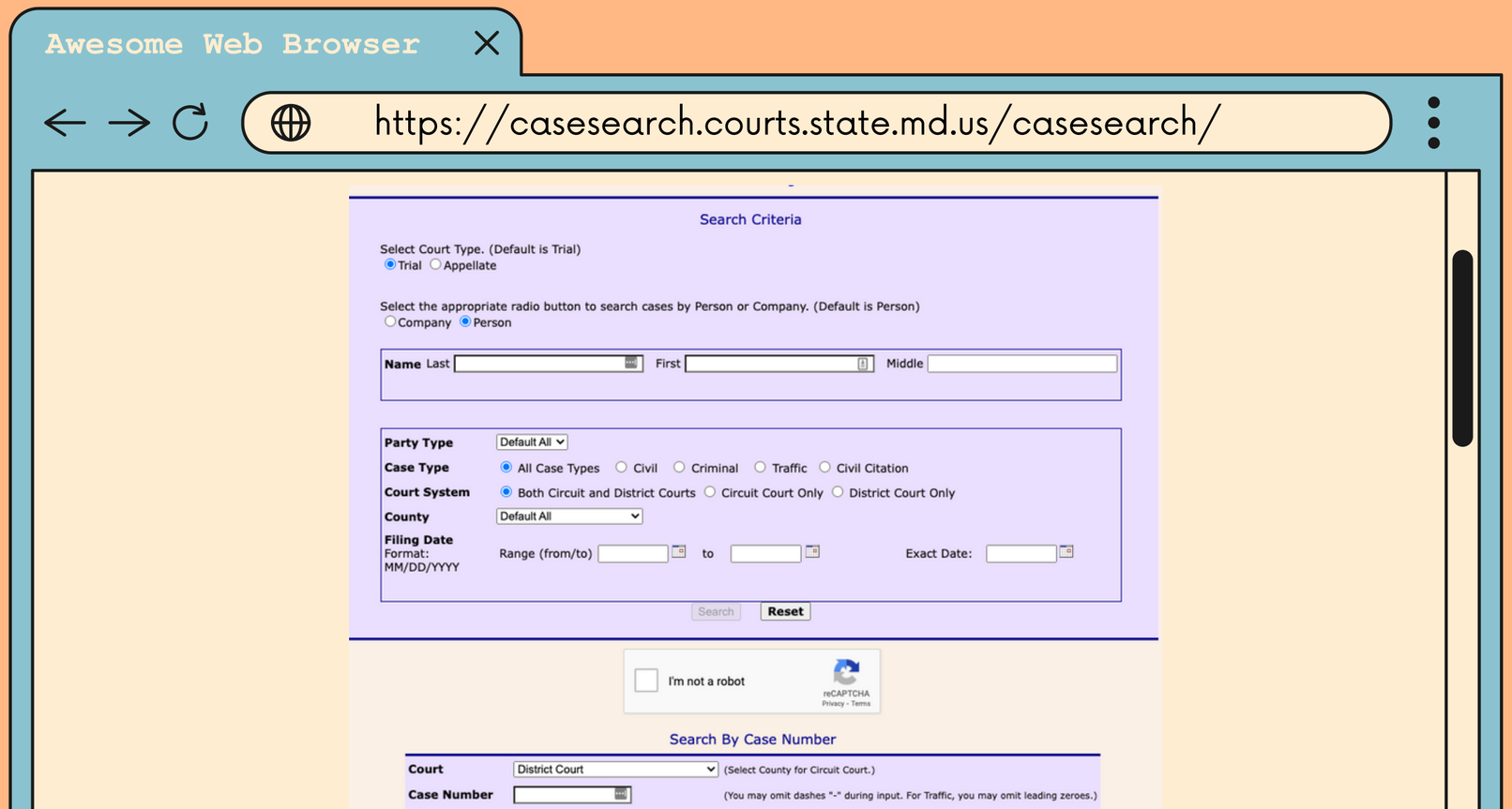


PUBLICATION

Name Change Publication is a 100 year old law. We passed a law that went into effect 10/1/21 that requires the court to waive publication when requested.

CASE SEARCH

Allows pro se petitioners to follow along with their case online using case #



UPDATES

After updating the MVA ID, an individual can update their name in financial & insurance systems

Examples:

Bank
Payroll/School
Insurance
Credit Bureaus
Etc..

Credit Reporting Issues Identified

1. Complete name changes
2. Credit history disappearing/inaccurate
3. No formal process identified

CREDIT REPORTING AGENCEIES

Process developed in collaboration with the CDIA Consumer Data Industry Association

1	Equifax https://www.equifax.com/personal/education/credit/report/change-update-name-credit-report/
2	Experian https://www.experian.com/blogs/news/2022/01/31/experian-supports-transgender-and-non-binary-consumers/
3	TransUnion - mail in only https://www.transunion.com/blog/credit-advice/transgender-name-change-credit-report

PROGRAMMING

T4T Peer Support Group

•	Trans people need peer support, regardless of our income level
•	Connection around identity

THE MARYLAND TRANS RESILIENCE CONFERENCE

trans-led & trans-run

- June 22nd & 23rd at the Silver Spring Civic Center
- Sessions about trans life & lived experiences
- A place for connection and community power building

POLICY ADVOCACY

nothing about us without us is for us

●	Trans Maryland led the coalition to add a 3rd gender marker to state IDs and licenses (codified into law 2019 "Just Check the Box")
●	Trans Health Equity Act of 2022 - removing categorical exemptions to modernize Maryland Medicaid coverage for trans people
●	Birth Certificate - gender self-attestation, X markers, and name change for trans parents on their child's birth certificates

Just Check The Box

	DOCUMENT UNIFORMITY	

Many people will have document mismatch temporarily or permanently due to gaps in justice for trans people

Documents:

- SSA card
- ID/license
- Birth certificate
- Passport

BIRTH CERTS

Optional to Change This. Some Folks Don't Have Access so Get a Passport Instead

https://transequality.org/documents

PASSPORTS

Just Announced by The White House on TDoV 2022!

Q & A

Time for Your Questions Here

Please Complete the Intake for Customized Advice

Name & Gender Marker Change is Just One Way Some Trans Folks Affirm Our Identities. Not Every Trans Person Changes Our Names

THANK YOU!

Cupcake says "Trans Rights"

Lee@TransMaryland.org

transmaryland.org

TRANS MARYLAND

Legal Services Outreach Presentation

Our Mission & Vision

Vision: We envision a Maryland where people across the spectrum of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer identities are free to **live authentically, with safety and dignity, in all communities across the state**.

Mission: FreeState Justice is a legal advocacy organization that seeks to **improve the lives of low-income lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer ("LGBTQ") Marylanders**.

FreeState JUSTICE

About FreeState Justice

Advocacy & Outreach

- Police reform work
- Advocate for systemic policy and law changes
- Partner with other LGBTQ-focused organizations in outreach efforts

Education & Training

- Legal rights of LGBTQ Marylanders
- Best practices when engaging with members of the LGBTQ community
- Cultural readiness

Direct Legal Services

Our Work

Justice!
Leadership Development & Capacity Building
Outreach, Training, & Education
Legislative, Policy Advocacy, & Community Organizing
Impact Litigation
Direct Legal Services

Our Pro Bono Panel

Direct Legal Services Provided to Eligible Clients

Level of Service:

- Brief Advice
- Counseling
- Document Preparation
- Negotiation
- Full Representation

Case Types:

- Discrimination Cases- Enforcement of existing non-discrimination laws in public accommodations, employment, housing, and criminal justice
- Health insurance discrimination- Issues as they apply to LGBTQ people and their families;
- LGBTQ family law matters- child custody, divorce, protective orders;
- Wills and Estate Planning
- Equal access to education for LGBTQ youth
- Assistance to LGBTQ victims of crime
- Legal Name and Gender Marker Change for transgender and non-binary individuals.

Client Eligibility

*Legal Defense Fund
*LGBTQ Victims of Crime

Also, grantees may adopt adjunct policies adjusting for such factors as fixed debts, medical expenses and other factors relevant to the client's ability to pay for legal services. *All adjunct policies must be submitted to MLSC for review prior to implementation.*

Family Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	$32,450	$2,704	$624
2	$42,434	$3,536	$816
3	$52,419	$4,368	$1,008
4	$62,404	$5,200	$1,200
5	$72,388	$6,032	$1,392
6	$82,373	$6,864	$1,584
7	$84,245	$7,020	$1,620
8	$86,117	$7,176	$1,656
9	$87,989	$7,332	$1,692
10	$89,861	$7,488	$1,728

INTAKE HOURS:

MONDAY-THURSDAY

9 AM – 12 PM

QUESTIONS