



September 2014

CASE PROGRESS

Barton McNeil (Bloomington) evidence approved for DNA testing

Since our last Bulletin, IIP's recently-litigated Motion for DNA testing in this case has been ALLOWED on 8 of the 10 requested items of evidence. The court emphasized that DNA testing on the eight items could yield "materially relevant" evidence toward McNeil's claim of actual innocence. We expect the items of evidence will be shipped to the appropriate forensic laboratory in the coming weeks.

RECEIPT OF NEW GRANT

U.S. Department of Justice awards grant for non-DNA cases

We are pleased to announce that the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) has awarded the Illinois Innocence Project a \$249,499 grant to fund the continuation of work on NON-DNA cases over the next two years. The DOJ awards these grants to organizations that can demonstrate the ability to move toward "sustainability." Your financial contributions to and steadfast support of our work enabled us to convey to the DOJ our community's tremendous commitment to the Project.

In case you missed it, please view WICS-TV 20's story on the grant: Illinois Innocence Project Receives Quarter-Million Dollar Grant http://www.wics.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid_19114.shtml

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS – STUDENT RECOGNITION

This fall the Project has 13 students and volunteers working in our office. Here we recognize our four new students:

Emilee Bramstedt

Emilee is a senior from Alhambra, Ill., majoring in legal studies with a minor in sociology. She learned about the Illinois Innocence Project while taking the UIS class "Conviction of the Innocent" with IIP Executive Director and Legal Director John Hanlon. Through her internship with IIP, she hopes to make a difference in the lives of wrongfully convicted men and women. Emilee plans to attend law school after receiving her bachelor's degree.

Hannah Bulmer

Hannah is an exchange student from Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where she is in her final year of law school. Hannah became interested in the Illinois Innocence Project after researching "Conviction of the Innocent," a UIS class she is now taking, taught by Founding Director Larry Golden. While interning with IIP this fall, she hopes to gain valuable experience handling cases and improving her

analytical skills. Hannah is particularly interested in human rights and hopes either to practice human rights law or become a legal correspondent and seek to reveal US and UK legal systems injustices.

Cassidy Burkardt

Cassidy is a senior from Mendota, Ill., earning a legal studies and political science double major with a focus on legal research. Professors and fellow students in the Legal Studies Department recommended her to complete her Applied Study Term at the Illinois Innocence Project, where she is providing research support on case evaluations. Cassidy is a Middle Attorney with the UIS Mock Trial Team, which provides students opportunities to hone valuable skills, including critical thinking, active listening, public speaking and teamwork. She plans to work as a paralegal after graduation or possibly pursue a graduate degree in legal studies

Mac Leverenz

Mac is a sophomore from Danville, Ill. He is majoring in Business Administration and a member of the UIS Capital Scholars Honors Program, which is open to students who have demonstrated high academic achievement and a potential for creativity and leadership. Mac heard about the Illinois Innocence Project from his English professor, Ms. Spies, who highly recommended his participation. In addition to volunteering with IIP, Mac is a midfielder for the UIS Prairie Stars men's soccer team and works part time for UIS' Brookens Library. He hopes to attend law school after receiving his bachelor's degree.