



June 2017

IIP CLIENT BILL AMOR WALKS FREE AFTER 22 YEARS!

On Tuesday, our client, Bill Amor, walked out of the DuPage County Jail after spending 22 years in prison as an innocent man.

A DuPage County judge had recently vacated Bill's 1997 arson murder conviction based on advances in fire science that now show it would be scientifically impossible for a fire to start the way Bill described it in his confession. Still, the state of Illinois plans to retry him and a September trial date has been set.

"Bill's team of attorneys and students, along with some prominent arson experts, have seen the truth of this case for a long time – a tragic, accidental fire that was *not* arson," said Lauren Kaeseberg, legal director of IIP's Chicago Office. "Bill is ready to move on with his life and hopefully soon he can close this chapter of injustice."

Bill's case is believed to be the first of its kind in Illinois in which a court has found that advancements in fire science constitute newly discovered evidence of actual innocence.

We recognize the incredible work of Bill's legal team that, in addition to IIP's **Lauren Kaeseberg**, includes former IIP staff attorney **Erica Nichols Cook**, now pro bono counsel for Amor and currently Director of the Wrongful Conviction Division for the Iowa State Public Defender, who began work on Bill's case five years ago; **Tara Thompson**, staff attorney, the Exoneration Project; and **Kevin Caraher**, of the law firm Cozen O'Connor and pro bono attorney for Amor.

For more ...

Chicago Tribune ... Man accused of Naperville murder leaves jail for first time since 1995

ABC News ... DuPage Co. judge vacates man's arson murder conviction, orders new trial