



September 2017

Dear Supporters and Friends,

Our client Bill Amor remains in good spirits but the fight of his life is not yet over. While a DuPage County judge earlier this year overturned Bill's wrongful arson-murder conviction based on new scientific evidence of innocence, the DuPage County State's Attorney continues to move toward retrying him. Bill is out on bond so he is not behind bars while he awaits his retrial, but he lives every day with the pending trial hanging over his head.

We are often asked why our innocent clients end up with retrials instead of outright reversals of their convictions. In simplified terms, in Illinois, when evidence of innocence is presented to a judge, the available legal remedy is a new trial. When a judge grants a new trial, prosecutors then have a choice – they can dismiss all charges or they can proceed to a retrial. This is why Bill is facing retrial, *despite presentation to the court of overwhelming evidence of his actual innocence.*

An incredible legal team continues to represent Bill at his retrial along with Lauren Kaeseberg, IIP Chicago Legal Director. Tara Thompson of the Exoneration Project leads the trial team, which includes Kevin Caraher (recipient of our 2017 "Defender of the Innocent" award) from the law firm Cozen O'Connor and Erica Nichols Cook, former IIP staff attorney who first opened Bill's case at IIP.

University of Illinois Springfield students continue to assist on the case along with law students from the University of Illinois College of Law (part of the Project's partnership with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and the University of Chicago Law School (where the Exoneration Project is located).

A message to Puerto Rico from IIP and our Latino Innocence Initiative

We stand with Puerto Rico and we hope you will join us.

Our fellow Americans are in crisis. Puerto Rico is expected to be without electricity for 4-6 months, infrastructure is decimated and the island is running out of food and fresh water. Yet, as one media outlet reported, this past weekend, "the five major Sunday political talk shows dedicated less than one minute in total to covering the growing humanitarian emergency."

Puerto Ricans – our fellow American citizens – deserve the full attention and protection of our government. We call on our elected officials nationwide to prioritize the crisis in Puerto Rico and to provide much-needed aid and support. We encourage all of you, our supporters, to demand that your elected officials stand up for Puerto Rico.

We must also remember the often-overlooked prisoners and the wrongly convicted in Puerto Rico, as well as the staff of the Puerto Rico Innocence Project. We can only imagine what our colleagues there are experiencing – on top of their own and their families' needs, their clients likely are fighting for their lives.

Please stay in touch with us on [Facebook](#). We hope to provide ways you may help support the Puerto Rico Innocence Project. At a time when it seems like there is a new crisis each week, we must not become complacent and we must all do our part to help.