



June 2017

## Released But Not Free

Our client Bill Amor lost 22 years of his life after he was convicted of an arson murder he did not commit. In May, Bill walked out of prison after a DuPage County judge overturned his conviction based on modern fire science that called into question the original finding of arson.

But Bill is still not free.

The state intends to retry him and a trial date has been set for September. IIP Chicago Legal Director Lauren Kaeseberg continues to represent Bill, with the support of the Exoneration Project in Chicago, the Chicago law firm of Cozen O'Connor and Erica Nichols Cook, former IIP staff attorney.

**Your support sets people free. Please help us continue fighting for the  
wrongly convicted in Illinois.**

## Congratulations IIP 2017 Graduates

Congratulations to the next generation of justice advocates – our nine UIS IIP students who graduated in May: Sean Blackwell, Chrissy Ferree, Kaity Murphy, Ivette Ortiz, Gaby Ortiz-Placencia, Bree Shinall, Jackie Studstill, Bob Surlina and Alex Zon.

IIP graduates build on their innocence work experience in all kinds of ways. This fall, **Sean Blackwell** will pursue a master's of social work at the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration; **Kaity Murphy** will attend Valparaiso University School of Law; **Bob Surlina** will intern with the Illinois Legislative Staff Internship Program while pursuing a master's in political science at UIS; and **Alex Zon** will attend law school in San Francisco. **Chrissy Ferree** and **Gaby Ortiz-Placencia** will continue working part time for the Project, conducting case evaluations and research, and providing general office help.