



August 2019

Case Update – Two Clemency Petitions Will Be Heard

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board has scheduled public hearings for executive clemency petitions recently submitted on behalf of our clients Marilyn Mulero and Norman Probst.

Marilyn Mulero

IIP, in partnership with the California Innocence Project and Exoneration Project, has requested a full pardon for Marilyn Mulero based on her innocence.

Marilyn, as mentioned in the movie “Brian Banks,” was wrongfully convicted of a 1992 double murder in Chicago. Her attorney, who had never handled a murder case, conducted no investigation and spent very little time with Marilyn, convinced her to take an “open plea” – which required her to admit guilt without a sentencing offer on the table. This plea trusts that the defendant’s attorney has established a strong case for, and the system will deliver, a sentence less than the maximum. However, the judge took the extremely rare step of sentencing Marilyn to death. [Read more ...](#)

Norman Probst

Norman Probst’s is the rare clemency petition we take on because it’s the right thing to do *and* we have volunteer resources to shepherd the petition while our staff attorneys focus on current cases.

St. Louis University School of Law student Kaylan Schardan, featured in our [June Bulletin](#), volunteered for IIP this summer. Under the direction of IIP attorneys, she researched and wrote Norman’s petition requesting a gubernatorial pardon where there is strong evidence of innocence. Norman was convicted of a 1990 robbery based on notoriously unreliable circumstances, including a “show-up” lineup. He was also convicted of a workplace theft in 1997 even though his managers insisted that no crime had occurred. One of those managers then resigned her position in support of Norman. [Read more ...](#)

Police Cadets Participate in "Wrongful Conviction Avoidance" Training

Nearly 500 police cadets representing 107 police departments across Illinois have taken IIP’s “Wrongful Conviction Avoidance” training class, first introduced in partnership with the Police Training Institute (PTI) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2016.

PTI is one of seven police training academies in Illinois and has served as the testing ground for this training. Though optional, an average of 75-80% of each cadet class enroll, proving interest among our future officers, investigators, chiefs and sheriffs in issue of wrongful conviction and what law enforcement can do to help prevent these miscarriages of justice. Cadets consistently say hearing from and interacting with the exoneree presenter is the most meaningful part of the training.

We are now preparing, in partnership with PTI, to expand the class to other police training academies.

Mark Your Calendar

13th Annual Defenders of the Innocent Event - Saturday, May 2, 2020