



December 2019

Dear Friends,

If all we did was bring innocent people home, we hope that would be enough for you to continue supporting us. **But with your help, we do so much more.**

This year, IIP:

- **Celebrated the exoneration of Grover Thompson**, finally (23 years after his death) achieving justice for this innocent man and his family.
- **Trained over 100 police recruits from across the state** about how wrongful convictions happen and what they can do to help prevent them.
- **Received favorable DNA results in the cases of three clients**, supporting their claims of innocence.
- **Successfully opposed three legislative bills that could have harmed the prevention of wrongful convictions** (related to eyewitness identification practices, access to crime-related information through the Freedom of Information Act and DNA testing of evidence).
- **Filed and argued to the Prisoner Review Board executive clemency petitions** for our clients Marilyn Mulero and Norman Probst.
- **Opened and responded to 277 applications** for assistance.
- **Continued to represent over 40 innocent clients** convicted of crimes they did not commit.
- **Secured Chicago-area office space** for our Northern Illinois attorneys.
- **Hired two new staff attorneys** – Maria de Arteaga (Chicago) and Stephanie Kamel (Springfield). Last month, **Maria**, a former staff attorney with the Wisconsin Innocence Project, won the freedom and exoneration of her client, LaShone Jackson, who served over 25 years for a murder he did not commit. Prior to joining IIP, **Stephanie** worked on cases involving crimes against humanity and human trafficking at the Center for International Human Rights at the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.
- **Spread awareness of wrongful conviction** through attorney seminars, law clinics, undergraduate classes and community speaking engagements.
- **Were honored to have our work recognized** by grants from the state of Illinois and U.S. Department of Justice, furthering our quest to secure the long-term financial health of the Project.
- **Benefited from** the passion and commitment of over 20 UIS students who volunteered and interned with us.
- **Saw five of our students graduate from UIS** and begin their journeys to law school.

It took the steadfast dedication and efforts of countless people behind the scenes – including you – to make these successes possible.

Thank you for believing in us and supporting our mission. We look forward to a great 2020, with you at our side.

Wishing you peace and joy this holiday season,

IIP Students, Exonerees, Clients, Volunteers and Staff