



December 2020

Our work for justice continues stronger than ever despite the difficulties of the pandemic. With your support this year, the Illinois Innocence Project:

- **Brought home FIVE innocent clients** who collectively were wrongfully imprisoned 131 years.
- **Filed 27 requests regarding COVID concerns or for compassionate release** on behalf of clients particularly vulnerable to severe illness or death as the coronavirus swept through IDOC facilities.
- **Received agreement** from the court and/or state's attorneys to **DNA test evidence in six cases.**
- Opened and responded to **265 applications** for assistance.
- Sent **CARES Act (federal stimulus) application** information, including guidance on how to fill out the forms, to **43 clients.**
- Hired a **part-time attorney to lead our Latino Innocence Initiative.**
- Worked with **10 forensic experts, three other innocence organizations** as co-counsel and **three law firms** as partners on our cases.
- **Started an externship program** with John Marshall Law School at the University of Illinois Chicago.
- Spread awareness of wrongful conviction through **15 presentations** to audiences such as law students, medical students, undergraduate classes and the community.
- Began **collaborating with the UIS Department of Social Work** to serve the needs of our freed clients.
- Benefited from the work of **31 students from undergraduate and law schools across the country,** including: UIS; the universities of Emory, Illinois State, Indiana State and Yeshiva; UIC John Marshall; and law schools at Boston University, St. Louis University, University of Illinois and University of Iowa.
- **Educated 77 students (including 21 law students)** about wrongful conviction of the innocent and postconviction legal work.
- Held **virtual educational forums for IIP students and staff,** with guests that included U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, civil rights attorney Sam Adam Jr. and UIS Professor Vince Flammini.
- Saw **seven of our students graduate from UIS,** with four beginning their journeys to law school.

It took unwavering dedication in the midst of a global pandemic and the efforts of countless people – including you, our friends and supporters – to make these successes possible.

Thank you for standing with us no matter what.

Learn more about supporting this critical work at [Illinois Innocence Project](#).