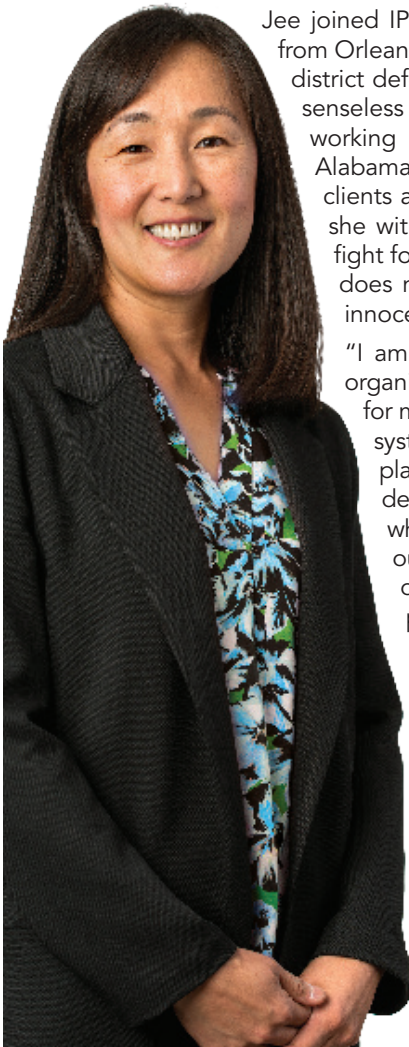


IPNO Welcomes New Executive Director

Jee Park became IPNO's new executive director on June 2, 2018.



Jee joined IPNO in January 2017 as senior attorney for policy from Orleans Public Defenders (OPD) where she was its deputy district defender. In 1998, Jee became exposed to the many senseless cruelties and injustices of the criminal justice system working for Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama. The lessons she learned from her death row clients and their cases, and the compassion and strengths she witnessed in her clients have long motivated Jee to fight for a justice system worthy of its name, a system that does not repeatedly and consistently fail to protect the innocent but poor.

"I am humbled by this opportunity to lead IPNO. The organization continues to free the innocent and advocate for meaningful and lasting change in the criminal justice system and we have proven ourselves to be a major player in criminal justice reform. Our cases clearly demonstrate how wrongful convictions happen and what we must do to prevent them," said Park. "All of our clients are victims of a combination of inadequate defense resources, racial discrimination, poor policing practices, misconduct by prosecution or defense, inaccurate and unreliable forensic evidence, and a cursory process driven by an overburdened system. I am honored to be working alongside of IPNO's smart, hard-charging, dedicated staff to continue fighting these challenges."

- continued on page 12

Malcolm Alexander,
Bobbie Jean Johnson and
Gerald Manning FREE!

Read more inside.

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Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent,
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New Orleans, Louisiana

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Donald Wayne Washington

Partner
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Carrere & Denegre, LLP
Lafayette, Louisiana

Jason R. Williams

Councilmember-At-Large
New Orleans City Council
New Orleans, Louisiana

This newsletter reports on IPNO's activities in and out of court so that our supporters and members of the public may understand what we do. Any information about an open case that is contained in this newsletter is also contained in the public court record of the case.



Mission:

Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO) frees innocent, life-sentenced prisoners. We support our clients living well and fully in the world after their release. We advocate for sensible criminal justice policies that reduce wrongful convictions.

As of May 2018, IPNO has freed or exonerated 32 innocent clients.

IP-Notes



After 12 years at IPNO, staff attorney Kristin Wenstrom joined the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR) as senior staff attorney for their Campaign to End Extreme Sentencing for Youth. We are grateful for Kristin's unwavering dedication to our clients and for her years of hard work to free so many of our clients like Jerome Morgan. We are proud of her and know she will continue to bring light into dark places.

IPNO welcomed two new staff members this year: Devon Geyelin joined as an investigator fellow in February and Kiah Howard joined as a senior investigator in May. They both come with years of demonstrated commitment of working for poor, condemned prisoners and for racial justice.

A warm welcome to our Summer 2018 Interns: Benjamin Boggs (Case Western Reserve University School of Law), Emily Cannon (Louisiana State University), Haley Johnson (Howard University School of Law), Tevin Lashley (Jesuit High School of New Orleans), Thuy Le (Tulane University Law School), Kennadi Robinson (New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School), Laurel Sheridan (Tulane University Law School), Kelli Slater (Tulane University Law School) and Zack Struver (Columbia Law School).

Thank you to two volunteers who have made things happen since January: Katie Knafler, who has been conducting legal research, and Missy Kroninger, who assisted with the gala, silent auction and more.



Client Greg Bright with Jazz Fest tickets

A huge thanks to Lyft, the ride-sharing company, for donating ride credits to IPNO which has helped our investigators pick up documents and get our car-less clients to important appointments.

New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival donated tickets to IPNO clients this year, some of whom have never attended. Thank you New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation for continuing to support IPNO and provide some fun for our clients!

Bernard Noble, who was originally sentenced to 13 years for two joints of marijuana was released on parole in April. Mr. Noble's case demonstrates the stark racial disparity of drug sentencing laws as applied to white and black people and how different states treat marijuana usage. While some states are legalizing and profiting from marijuana sales and use, Louisiana stripped Mr. Noble of his dignity and liberty. Mr. Noble had been a long-time client of Jee Park from Orleans Public Defenders and she continued to represent him until his release.

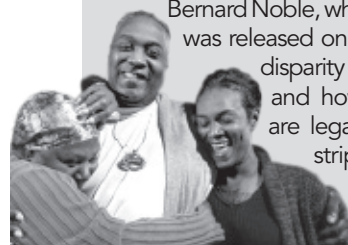


Photo Courtesy of Mollie Walton Corbett



With New Law, Louisiana Ushers in Eyewitness Identification Reform

As exonerees Jerome Morgan, Robert Jones, Kia Stewart, Malcolm Alexander, Reginald Adams and Henry James looked on, Gov. John Bel Edwards on May 23rd signed into law a bill aimed at preventing wrongful convictions caused by eyewitness mistakes. The legislation, Act 466, will give Louisiana one of the country's most progressive laws on eyewitness identifications.

Sponsored by Sen. Wesley Bishop, D-New Orleans, Act 466 mandates police officers conducting eyewitness identifications to use procedures which have been shown to reduce misidentifications, including ensuring that the administrator conducting the procedure does not know the identity of the suspect in the lineup

and instructing the eyewitness that the perpetrator may or may not be in the lineup. Mr. Alexander, who was wrongly convicted of rape and served nearly 38 years in prison before he was exonerated this January, hopes Act 466 will prevent others from experiencing what he painfully endured. "My line-up was unfair. I was the only one shown to the witness twice. Each time she picked me, she said she was unsure. If police had to follow this law back then, I might not have been wrongly convicted," he said.

Act 466's journey to becoming law began last fall, when IPNO staff and an advocate from the Innocence Project met with legislators and leaders of the law enforcement community to educate them about the far too prevalent nexus between eyewitness

mistakes and wrongful convictions to secure their support. In Louisiana, 14 out of 15 DNA exonerations involved mistaken identifications. Two of the men exonerated were sentenced to death. Early on, many legislators offered slim odds for passing an identification law in one year saying "the politics were not in our favor." Regardless, IPNO persisted, reaching out to both progressive and conservative decision makers about why this bill was necessary and timely, holding over 30 meetings with legislators, giving four community presentations from New Orleans to Shreveport, speaking to the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and even addressing the Louisiana District Attorneys Association (LDAA). After meeting with IPNO, the Louisiana Sheriff's Association (LSA) voted in March to adopt a model policy

incorporating many of the procedures advocated by IPNO in the legislation. Soon after, IPNO and Sen. Bishop sat down with LDAA Director Pete Adams, LSA Director Michael Ranatza and representatives from the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police and the Louisiana State Police to collaboratively draft the bill's language. When the bill received 45 green cards in support from distinguished and concerned community members when it was presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee C, its passage was secured.

Louisiana now joins 19 other states that have passed laws aimed at reducing the likelihood of eyewitness misidentification. Act 466 went into effect on May 23rd, and law enforcement agencies must have new policies in place by January 30, 2019.

IPNO Holds Groundbreaking NOPD Training Symposium

Nearly 50 New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) commanders and supervisors, as well as supervisors from police departments around the country, attended a groundbreaking two-day symposium hosted by IPNO and the NOPD in March.

The event, which emerged from a partnership with the NOPD and New Orleans City Council President and IPNO board member Jason Williams and organized by IPNO Senior Counsel and former Director Emily Maw and Staff Attorney Kia Hall Hayes with support from Paralegal Kara Kurland, included presentations from nationally-recognized experts on police best practices. The event was made possible with financial support from the City of New Orleans and Entergy, Inc. and is believed to be the first such event of its kind in the nation.

After opening remarks from Councilman Williams, Superintendent Michael Harrison and Mayor Latoya Cantrell, the event began with powerful testimony from Ronald Cotton, who was wrongly convicted of rape, and Jennifer Thompson, the survivor who mistakenly identified him. Chief Michael Gauldin, the former detective who investigated the crime, then spoke to detectives about mistakes he made which resulted in Mr. Cotton being mistakenly identified. Other presentations from Norwood, Massachusetts Police Chief

Bill Brooks, psychologist Nancy Steblay, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Major Mike Smathers, veteran District of Columbia detective Jim Trainum, and police investigations expert Kim Rossmo, focused on the science of eyewitness identifications, police best practices in investigations, common investigative pitfalls which often lead to wrongful arrests, implementing police reforms, and solving cold cases.

The symposium evolved out of an existing partnership between IPNO and the NOPD that began in 2016 to train detectives to achieve accurate convictions and reduce the risk of wrongful convictions and has trained nearly 300 detectives.

The symposium was well received by both attendees and presenters, and the NOPD has expressed interest in building on the symposium to further position the department as a national leader in innovative and creative ways to tackle law enforcement challenges. We commend the NOPD for partnering with us in hosting this event and hope the event will inspire other departments across the country.



IPNO Seeks Accountability

Last year Robert Jones was exonerated after a 25-year ordeal in which prosecutors committed misconduct from the moment they indicted Mr. Jones all the way through to their unsuccessful 2015 effort to have the Louisiana Supreme Court reinstate his conviction. Based on the misconduct uncovered during its representation of Mr. Jones, IPNO attorneys have requested that the Office of Disciplinary Counsel investigate three of the prosecutors who appear most responsible. While IPNO hopes these efforts will bring

The difficulties of holding prosecutors accountable are illustrated by a recent decision of the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board resulting from a complaint filed by a former IPNO attorney based on misconduct he learned of while securing Michael Williams' exoneration. Despite clear evidence of the prosecutor withholding evidence from the defense and presenting

Robert Jones
Photo courtesy of Olivia Grey Pritchard

Only one attorney has ever been disciplined for prosecutorial misconduct in Louisiana and he only received a suspended sentence despite the gravity of his misconduct.

accountability in this case, typically, prosecutors in Louisiana are not held accountable for their misconduct. Only one attorney has ever been disciplined for prosecutorial misconduct in Louisiana and he only received a suspended sentence despite the gravity of his misconduct. While not every unconstitutional conviction involves prosecutorial misconduct, in Orleans Parish alone there have been at least 45 cases in which prosecutors have unconstitutionally failed to disclose evidence to the defense. It is hard to believe that only one of these cases involved personal misconduct by the prosecutor.

false evidence and arguments, the board found no misconduct occurred. The board stated it was being asked to judge "the conduct of a young prosecutor that occurred 20 years ago." It made no mention of the fact that the reason the issue arose now was because the prosecutor's misconduct remained hidden for decades while Mr. Williams was wrongfully in prison. In the face of the prosecutor having presented evidence that was disproven by the evidence he was hiding, the board blindly accepted the prosecutor's assurance that, regardless of what he had said falsely, he had not intended to present false evidence. This case is in the process of being appealed.

archives of injustice

In summer 1979, a group of attorneys and law student interns from Team Defense worked to defend Larry Ruffin from being sentenced to death for a crime he had been coerced into confessing to. Their efforts to ensure a fair process so aggravated the presiding judge that he made the following threat:

I'm going to request you as head of Team Defense at the conclusion of this hearing to give me the names of those law students who are working with you in order that I might, if I deem it essential, to be able to correspond with those law schools concerning some observations and some opinions I might have concerning professional and ethical conduct.

Despite such hostility, Team Defense's efforts helped spare Mr. Ruffin the death penalty. Tragically, it was not until after Mr. Ruffin died that the DNA evidence that proved his innocence came to light.

John Floyd wins in the Court of Appeals, but the Case Continues

John Floyd was freed on June 22, 2017, when Judge Sarah Vance of the U.S. Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana ordered that he be released from Angola. However, the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office (OPDA) has continued to fight to re-impose a life sentence upon him.



On April 6, 2018, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed the district court's decision to grant John Floyd a Writ of Habeas Corpus. The three judge panel unanimously agreed that Mr. Floyd had suffered a miscarriage of justice. A majority also found that the police had unconstitutionally hidden evidence from Mr. Floyd at trial and that no reasonable judge could decide otherwise. In its ruling, the court observed that the OPDA does not object to Mr. Floyd "being permanently released from custody" and "challenges the actual-innocence ruling only because of the precedent it sets." Nevertheless, even after the April 6th ruling, OPDA did not abandon its efforts to send Mr. Floyd back to prison for the rest of his life. To further its efforts, it has assigned yet another prosecutor to the case, the 10th since IPNO began litigating on Mr. Floyd's behalf.

OPDA has stated there is "no new information presented that wasn't already in possession of defense counsel during the trial." This ignores the fingerprint comparison results that were hidden in police files at the time of trial, the witness who was living in Germany and never spoke to defense counsel and the results of DNA and psychological tests that used techniques that did not even exist at the time of Mr. Floyd's trial. OPDA moved the Court of Appeals to take the unusual step of

having the entire court rehear the case, but the Court rejected this request. At the time of writing, OPDA's public position is that it is still deciding whether to try to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

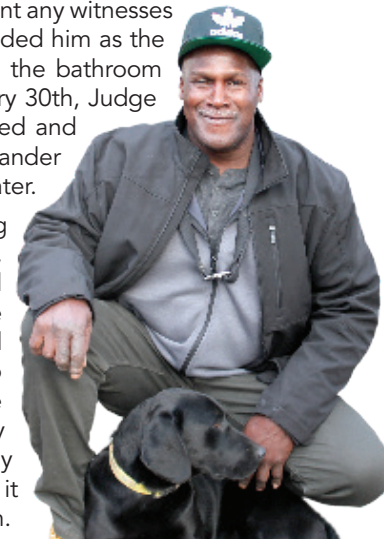
Meanwhile, Mr. Floyd continues to move on with his life. When his case was argued in the Court of Appeals in December, he was able to attend a hearing in his case for the first time as a free man. He dressed in a smart suit for the occasion and was excited to have a courtroom full of people there to support him. Back on the farm where he lives, Mr. Floyd has begun raising chickens, many of which are named after IPNO staff members. He also raised two ducklings until they were big enough to be released onto a local lake. For the first time in decades, he was able to spend Christmas and Easter with his family this year. As he goes about his life, Mr. Floyd continues to wait for his case to be over.

Malcolm Alexander Exonerated

IPNO was privileged to have represented—along with our friends at Innocence Project—Malcolm Alexander, who was exonerated and freed on January 30th of this year after almost 38 years of wrongful imprisonment. IPNO Attorney and former Director Emily Maw was his local counsel, along with Vanessa Potkin and Barry Scheck of Innocence Project.

Mr. Alexander was arrested in 1980 for a 1979 rape. The only evidence against him was the eyewitness identification of the victim, who was attacked from behind and whose identification four months after the crime the police twice labeled as "tentative." The jury never heard that she was tentative and Mr. Alexander's trial lawyer didn't bother to give an opening statement, closing argument or present any witnesses in his defense. Last year, results of DNA testing excluded him as the donor of the pubic hairs that the perpetrator left in the bathroom where the victim was attacked. As a result, on January 30th, Judge June Berry Darensburg ordered his conviction vacated and his immediate release from custody and Mr. Alexander walked into the arms of his waiting family two hours later.

Mr. Alexander's trial took less than a day from beginning to verdict. Decades after he was wrongly imprisoned, he learned about DNA testing and sought the physical evidence for testing. He was initially told the evidence had been accidentally destroyed but because he, and his attorneys from the Innocence Project, were so persistent in asking for further searching, the evidence custodians of Jefferson Parish notified him when they found some remaining hair evidence unexpectedly stored somewhere else years after they had believed it destroyed. It was that evidence which exonerated him.



There are many lessons to be learned from Mr. Alexander's case: how easily an eyewitness misidentification can cause an innocent person to be wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for life; how critical it is to have standards and adequate resources for defense lawyers; how cursory process is readily acceptable as justice for poor people and people of color in trials across the region; and how crucial it is to have evidence preservation requirements.

IPNO's advocacy efforts touch on all of these areas. We will continue to work with law enforcement and the legal community to implement the very best practices across the region. IPNO advocates for robust standards for defense lawyers and more and stable funding for public defense. and IPNO has pushed for many years for better evidence preservation laws across the state, while working with individual evidence custodians to improve their practices.

In the meantime, Mr. Alexander is now living with his new wife, Brenda (the mother of his adult son) and spending time with his family and dog, Inn (short for Innocent), who he adopted and raised from a puppy while in Angola.

We are delighted that Mr. Alexander is joining the ranks of the exonerated in Louisiana.

Gerald Manning—Free at Last After 41 Years in Prison for Crimes He Did Not Commit

Gerald Manning walked out of Angola with just a bag of his belongings into the arms of his long-time attorney Kristin Wenstrom, formerly of IPNO and now a senior staff attorney at Louisiana Center for Children’s Rights (LCCR), on June 19, 2018. Cat Forrester and Kara Kurland from IPNO were also present to welcome and embrace Mr. Manning into freedom after nearly 41 years of imprisonment. Mr. Manning entered prison as a teen and emerged as a 59-year-old man. Mr. Manning will be living in Monroe, Louisiana, with his mother and is eager to visit Seattle, where his cousin and brother live.

Mr. Manning’s case came to IPNO’s attention in 2009 when Ouachita District Attorney Jerry Jones asked IPNO to look into his case because he had concerns about his guilt. Mr. Manning had confessed to several crimes he could not have committed during an

interrogation that lasted a span of 33 hours, and was serving a life sentence for one of the crimes to which he confessed. There was no other evidence connecting Mr. Manning to that crime but for his confession. No physical evidence; no eyewitnesses; simply nothing else. When Mr. Manning confessed, he had just turned 18 years old, had not finished high school, and was diagnosed as intellectually impaired and highly suggestible. It is not surprising that the police were successful in extracting a false confession from Mr. Manning, using manipulative techniques that included showing him pictures of the crime scene and leading him to the “correct answers.” IPNO learned during the course of its investigation that the rape/murder victim’s family believed Mr. Manning to be innocent and the very community impacted by this horrific rape/murder in 1977 also believed that the state

arrested and convicted the wrong person. The victim’s family members have been fierce advocates for Mr. Manning’s release and exoneration. IPNO requested DNA testing on physical evidence recovered from the scene, and the results excluded Mr. Manning as a possible contributor to the DNA material recovered from the murder weapon and the victim’s clothing.

Despite victim and community support, and physical evidence supporting Mr. Manning’s innocence, it took a decade to finally secure his freedom. When Kristin left IPNO to join LCCR in March of this year, she continued her representation of Mr. Manning to maintain unbroken, consistent pressure on the district attorney to resolve the case. To shortcut further litigation and to regain immediate

freedom so that he may spend the last years of his mother’s life with her, Mr. Manning agreed to accept a plea offer to nonviolent charges.



Gerald Manning walking out

Photo by Kerry Myers

Please support
Bobbie Jean Johnson
and Gerald Manning
through their wish lists
and fundraisers at:
[www.ip-no.org/support/
help-our-clients/](http://www.ip-no.org/support/help-our-clients/)



Bobbie Jean Johnson Walks Free After 41 Years

In February, IPNO welcomed home Bobbie Jean Johnson after she spent almost 41 years wrongfully incarcerated.

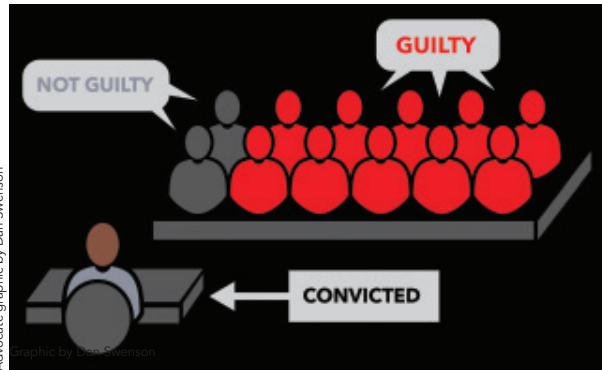
In 1977, Ms. Johnson was only a teenager when she was arrested and charged with first degree murder for the death of a New Orleans shopkeeper, Arthur Samson. After a trial that lasted only a few hours, Ms. Johnson was sentenced to life in prison, narrowly avoiding a death sentence. IPNO began investigating her case in 2015 and uncovered significant new evidence that pointed to her innocence. Ms. Johnson was represented in court by our colleagues at the Promise of Justice Initiative, Cecilia Kappel and Caroline Tillman.

On February 8, 2018, Ms. Johnson’s conviction and life sentence were vacated by Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge Robin Pittman and she was re-sentenced to be released immediately. Ms. Johnson has since settled with her sister Betty outside of Atlanta, Georgia. At the time of her release, Ms. Johnson was one of the longest serving female prisoners in the state of Louisiana.

Unanimous jury referendum on the ballot in November

Louisianans will get a historic opportunity November 6th to decide whether a split jury vote of 10-2 is enough to condemn a person to prison for the rest of their life. For 120 years, Louisiana has been the only state to allow its citizens to

verdict referendum to Louisiana voters on November 6th, and if successful, the Louisiana Constitution will be amended to require a unanimous jury verdict (12-0) to convict and sentence a person to life in prison.



In 56% of cases in Louisiana in which the defendant was later proven innocent after decades in prison were wrongful convictions based on non-unanimous jury verdicts.

be convicted and sentenced to life in prison after a jury trial in which jurors had serious doubts about the accused's guilt and disagreed with the majority verdict. A similar practice has been in place in Oregon for 80 years. State Senator JP Morrell carried and passed a bill this session that brings the unanimous jury

The genesis of Louisiana's non-unanimous jury verdict is directly tied to post-Reconstruction when white delegates to the 1898 Constitutional Convention gathered with a specific aim to "perpetuate the supremacy of the Anglo-Saxon race in Louisiana" by limiting the political power of blacks by

creating laws to disenfranchise their vote (poll taxes, literacy requirements, etc.) and to dilute their dissent on juries. Their openly racist intent and desire became the rule of law in Louisiana. What the white delegates did in 1898 continues to have far reaching, racially disparate impacts on communities of color.

Extensive research by The Advocate has shown that more black defendants are convicted by a non-unanimous jury than white defendants, and black jurors are twice more likely than white jurors to vote against the majority. Also, because non-unanimous juries tend to deliberate for a much shorter period of time, the quality of the juror discussion suffers and likely contributes to innocent people being wrongfully convicted. In 56% of cases in Louisiana in which the defendant was later proven innocent after decades in prison were wrongful convictions based on non-unanimous jury verdicts. In other words, there were jurors on these innocent men's

juries who did not agree with the guilty verdict, and yet the law permitted and implicitly encouraged their dissent to be disregarded and silenced.

Louisianans have a chance to take a firm stand against its racist history and demand that the prosecution proves each and every one of their cases beyond a reasonable doubt before depriving a person of their freedom and liberty.



Please spread the word, come out to vote on November 6th, and vote in favor of the unanimous jury verdict constitutional amendment.

To volunteer, please fill out a form at <https://tinyurl.com/juryvote>.

- continued from page 1

"IPNO searched to find a leader whose talent, motivation and skills would enable us to lead the organization into its next phase. We are thrilled that Jee is the new director of IPNO," said Michael Magner, chair of IPNO's board of directors.

The board and staff are excited to work with Jee to continue the core work of the organization—getting the wrongly convicted out of prison—while working with our allies around the region for smarter criminal justice policies to reduce wrongful convictions.



Many thanks to the American Bar Foundation for honoring IPNO and IPNO Board Member Judy Perry Martinez at the Louisiana Fellows Reception on May 29th.

INTERVIEW WITH MALCOLM ALEXANDER

Q: You were exonerated a little less than six months ago. What was it like on that day?

A: *Actually walking out that door, believe me, was like walking into another environment, like crossing over.*

Q: What kept you going the almost 38 years you were in prison?

A: *Knowing I was innocent, that somebody more than just me was going to also believe I was innocent. Finding people and organizations that believed in my innocence. I have to say, being actually innocent made a world of difference.*

Q: What have you been up to since then?

A: *I've been living one day at a time, trying to make a future as an old man. I've got one grandson, his name is Malcolm, and my son also is named Malcolm. and there is Brenda, my son's mother. When I was in prison, she never kept my son from me. They've always been with me, but when I was in the institution, I wanted to focus on my case, and I sort of let her go. I didn't want Brenda to be confined with me, in the same way I was. I chose to let her go and live her life and hoped that there would be an opportunity for us one day.*



Malcolm, Malcolm & Malcolm

Q: So has that opportunity come up?

A: *Oh yes, we got married on March 26th.*

Q: That's amazing!

A: *Oh yes, she was there the first day at the courthouse and she has been there ever since. We haven't been apart since that first day, except when I've traveled to speak to groups. I love her.*

Q: So what else do you do with your free time?

A: *Well, I've been working as a handyman, doing carpentry, painting and all that and then I like to go down to the lakefront, to the movies or to take my dog Inn for a walk in the park.*

Q: How is Inn? (Malcolm got his dog Inn, short for Innocent, as a puppy in prison.)

A: *She enjoys every moment of freedom like I do. She deserves it too. I told her when we were in the institution, "One day you'll be free right along with me." She made one year on April 22nd. They say that makes seven in dog years, but I'm not sure if I believe that.*

Q: Anything else you've got planned?

A: *We're gonna have a big party for my son's 49th birthday and for me and Brenda's marriage in a few months. Other than that, I would like to go to Biloxi to go to the beach. I like swimming.*

Q: Thanks for talking with us, Malcolm. Have a great summer!



Art by Darvin Mauricio Castro Santos

Hola todo el mundo de todas las naciones unidas.

Mi nombre es Darvin Mauricio Castro Santos y soy nacido y criado en el país de Honduras. Nací en Trujillo Colon. Vine a este país, EU, como emigrante a trabajar muy duro en hoteles, restaurantes, y en las construcciones para ayudar a mi familia y darles una vida mejor.

Pero, como muchos Latinos emigrantes en este país somos muy discriminados y en el 2009 fui arrestado con un otro muchacho, y me sentenciaron por ser latino, me sentenciaron a 50 años en prisión por un robo a mano armado, el cual no cometí, solo por ser latino y no hablar inglés, y no tener familia aquí en este país.

Ahora llevo casi nuevo años preso, pagando por este delito que no cometi. Gracias a Dios, que Él es justo y mira la injusticia que me hicieron en este estado de Louisiana, permitió que estas buenas personas de este proyecto de inocencia New Orleans tomaron mi caso y ellos estan ayudandome en todo. Ellos están probandolos a ellos que soy una persona inocente y con un buen corazón y honrado y muy trabajador.

Ha sido muy duro para mi solo y sin mis familiares, que están muy lejos de este país.

Esta es mi petición a todos los países que se unan todos y que no estén en guerra peleando unos con otros, que seamos todos una nación unida, como hijos de un solo creador. Y que apoyen a mi situación y ser justos conmigo para que se haga justicia en mi caso y en muchos más, y que apoyen a proyectos como este que hace justicia donde no hay justicia.

**Atentamente,
Darvin M. Castro Santos**

Hello everyone in all of the united nations.

My name is Darvin Mauricio Castro Santos. I was born and raised in the country of Honduras. I was born in Trujillo, Colon. I emigrated to the US to work hard in hotels, restaurants and construction in order to help my family and give them a better life.

However, many Latino emigrants in this country are discriminated against. In 2009, I was arrested with another young man, and they sentenced me for being Latino. They sentenced me to 50 years in prison for an armed robbery that I did not commit, just because I am Latino and do not speak English and do not have family in this country.

Now I have spent almost nine years in prison, paying for this crime that I did not commit. I give thanks to God, who is just and sees the injustice that they did to me in the state of Louisiana. God permitted the good people of Innocence Project New Orleans to take my case. They are helping me with everything. They are proving that I am an innocent person, a person of good heart who is honorable and very hardworking.

It has been very hard for me, alone and without my family, who are very far from this country.

This is my petition to all of the countries: they unite and do not make war against one another; that we all be one united nation, as children of one single creator. That they help my situation and are just with me so that justice is done in my case, and in many others, and support projects like this one, which brings justice where there is no justice.

**Cordially,
Darvin M. Castro Santos**

IPNO THANKS ITS RECENT DONORS, ESPECIALLY OUR SUSTAINING DONORS & THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN \$250+. TO BECOME A SUSTAINING DONOR, VISIT WWW.IP-NO.ORG/DONATE.

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 Catina Boggs
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 The Marcus Fund
 The Margaret & Daniel
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 The Pintelope
 Foundation
 Urban League of Greater
 New Orleans
 VMWare Foundation
 WDSU-TV
 Wes Kroninger
 Photography
 Whitney Plantation
 Museum

Events

Fresh Johnson, a member of our Young Professionals Committee, organized The Wish List Holiday Soiree in December. It was a fabulous party where each guest brought an ornament to hang on the tree, and for each ornament, Royal Engineering donated \$10 to be used to purchase items from IPNO's Amazon wish lists for our clients. Thanks for supporting our clients! You can find these wish lists at ip-no.org/support/help-our-clients/.



Jerome Morgan at the Wish List Holiday Soiree

IPNO was invited to a screening of the film *13th* at the Whitney Plantation, and client Robert Jones and special investigator Bill Aquino participated in a panel reflecting on the film, slavery and mass incarceration.

In February, IPNO was invited to Café Istanbul twice for special events: first, a book signing of *Vengeance* by Zachary Lazar where The Graduates, a formerly incarcerated women's performance group, also appeared and performed; then again for an open mic benefiting IPNO organized by People Building Communities.

IPNO staff and clients attended the Innocence Network Conference in March in Memphis, Tennessee. Conference attendees participated in a march from the conference location to the Civil Rights Museum to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination on the eve of an organized labor strike on behalf of black sanitation workers. The theme of this year's conference was Race and Wrongful Convictions, and more exonerees than ever before attended with their families.



IN Conf: Kendra Anderson, Bobbie Jean Johnson, Robert Jones

On April 21st, two local businesses recognized IPNO with their generosity, raising thousands of dollars for us. We were the beneficiary of shirt sales from Record Day at Euclid Records, and received a portion of sale proceeds from John Fluevog Shoes. In May, the Royal Emporium Market at Oleander on Royal Street donated a portion of its sale proceeds to IPNO.



YPC member Marie Kerrin tables at John Fluevog Shoes



IPNO friends and supporters again reached unprecedented new heights during GiveNOLA Day in May by giving generously to IPNO. We not only made our goal but smashed it. Thanks to the Greater New Orleans Foundation for this annual fundraising event that brings the nonprofit community and their supporters together. We could not do this work without our generous and consistent supporters.

IPNO attended and hosted an informational table at the wonderful Wednesdays in the Square event at Lafayette Square in May, and talked to dozens of people about our work.

IPNO AROUND THE WORLD

We are based in New Orleans, but IPNO has been all over the world this year. From client and board member Robert Jones accepting a medal from the Paris Bar Association in Paris, France, to client Malcolm Alexander speaking to students in Lafayette, Louisiana, we are taking the message of IPNO everywhere. Email catf@ip-no.org if you'd like to have IPNO come your way.



Robert Jones in Paris



In June, IPNO unveiled our new web site and online store thanks to [Sideways Designs](#). The site provides visitors with in-depth information on what we do, who we are, how we take cases and how to support IPNO and our clients. Have a look around at www.ip-no.org.



Special thanks to all of our friends who have photographed our clients over the years including John Crawford, Robert Warren, Karlas Powell, Olivia Grey Pritchard and Jenny Bagert.

SUPPORT IPNO AS A BENEFICIARY IN YOUR WILL, TRUST, OR INSURANCE POLICY

Your future gift will support our efforts to free innocent, life-sentenced prisoners, support their living well and fully in the world and advocate for sensible criminal justice policies that reduce wrongful convictions. No immediate donation is necessary. You can make your gift anonymous or, with your permission, we can publicly acknowledge your commitment. Here is information you will need to provide to your attorney to name the Innocence Project New Orleans as a beneficiary.

Name: Innocence Project New Orleans
Address: 4051 Ulloa Street, New Orleans, LA 70119
EIN/Tax ID: 72-1501261

Sample Bequest Language:

"I hereby give, devise and bequeath to Innocence Project New Orleans, located at 4051 Ulloa Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (\$_____ specific dollar amount or _____ percent of my residuary estate), to further the mission of Innocence Project New Orleans."

Once you have completed arrangements with your lawyer or financial planner, please send a copy of the section of your will or trust that details your charitable plan. This will enable us to express our thanks and acknowledge you for your generosity and commitment to our work. Of course, we understand your circumstances may change and you can change your planned gift at any time.

For more information please contact:
 Jené O'Keefe Trigg
 504-943-1902 or Jeneot@ip-no.org



Please consider supporting IPNO and our clients when you shop—

Amazon.com enables our supporters to help IPNO and our clients simply by shopping—and you have already raised thousands of dollars for our work and provided thousands of dollars' worth of necessities to our freed clients.



When you shop with Amazon Smile, 0.5% of your purchase is donated back to IPNO. Simply go to smile.amazon.com, choose "Innocence Project New Orleans" and every time you shop on the site IPNO will receive 0.5% of your purchase.



IPNO has set up wish lists for our freed clients and for our office.

Please consider purchasing much needed items by visiting:
www.ip-no.org/support/help-our-clients/

BE SURE TO SIGN UP: www.ip-no.org

IPNO is on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! Follow us!   