

ABOUT CIP

What is the California Innocence Project?



CALIFORNIA INNOCENCE PROJECT

CALIFORNIA WESTERN
SCHOOL OF LAW | San Diego

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What is the California Innocence Project?

What is the California Innocence Project?

- O The California Innocence Project is a law school clinic at California Western School of Law dedicated to three missions:**



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Mission 1:

- Seek the release of wrongfully convicted prisoners.



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Mission 2:

- 0 Provide an excellent educational experience to the students enrolled in the clinic.



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Mission 3:

- Seek legal reforms to better the criminal justice system and reduce the number of innocent people sent to prison.



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What is the California Innocence Project?

**There are more than 60
innocence organizations in
the United States.**



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What is the California Innocence Project?

There are projects around the world including: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Holland, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Puerto Rico, and The United Kingdom.

innocencenetwork.org



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What is the California Innocence Project?

These organizations have freed hundreds of innocent people since the 1990s.



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What is the California Innocence Project?

The California Innocence Project

Receives more than 1,500 requests for help every year.



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What is the California Innocence Project?

Case Investigation

- 0 Under the supervision of California Innocence Project staff attorneys, law students in the clinic investigate each case looking for evidence of innocence.



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What is the California Innocence Project?

Case Investigation

Students speak with the original trial and appellate lawyers.



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Case Investigation

Students read briefs and transcripts from the trials and appeals.

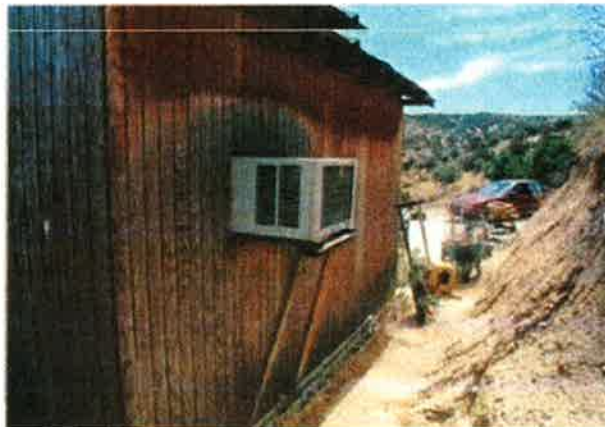


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Case Investigation

Students go to the crime scenes.



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What is the California Innocence Project?

Case Investigation

Students interview witnesses.



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What is the California Innocence Project?

Case Investigation

Students visit the clients in prison.



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What is the California Innocence Project?

Case Investigation

Students track down any existing physical evidence.



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Litigation

If strong evidence of innocence exists, we ask the court to reopen the case through an evidentiary hearing.



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Exoneration!

If we can provide enough evidence of innocence to the court, the client is exonerated.



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What is the California Innocence Project?

The Need for Innocence Organizations

There are almost 2,000 documented cases of wrongful convictions in the United States.



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The Need for Innocence Organizations

- o The leading causes of wrongful convictions are: bad identifications, false confessions, false informant testimony, official misconduct, and ineffective assistance of counsel.

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Causes of Wrongful Conviction

- 0 Bad identifications occur due to memory problems and poor police ID procedures.



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Causes of Wrongful Convictions

- False confessions often happen after long interrogations.



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Causes of Wrongful Convictions

- 0 Informants often falsely testify to get a benefit in their own case.



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What is the California Innocence Project?

Causes of Wrongful Convictions

- 0 Official misconduct and mistakes by police officers, prosecutors, and judges often lead to wrongful convictions.



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Causes of Wrongful Convictions Counsel

- 0 ...as does poor investigations and bad trial work by defense attorneys.



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What is the California Innocence Project?

**New scientific developments
are also teaching us about
problems with old forensic
techniques that have lead to
wrongful convictions.**

