



THE INNOCENCE ALERT

VOLUME 10 ■ DECEMBER 2011



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Thomas Haynesworth celebrates his release with the media, his sister Sandra Haynesworth, left, and MAIP Executive Director Shawn Armbrust.

HAYNESWORTH FINALLY RELEASED AND EXONERATED

If you'd told Thomas Haynesworth last holiday season that by next Christmas, he'd be the second Virginia exoneree to win a Writ of Actual Innocence Based on Non-Biological Evidence and a seasoned employee at the Virginia Attorney General's Office, he would have thought you were crazy. After all, last Christmas, Thomas Haynesworth spent his 27th consecutive holiday season in prison for a series of crimes he did not commit. However, on December 6, 2011, justice was finally served. In a 6-4 decision by the Virginia Court of Appeals, Haynesworth was fully exonerated of his remaining convictions, clearing his name and allowing him to rebuild his life as a free man.

The road to justice, however, has been far from simple. Only one year ago, just off the heels of proving his innocence by DNA testing in two crimes and passing polygraph tests in two others, the truth of his wrongful conviction for a string of sexual assaults in 1984 was becoming increasingly clear to the Virginia

authorities. Yet, given the absence of DNA in two of his convictions and the difficulty of proving innocence in the Virginia courts, obtaining his freedom still was a pipe dream.

Thanks to the support of Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney Mike Herring, Henrico Commonwealth's Attorney Wade Kizer, and Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, Haynesworth's legal team was able to use that evidence—along with other compelling evidence that the crimes for which Haynesworth was convicted were committed by another man—to file a Petition for Writ of Actual Innocence with the Commonwealth's full support. Despite that support, however, Haynesworth remained incarcerated for a series of crimes that everyone agreed he did not commit, at least for the time being. Unique quirks of Virginia law meant that there was no way to get Haynesworth released while the Virginia Court of Appeals considered his petition.

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Our mission is to seek the exoneration and release of persons who have been convicted of crimes they did not commit in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT BARRY J. POLLACK



2011 has been quite a year for MAIP. While most of our year has been full of incredible success both in our cases and as an organization, it

also has reminded us of how difficult this work can be. Even for those of us who have worked on many wrongful conviction cases, Thomas Haynesworth's case has been a sobering reminder of just how tough these injustices are to fix. Success in these cases—even under the most favorable circumstances—is never guaranteed.

As many of you know, Thomas Haynesworth spent 27 years wrongfully incarcerated for a string of rapes and sexual assaults he did not commit before being paroled and released from prison this past March. This bittersweet result occurred in large part because we had the support of the Virginia Attorney General and the Commonwealth's Attorneys from the two jurisdictions that prosecuted Haynesworth, all of whom believe in his innocence. Despite that support, parole—a welcome relief for Haynesworth, but something generally reserved for guilty prisoners who have reformed themselves in prison—was the best we could do after a two-year joint investigation to lead off an additional nine-month wait for a 6-4 decision by the Virginia Court of Appeals, the closest result possible while still ensuring victory. Thus, while we are celebrating the recent news of Haynesworth's exoneration on December 6, 2011, we are still bewildered by the longevity of his battle, and the circumstances which forced him to live as a sex offender from his March release until this winter, despite nearly universal agreement that Haynesworth is innocent.

His case, however, one that subsequently should have been simple, has been full of

procedural and legal hurdles. After filing a Petition for Writ of Actual Innocence, it took nine months and multiple trips to the Virginia Court of Appeals for the court to officially clear Haynesworth's name, even though the parties have agreed from the start that he is innocent and should prevail. After filing the petition, backed strongly by the same public officials who helped

“If overturning these wrongful convictions in Haynesworth's case was so difficult, it is hard to put into words how difficult it is to overturn those convictions in the vast majority of our cases that do not involve the support of law enforcement.”

secure his release, the Virginia Court of Appeals heard an unusual oral argument, one in which both sides agreed. Then, a few months later, the Court decided to hear the case en banc (before the full Court of Appeals). Shawn Armbrust argued on Haynesworth's behalf, and again the Attorney General, on behalf of the Commonwealth, also argued that Haynesworth should be granted a Writ of Actual Innocence. And yet, it wasn't until this December that Haynesworth was finally granted the justice he has long deserved.

Therefore, if overturning these wrongful convictions in Haynesworth's case was so difficult, it is hard to put into words how difficult it is to overturn those convictions in the vast majority of our cases that do not involve the support of law enforcement. I know firsthand how difficult that can be, having spent 13 years working with a team of pro bono attorneys (including MAIP Board Members Stephen Braga and Jennifer O'Connor) in an ultimately successful effort to clear Marty Tankleff of two New York murders for which he

had been wrongfully convicted. Similar challenges are being faced right now by MAIP clients Michael Hash, who was convicted of a Culpeper murder based on the false confession of a co-defendant and on the testimony of an informant who had provided information about 25 other people; Nathaniel Dennis, who was convicted of a crime committed by another man who has repeatedly confessed to others that he is the real perpetrator; and Christopher Turner, who—along with seven co-defendants—was convicted of a grisly murder based on inconsistent and incredible testimony of coerced witnesses, after the government withheld information about two other individuals who might have actually committed the crime in question.

Each of these cases is likely to be even more difficult and require even more resources and staff time than Haynesworth's case, because each of these cases lacks the support of the government or, in some, the government is fighting tooth and nail against our client. Luckily, we have been given increased tools to fight for these clients, with the addition of three new staff members over the past year. That will give us the ability to fight for the exoneration of both our current clients and the most promising new cases that come to us every day.

Of course, despite the hurdles we faced in Haynesworth's case, the success we ultimately achieved there still serves as a motivator in all of those other cases. That success has allowed us to watch an innocent man hug his mother for the first time in 27 years, meet his nieces and nephews for the first time, learn to send us text messages, and start rebuilding his life, remarkably, as an employee of the Virginia Attorney General's office. As we work to achieve similar success in our other cases, those images will serve as a reminder of how important and how compelling this work can be.

EXPANDING OUR FAMILY

Just miles from the Baltimore streets on which *The Wire*'s Jimmy McNulty and Kima Greggs first stole our hearts, the show's creator and producer, David Simon, joined MAIP and its Baltimore supporters for cocktails and conversation in May. Thanks to a warm welcome by the Baltimore community, the evening was highlighted not only by the vision of Simon and the eloquence of Maryland exoneree Tyrone Jones, but by a welcoming and supportive crowd. Grateful for a successful first run, MAIP looks forward to hosting more events outside DC, including this spring in Richmond.

In our home city of DC, MAIP teamed up in September with The Constitution Project and Georgetown University Law Center to sponsor the annual celebration of Constitution Day. Jim and Nancy Petro, authors of *False Justice: Eight Myths that Convict the Innocent*,

and Brandon Garrett, author of *Convicting the Innocent: Where Criminal Prosecutions Go Wrong*, engaged in a compelling on-stage discussion led by Jeffrey Rosen in front of a packed audience of lawyers, professors, and students from around the city. Additionally, MAIP formally introduced Thomas Haynesworth to our Honorary Board during an informal October lunch at Williams & Connolly LLP, graciously hosted by Honorary Board Member Brendan Sullivan.

As we ring in the New Year, MAIP's Young Professionals Committee—led by Mia Haessly of Miller & Chevalier—looks forward to hosting its first event this winter in DC. But whether you're in Maryland, Virginia, or right down the street, we look forward in the coming year to introducing you to our inspiring clients and adding your voices to our ever-growing cause.

REACHING UNLIKELY ALLIES

Despite ideologies and roles in the legal system, politics and career progressions, MAIP proved in 2011 that our cause is something everyone can support. In the wake of our joint efforts in Virginia to save Thomas Haynesworth, MAIP is joining forces with defense attorneys and prosecutors alike throughout the rest of the Mid-Atlantic region to prevent and correct the conviction of innocent people.

In the District of Columbia, MAIP's Executive Director, Shawn Armbrust, is currently working with an Ad Hoc Committee established by the Chief Judge of DC Superior Court to evaluate the need for an Innocence Commission in DC. The Committee, which consists of defense attorneys, prosecutors, and sitting judges, is taking a serious look at eyewitness reform. Additionally, MAIP is working with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia to review DC cases featuring work by FBI analysts who were discredited in a 2002

Office of the Inspector General report.

MAIP also has been fortunate to have the opportunity to educate the law enforcement community this year. In August, Armbrust—accompanied by eyewitness reform advocate Jennifer Thompson—was invited by Henrico Police Captain Jan Stem to a conference of the FBI National Academy Associates of Virginia. Stem, who is currently the President of the Association's Virginia chapter, worked with MAIP on two wrongful conviction cases and noticed in talking to his peers and co-workers that few people in upper management had even heard of the Innocence Project. Therefore, Stem's reasons for inviting MAIP to the conference were clear: "If [my peers] get a call, like we did," he said, "they know it's for a good cause." The group of nearly 100 alumni of the FBI National Academy warmly welcomed Armbrust and Thompson. "In fact," Stem said, "It was probably one of the highlights of the conference."

CATALOGUE FOR PHILANTHROPY

After a rigorous review process, MAIP is thrilled to announce that the Catalogue for Philanthropy has selected us to join its network, which brings together donors, volunteers, employers, and worthy local nonprofits to strengthen our communities.

Since its inaugural edition nine years ago, the Catalogue has raised more than \$15 million from caring individuals for featured nonprofits with annual budgets of \$3 million or less. MAIP is one of 70 nonprofits making an appearance in this year's Catalogue.

"At the Catalogue, we like to say that each nonprofit we include is one of the best, and that applies to MAIP. We make this statement based on a rigorous financial evaluation for effectiveness and transparency, at least one site visit, and input from more than 100 independent community reviewers. Donors know they can trust the Catalogue to help them make smart decisions about local non-profits where their contributions can really make a difference," said Barbara Harman, CFP president and editor.

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On a Monday morning in March, however, the unthinkable happened. The unprecedented support of so many law enforcement officials prompted the Virginia Parole Board to reconsider an earlier parole denial and grant him parole. Thus, on March 21, 2011, Haynesworth's 46th birthday, he was paroled and released after 27 years behind bars. "When you think about prosecutors, their job is to bring the victim and their family closure. So when a prosecutor takes an interest in your case, it takes you by surprise, but at the same time, you're grateful they're taking the time and that they see something," Haynesworth said. "I was appreciative that an outsider, someone from that side of the fence, was coming to our side."

Since Haynesworth's release, this unique alliance has continued to grow. Within a few weeks of his release, Haynesworth was summoned to the Virginia Attorney General's Office for, of all things, an interview for a job in the mail room. That interview became his first day of work. "I was kind of surprised," Haynesworth said, "But I'm happy because someone gave me the opportunity to help give me my life back." Thanks to this job, Haynesworth has health insurance, the opportunity for a pension, and the stable employment that most individuals in Haynesworth's situation can only dream of.

All the while, Haynesworth's legal team—MAIP Executive Director Shawn Armbrust; Olga Akselrod and Peter Neufeld of the Innocence Project; and Ellen Kennedy, Tom Widor, and Aaron George of Hogan Lovells US LLP—prepared to argue for Haynesworth's exoneration before the Virginia Court of Appeals. After an argument before an appeals court panel in April, the panel requested a hearing before the full Court of Appeals. Armbrust and Cuccinelli argued before the full appeals court in September, and finally, on December 6, 2011, the Virginia Court of Appeals rendered their decision to exonerate Haynesworth and clear him of his remaining wrongful convictions. "Although Haynesworth's full exoneration is a huge victory, it's a testament to the difficulty of this work that—even when all sides agree on someone's innocence—overturning his convictions was such an uphill battle," Armbrust said.

In the nine months between his release on parole and his exoneration, Haynesworth has worked diligently to rebuild his life. Still, though, his exoneration marks a turning point in his story. It marks the last time he'll have to report to his parole officer or follow the degrading conditions imposed on him as a registered sex offender. It marks the very end of a nearly three-decade fight to prove his innocence. But perhaps most of all, it marks the first time since he was 18-years-old that Haynesworth can finally say he is truly a free man.

AWARDS LUNCHEON RECAP

On July 20, 2011, MAIP paid tribute to the unique joint investigation in Thomas Haynesworth's case by honoring Haynesworth and the public officials who helped him gain his freedom. After a welcome from Marvin Anderson, both a Virginia exoneree and close friend of Haynesworth's during his incarceration, Haynesworth invited to the stage Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney Mike Herring, Henrico Commonwealth's Attorney Wade Kizer, Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, and Virginia Assistant Attorney General Alice Armstrong to accept

their awards. Both Herring and Cuccinelli made remarks, letting the audience know what the experience had meant to them and why they'd joined forces with MAIP in such an unprecedented fashion.

To Herring, the case was both a personal learning experience and a teaching moment as a parent of young children. In fact, he attributes his trust in Haynesworth's lawyers at MAIP and the Innocence Project as fitting the "Chicken Little" standard; "if they called me and they said, 'The sky is falling, the sky is falling', I would cover my head. Their word is that strong, and because of the good work that they did, it was easy for me to do the right thing in this case," he said. For Cuccinelli,

the experience has represented not only the realization that some cases can't be kept at arm's distance, but also the toughness of the legal standard required to obtain exoneration in Virginia. "Finality is appreciated nowhere more than in Virginia. ... It is a vigorous, vigorous thing to overcome," Cuccinelli explained. Yet, it seems that the difficulty it took to gain Haynesworth's exoneration was surprising even



MAIP clients Marvin Anderson, Thomas Haynesworth and Chris Turner share a moment together.

to him. "We have a unified legal effort," Cuccinelli said. "I have never tried so hard to lose a case in my life."

But while our annual luncheon typically means a great deal to MAIP's honorees, staff, board, and steadfast supporters, this year's luncheon struck a chord in Haynesworth, as well. For a man who'd spent nearly his entire adult life waiting for someone to listen, the support of more than 300 people at the event was overwhelming. "It gave me an upbeat attitude," Haynesworth said. "People do listen and people do care; they showed their appreciation for what happened and it made me feel good."

MAIP CASE BRIEFS

CALVIN CUNNINGHAM: On April 12, 2011, the Virginia Supreme Court granted Calvin Cunningham's Petition for Writ of Actual Innocence, almost a year after it was filed by MAIP Staff Attorney John Hardenbergh, co-counsel Zachary Beasley and Andrew Dulberg of WilmerHale. This decision fully exonerated Cunningham of his convictions for rape and burglary with intent to commit rape, and formally expunged the convictions. Furthermore, due to his exoneration, he was removed from Virginia's Sex Offender Registry, is no longer subject to the legal restrictions placed on sex offenders, and is now eligible to apply to have his right to vote reestablished.

GARY GATHERS AND KEITH MITCHELL: Co-defendants Gary Gathers and Keith Mitchell were convicted of first degree murder in the DC in 1994 on the strength of motive evidence and the testimony of one eyewitness, and sentenced to 35 years to life in prison. Represented today by MAIP Board Members Seth Rosenthal and Amit Mehta, Gathers and Mitchell are challenging their convictions under DC's Innocence Protection Act, which led to a several-day hearing in April. The hearing included the recantation of the sole eyewitness, corroborative documents and testimony, and the introduction of evidence that two other individuals had a motive to commit the crime and admitted doing so.

In addition to their IPA claim, Gathers and Mitchell are alleging that the government knowingly introduced and exploited false testimony at trial to support its motive theory and withheld important exculpatory evidence suggesting that the murder was committed by the two other individuals identified as the perpetrators at the evidentiary hearing. The parties submitted proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law in June and are awaiting a ruling from the court.

NORFOLK FOUR: In April 2011, Derek Tice won his habeas corpus petition, and his convictions were vacated. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit affirmed the U.S. District Court's decision to grant habeas relief, rejecting Virginia's appeal. After the case

was remanded to the Norfolk Circuit Court, the Commonwealth's Attorney moved to have all of the charges dropped, conceding that the government had no evidence against Tice without the coerced confession that the trial court would have suppressed if Tice's attorney had moved to suppress it.

Unfortunately, Daniel Williams, Joseph Dick, and Eric Wilson had their state habeas petitions dismissed by the Norfolk Circuit Court in February 2011. The petitions alleged that their due process rights were violated by Detective Robert Glenn Ford, who had manipulated evidence, corrupted the justice system, and pursued charges against the men even though he believed they were innocent. In June 2011, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia dismissed Wilson's federal habeas petition, but he has since appealed that decision to the Fourth Circuit.

In the meantime, Williams and Dick have filed similar federal habeas petitions, which had been stayed by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia while Williams and Dick pursued their state habeas corpus claims. They have notified the District Court that their state habeas petitions were dismissed and expect that the stay will be lifted soon, at which point their cases will move forward.

CHRISTOPHER TURNER: This April in DC Superior Court, MAIP client Christopher Turner and his six living co-defendants in the notorious 8th and H Street murder case will begin a month-long evidentiary hearing on their Innocence Protection Act petitions and post-conviction claims that the government violated its constitutional obligation to turn over exculpatory materials when it withheld credible information about two alternative suspects, in addition to other exculpatory information. MAIP Executive Director Shawn Armbrust represents Turner along with MAIP President Barry Pollack, and MAIP Treasurer Don Salzman represents Kelvin Smith, one of the co-defendants, with the Wisconsin Innocence Project. The defendants recently won the right to DNA testing of various items of clothing found at the 1984 crime scene.

CATALOGUE FOR PHILANTHROPY

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The Catalogue's web site at www.catalogueforphilanthropy-dc.org allows donors to search by field, view all nonprofits in a list, or search using key words. The How to Give section includes a Gift Registry, Gift Cards, a section Especially for Kids, and more.

"Throughout the years ahead, even the most worthwhile nonprofits will be starved for resources," says Harman, "and will be left to scramble for limited public and private funds, particularly the small, local nonprofits that are so essential to the health of our communities. That's why this year's featured Catalogue charities and our entire network of over 300 vetted nonprofits is so important."



GREATER WASHINGTON

MAIP THANKS

the many law firms and organizations whose pro bono attorneys devoted a tremendous amount of time to our work this year.

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IN THEIR WORDS

Hanover County Commonwealth's Attorney, **R.E. (Trip) Chalkley, III** has a perspective on wrongful convictions that few people can share: he prosecuted one MAIP client and served as the trial attorney for another. But instead of shying away from the issue, he opened up to MAIP this fall for a candid conversation about those experiences.

“ I prosecuted Marvin Anderson in Hanover County: multiple rape and singular robbery, abduction and sodomy charges. The victim positively identified him after several hours of being with him in daylight. And 15 years later, DNA evidence cleared him. I read it in the paper, I ran to the bathroom, and I threw up. I had been firmly convinced of his guilt the entire time.

I defended Thomas Haynesworth in the city of Richmond in the '80s. And DNA cleared him, too. I thought he was innocent as much as you allow yourself to believe a client is innocent, but if you start off with the preconceived notion that he's innocent, you can miss other things. Thomas Haynesworth is a pure gentleman, and his mother's a delightful lady, but I don't assume my clients are guilty and I don't assume they're innocent. I judge my clients' cases on the facts, and there were no facts in Mr. Haynesworth's case that made me believe he was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The problem with the judicial system is that you deal with humans. Effective cross-examination and effective interviews by attorneys on both sides get to the truth, but as long you have human beings testifying, mistakes can be made. You can pass all the laws and the procedures you want to, but if the person thinks that I robbed the 7/11 store, they're going to keep saying it. And they're not lying. People fill in what they don't see and say it's true. And as long as human beings are jurors and attorneys, there's a chance they'll make mistakes, too.

I think about Marvin and Thomas' cases weekly, and on some level I think it affects me every day. Cases come in and it triggers something, and I think: What could I have done to make sure Mr. Anderson wasn't convicted? Who could we have spoken to? What could we have found? But I keep returning to the fact – maybe it's self

preservation – that I did all that I could do as a prosecutor and a defense attorney. That's just what we were dealing with at the time. Had there been DNA, neither one of them ever would have been prosecuted. The system was a victim of the times. It doesn't make it right; it's just the fact of the matter.

It's hard for me to be in some other prosecutors' shoes; I don't know what their relationships are with their police departments and such. But there's nothing wrong in my opinion with having an open-file [discovery] policy. Virginia's rules of discovery give defense the right to all scientific analysis of reports, statement of the defendant, any tangible evidence . . . and exculpatory evidence. That's all we have to supply. Well, I think it's far more beneficial to both sides, and far more economical, to say 'Okay, here's my case. Here's everything we've got. No surprises; you get to see everything we see.' It gives the defense attorneys the chance to go back to their client and say 'The government has six witnesses – you're crazy to put this before a jury.' It's one thing to go to your client and say, 'The prosecutor told me they have witnesses and this is what they say,' and another to say, 'I've seen the witness statements, the police reports, and this is what they have.'

I still assess cases as a prosecutor should, which is if a victim comes in and says this is the person who did this to me, and there's no evidence to contradict that, and they're credible and consistent, it's my job to let a jury decide whether or not it's true. But it's as much my job to clear the innocent as it is to convict the guilty.

So open up your files. If the conviction is solid, it will stand. And if it's not, the prosecutor should be delighted to let an innocent man go. It's a person's liberty we're playing with. ”

BOARD AND STAFF NEWS

On August 19, 2011, the West Memphis Three were freed after 18 years of wrongful incarceration in Arkansas. This monumental event occurred in large part because of the efforts of Ropes and Gray LLP attorney **STEPHEN BRAGA**, one of two new members of MAIP's Board of Directors. Braga joins MAIP with 30 years of litigation experience in both civil and criminal cases, which includes helping to free Marty Tankleff after his wrongful conviction in New York. Along with MAIP President Barry Pollack and MAIP Board Member Jennifer O'Connor, Braga received the Defender of Innocence Award at MAIP's 2008 Awards Luncheon for his work on Tankleff's case.

To add further experience and expertise, we have also welcomed former Congressman **ROBERT WEXLER** to MAIP's Board of Directors. A graduate of The George Washington University Law School, Wexler served on the House Judiciary Committee, where he was engaged in a variety of criminal justice issues. Prior to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Florida's 19th District,

he served in the Florida Senate from 1990 to 1995. Wexler is currently serving as the President of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace.

For a still-growing organization like MAIP, increasing our staff by 75 percent in a single year made this past year both memorable and ground-breaking. After receiving a grant from the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, we hired Staff Investigator **DON STOOP**, who formerly served as a patrolman with the police departments in Atlanta and Annapolis and worked for several years as a criminal investigator for the Fulton County, Georgia, District Attorney's Office. Most recently, Stoop worked as a fraud investigator in the Office of the Inspector General for the city of Baltimore. With the generous help of Greenberg Traurig LLP, **SUSAN FRIEDMAN**—long-time MAIP legal intern—became a part of our full-time staff this summer as our first Equal Justice Works Fellow. Friedman graduated cum laude from The George Washington University Law School in May 2011, and will bring both undergraduate and

graduate science degrees and experience at the Northern Virginia Capital Defender Office to MAIP as she focuses primarily on Maryland forensic science reform through litigation, policy advocacy, and judicial education. Last, **CARYN FISCELLA**, our new Office Administrator, spent several years volunteering in the Homicide Unit of the Metropolitan Police Department, where she worked on the Violent Crime Case Review Project and spearheaded a total reorganization of the MPD homicide file room with Honorary Board member and retired MPD detective Jim Trainum. Earlier in her career, Fiscella received her J.D. from Washington University Law School in St. Louis and was a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Bureau in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Finally, adding a wealth of knowledge to our Honorary Board this year are newest members **JAMES ROBERTSON**, Former Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia; **JACOB STEIN** of Stein, Mitchell, & Muse LLP; and **PATRICIA WALD**, Former Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

SPOTLIGHT ON A FIRM: GREENBERG TRAUIG LLP



*William Silverman, Equal Justice Works Fellow
Susan Friedman, and Charlotte Whitmore
present a nationwide training course on
innocence to attorneys.*

This year, thanks to the generosity of Greenberg Traurig LLP, MAIP was fortunate to become the recipient of an Equal Justice Works Fellow for the first time in its history. After reviewing the proposal of long-time legal

intern Susan Friedman, Greenberg Traurig selected her project and, in doing so, allowed MAIP the privilege of hiring Friedman for two years that will involve litigation, advocacy, and judicial training on forensic science issues.

However, this incredible gift was not the firm's first experience with the Innocence Network. They are also currently sponsoring an Equal Justice Works Fellow at the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, and Greenberg Traurig's Philadelphia office recently

received the firm's national pro bono award for their work with the Pennsylvania project.

And although Friedman's Fellowship only formally began this fall, Greenberg Traurig has already given Friedman and the Pennsylvania IP's Fellow the opportunity to teach a CLE training course in New York, which, through video conferencing, was broadcast to the firm's law offices across the country.

"It was an exciting opportunity to jumpstart my Fellowship, especially since it was clear that all the attorneys were interested in innocence work and engaged in the presentation," Friedman said.

Friedman plans to focus largely on Maryland forensic science reform. In addition to her policy advocacy and plans to create a training session for state and local judges, she currently is screening several promising Maryland cases that may have involved forensic science errors.

"Greenberg Traurig's support has made my work possible, and I look forward to working with them to bring my proposal to fruition," Friedman said.

2011-2012

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