

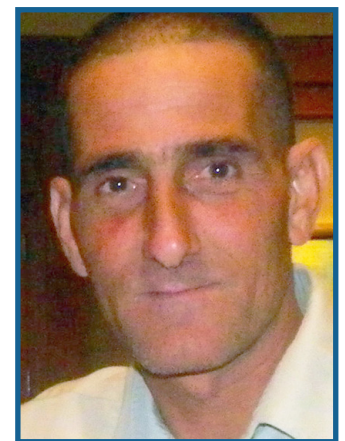
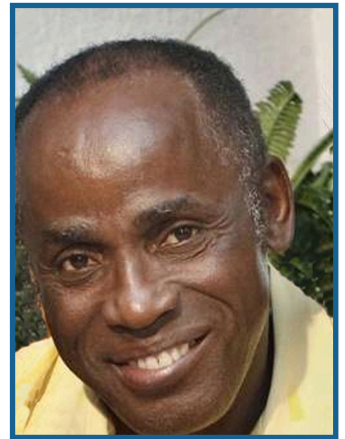
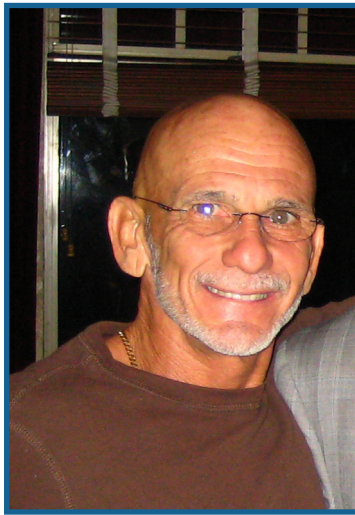


INNOCENCE
PROJECT
OF FLORIDA
Unlock the Truth

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR EXONEREES

14 Innocent Men -- 265 Years Wrongfully Imprisoned



Our Mission

To find and free the innocent in Florida prisons, help them transition back into a changed society, and work to reform the criminal justice system to prevent future wrongful convictions.

FREEING THE INNOCENT: RECORD EXONERATIONS IN U.S. IN 2013

The National Registry of Exonerations, a joint project of the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law and the University of Michigan Law School, reported that for the year 2013, the number of exonerations of those wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for crimes they did not commit increased to a record of 87, and making the total of exonerations tracked by the Registry since 1989 more than 1,400 in the United States. The Registry also reported that the number of exonerations that involved DNA evidence has declined in recent years due to police and prosecutors exhibiting more concern about the problem of wrongful conviction, which is testimony to the success of innocence organizations, both in terms of their outstanding legal work and their unending advocacy for reform.

The Innocence Project of Florida is proud to report that in response to exculpatory DNA testing coordinated by IPF and a subsequent motion to vacate his conviction, Mr. Cheydrick Britt of Tampa, Florida, saw his wrongful conviction of the rape of a minor overturned and the charges dismissed in late 2013. IPF continues to advocate for more reliable forensic procedures, better access to DNA testing, and for law enforcement and the criminal justice system in Florida to better guard against false convictions.

FINDING THE INNOCENT: SPOTLIGHT ON INTAKE AND IPF INTERNS

The Innocence Project of Florida receives hundreds of requests for assistance each year, and the work of reading each request, requesting police and lab reports and trial transcripts, and preparing cases for further consideration is led by IPF Intake Coordinator Lisa Prychodko, J.D. Lisa also coordinates the painstaking work of reading and summarizing individual cases by IPF Interns. Law school students and undergraduate students learn from Lisa how to draft cogent, compelling, and accurate memoranda, case summaries, and other documents. Executive Director Seth Miller provides formal and informal legal instruction and support for these outstanding students. IPF is indebted to the work of our interns and invite all former interns to stay in touch and let us know where they are now.

In 2013, IPF litigated cases in 13 counties, four of the five Florida appellate courts, the Supreme Court of Florida, and the U.S. District Court. We present a summary of our cases in the following table.

CASE STATUS	NUMBER OF CASES
New requests for assistance from inmates in 2013	544
Requests denied because they did not fit with our mission parameters (applicants must be in a Florida prison, not on death row, and physical evidence must exist that can be tested to indicate innocence)	365
Cases reviewed by IPF staff, volunteers and interns in 2013	60
New cases taken on for litigation in 2013	3
Total number of cases in litigation	29
Cases in District Courts of Appeal	7
Cases in which hearings were granted in 2013	5
Depositions taken during 2013	6
Requests for DNA testing submitted in 2013	3

CASE STATUS	NUMBER OF CASES
DNA testing denied (including cases filed in previous years)	2
DNA testing that produced exclusionary results (including cases filed in previous years)	2
DNA testing that produced results confirming guilt (including cases filed in previous years)	0
DNA testing that produced inconclusive results (including cases filed in previous years)	2
DNA testing still awaiting results	2
Motions requesting DNA testing still pending	5
Reversals on appeal granting relief	2
Motions to vacate convictions filed	4
Number of exonerations	1

TRANSITIONING FROM PRISON TO FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE

The State of Florida provides the same meager assistance to exonerees that it provides to any ex-offender who has served his or her time. They will be provided with a one-way ticket to a Florida Department of Corrections homeless shelter to an approved family member. Once processed through the homeless shelter or to the family, the released inmate may apply for federal assistance via food stamps, Social Security disability and vocational rehabilitation services, if disabled, and any other federal or state agency that offers re-entry assistance. This combination of assistance and services is not designed for an innocent survivor of wrongful incarceration, and many times serves only to extend the hardships stemming from false imprisonment.

The Innocence Project of Florida was the first innocence organization in the United States to realize the need for and to hire a full-time social worker to assist exonerees to:

- Begin to work through the trauma of being imprisoned for crimes they did not commit;
- Prepare for the day they walk out of prison – from having something to wear and someplace to go, to being ready for questions from the press;
- Secure shelter, food, clothing, a cell phone, and other basic necessities of life;
- Get overdue dental or medical care;
- Obtain driver's licenses or make arrangements for other transportation, and make plans to re-enter the workforce;
- Utilize social programs and/or therapists that will assist the exoneree in his or her path to independence.

In order to provide this assistance, IFP created the Exoneree Support Fund that provides exonerees with the money to pay for food, clothing, shelter, dental and medical care, transportation, and communication. The Fund relies on donations that are matched, one-to-one, annually by a Florida Bar Foundation challenge. Please consider answering that challenge by making a donation to the Exoneree Support Fund today and doubling your impact.

REFORMING THE SYSTEM

IPF continues to be a leading advocate for the implementation of evidenced-based policy reforms designed to prevent future wrongful convictions. At the beginning of 2013, through advocacy of IPF, the Supreme Court of Florida adopted for the first time a standard jury instruction regarding Eyewitness Evidence. This jury instruction is now given in every trial where there is an eyewitness identification in order to help the jury understand certain factors that effect the reliability of an identification and how the jury should weigh those factors in judging the accuracy of the eyewitness evidence. Given that eyewitness misidentification is the leading cause of wrongful convictions, this jury instruction is a good first step to preventing wrongful convictions before they happen.

Throughout the year, IPF continued to urge statewide law enforcement associations and individual agencies large and small to adopt best practices regarding the preparation and administration of eyewitness identification procedures and the electronic recording of custodial interrogations. Although Florida has yet to adopt statutory mandates in these areas, the state has seen an uptick in the number of law enforcement agencies that have recognized that implementing scientifically sound updates to their lineup procedures and recording interrogations are a benefit to law enforcement, help prevent wrongful convictions, and strengthen the prosecutions of actual perpetrators of crimes.

CELEBRATING FREEDOM: 2013 STEPPIN' OUT GALA

On April 5, 2013, the Innocence Project of Florida held its second annual gala benefit, Steppin' Out, at Miami's Four Seasons Hotel. The theme was *Wrongful Convictions: A Family Matter*, and the evening's special guest was Betty Anne Waters, sister of Kenny Waters who was wrongfully convicted of a brutal, 1980 murder in Massachusetts, and whose story inspired the 2010 movie, *Conviction*. Ms. Waters spent many years trying to prove her brother's innocence. She never stopped believing in him, obtained both a college degree and then a law degree, and continued to fight until her brother's conviction was finally vacated and he was freed after 18 years in prison based on exonerative DNA results. IPF awarded Ms. Waters the Frank Lee Smith Innocence Award, which was named for Florida's first DNA exoneree who died on death row 11 months before DNA testing proved his innocence in 2000. Also in attendance was IPF exoneree William Dillon who performed several original songs he wrote while wrongfully imprisoned for 27 years for a crime he did not commit. "Our goal is to celebrate these men who have been exonerated and the families who stood by them," said David Rothman, Miami attorney and IPF Board Chairman.

The event was hugely successful, raising needed funding for the Innocence Project of Florida. More than 250 people attended the event and the total amount raised was \$82,360, which will support our litigation efforts on behalf of innocent people in Florida prisons. Because of these generous donations and sponsorships, wrongful convictions are reversed in our state. Thank you to all of our supporters and advocates for their vital assistance in righting these horrible wrongs.

The mission of the Innocence Project of Florida is to find and free people in Florida prisons who have been wrongfully convicted of crimes they did not commit, to help them rebuild their lives once proved innocent, and to work to reform the criminal justice system to prevent future wrongful convictions. Thank you for helping us to advance our mission through your support of IPF.

Respectfully submitted,



Seth Miller, Esq.

Exoneree Cheydrick Britt (center) and his family and legal team, including IPF attorneys Melissa Montle and Seth Miller.



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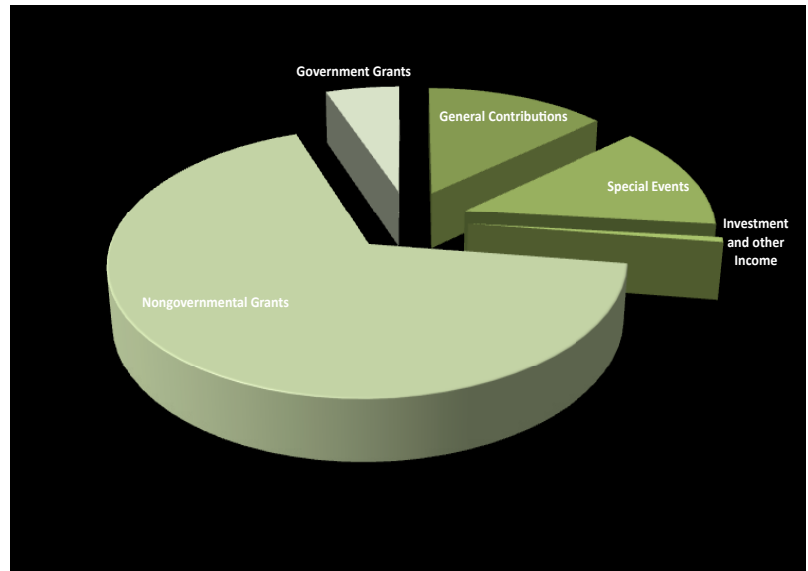
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INCOME & EXPENSES JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2013*

Income

INCOME**

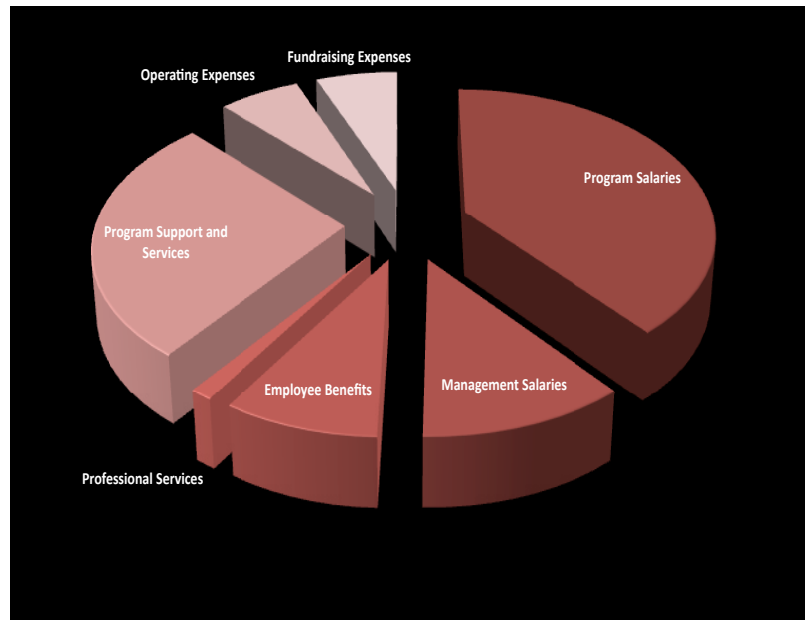
General Contributions	\$59,786
Special Events	58,988
Investment Income & Other Revenue	2,672
Nongovernmental Grants	299,241
Government Grants	24,443
Total Income	\$445,130



EXPENSES

Program Salaries	\$209,000
Management Salaries	61,365
Employee Benefits, Payroll Taxes & Insurance	46,209
Professional Services	6,739
Program Support & Services	147,081
Operating Expenses	32,815
Fundraising Expenses	31,781
Total Expenses	\$534,990

Expenses



* Reported on an accrual basis.

** IFP maintained a balanced budget in 2013 based on transfers from reserves. IPF maintains financial reserves sufficient to support the organization for 18 months.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

We extend a heartfelt thank you to every donor who has joined us in our journey to unlock the truth for the wrongfully imprisoned in Florida, reunite them with their families, and help them transition back into a changed society. IPF is supported solely by grants and donations from individuals, foundations, professional and civic organizations, and corporations. We receive no taxpayer support from the State of Florida. Please note: This list reflects the cumulative gifts received between January 1 and December 31, 2013. We make every effort to compile an accurate list. If your name is missing, misspelled, or there are other inaccuracies, please contact Marianne Salcedo, Director of Development, at 850-561-6767 or email msalcedo@floridainnocence.org. And thank you once again for your support.

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