

**Inside this issue:**

New Website	1
2015 Summer Volunteers	2-4
New Case Coordinator, Shawnee Ziegler	4
New Operations Manager, Julie Rial	4
Ninth Circuit American Inns of Court Award	5
Michael Levy Story	5
Tribute to Marshall Smyth	6
National Institute of Justice Grant	6
Conferences	7
Banding Together for Justice	8
“The Ballad of Louis Taylor”, Carlos Arzate and the Kind Souls	9
Arizona Gives Day	9
ASU College of Law	10
Donate!	11
Thank you!	12

**Michael Levy Released (page 5)**



**Our New Website is Here!**

The Justice Project has been busy developing a new website! Volunteers and a web designer made tremendous progress in reformatting and updated our website, which is now up! If you have not done so already, sign up for email notifications at: [azjusticeproject.org](http://azjusticeproject.org) and click on *Join our email list!* Also on our site, we have live streaming on Facebook and Twitter. Thank you to all those who worked on this project. We are grateful for your efforts!



## Summer 2015 Volunteers: We are excited to have our Summer Volunteers with us!



**Charlie Bingham** is 19 years old and lives in Birmingham, UK. She is a law student from Birmingham City University and has recently completed her second year undergraduate law degree. Charlie is very excited to get involved with the Project and to visit Arizona for the first time. By volunteering for the Justice Project, she believes she will gain a unique insight into the workings and failings of the American justice system, and help motivate her to work to the highest standards and achieve a successful legal career.



**Beatrias Casillas** is 24 years old and currently majoring in Criminal Justice at Arizona State University. She will graduate in the Fall of 2015 and plans on attending law school the following year. She has been volunteering with the Justice Project since the Spring 2015.



**Audrey Cassar** graduated as a lawyer from the University of Malta in 2003, and obtained a Masters in European Law in 2004. After practicing law in Malta for a few years, she moved to the United States in 2006. While living in Minnesota, she worked as a paralegal, enjoying the fields of family, immigration, and criminal law. Audrey recently moved to Arizona and started volunteering with the Justice Project. She is extremely passionate about this Project and is eager to apply her legal skills and assist attorneys in their work. In her free time, Audrey loves to read, hike, learn new languages, and travel.



**Maddie Farnsworth** will be a senior at Arizona State University this fall. She is working toward a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree in Biochemistry and Socio-Legal Studies, with a minor in European History. As a newbie to the Justice Project team this summer, Maddie is excited to learn more about public defense work and contribute to the organization's honorable cause.



**Viveka J. Ferrell** is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University where she majored in Psychology. She also spent eight years in law enforcement as a Chicago police officer and three years as a security police officer in the Air Force National Guard. Viveka has Associates degrees in Legal Secretarial Science from Robert Morris College, and Information Management and Aviation Management from the Community College of the Air Force. She is a member of the Tuskegee Airman, the Air Force National Guard Association, and the Maricopa Bar Association, Paralegal Division.

## Summer 2015 Volunteers, continued:



**Julia Martin** has been with the Arizona Justice Project for two years, first as an intern and now as a volunteer. She received her Bachelors degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Arizona State University and is preparing to apply to law school to pursue her goal of strengthening our local communities by promoting justice and integrity within Arizona's criminal justice system. A native Coloradan, Julia loves to hike, and can make a mean but scrumptious batch of Pueblo Green Chili.



**Brett Meyer** is a second year law student at Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Brett became interested in law school as an undergraduate, as he was earning his B.S. in Criminal Justice at Arizona State University. Over the last five years, he have fallen in love with Arizona and all it has to offer, and looks forward to practicing here upon graduation. Brett is proud to be a part of the Justice Project, and looks forward to all the work that is yet to come.



**Brian Ripple** is entering his second year of law school at Arizona State University. He is originally from Arizona, but attended college in California at Santa Clara University, where he majored in Economics and Political Science. He loves the outdoors and is an avid camper, backpacker, and hiker. He is excited to work at the Justice Project this summer, and can't wait to spend time with all of you!

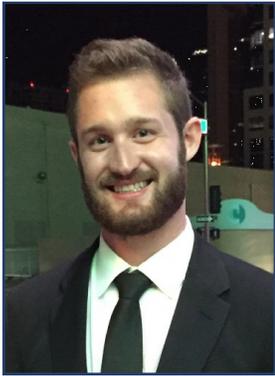


**Caitlan Rocha**, a junior at Arizona State University, is a Justice Studies major with a minor in Women and Gender Studies, a certificate in Socio-Legal Studies, and a certificate in English Writing. She hopes to continue on to earn her masters in Justice Studies and then go to law school. She is currently Vice President of ASU's Pre Law Society and also works for ASU housing. She has worked as an intern and then volunteer with the Justice Project for almost a year. The work she has done here has inspired her to pursue a career in law as an attorney.



**Mike Smock** is 19 years old and an undergraduate at Northern Arizona University entering his sophomore year. He is majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and plans on going to law school after graduating.

## Summer 2015 Volunteers, continued:



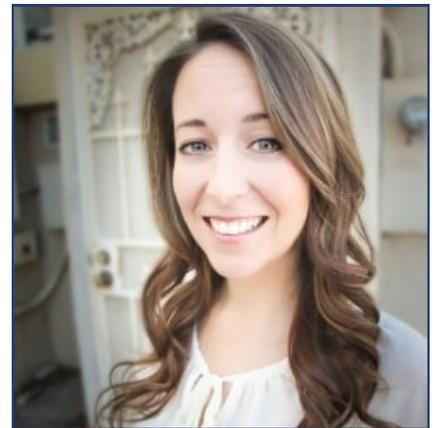
**Christopher Brown** is a second year law student at Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. He grew up in Charlottesville, Virginia and received a Bachelors of Science degree from James Madison University. Before law school, he served as an AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) for two years. He is a history buff and loves to read. He enjoys hiking, sailing, camping, and anything else that takes him outdoors!

## Meet Our New Case Coordinator: Shawnee Ziegler

In May of this year we hired a new Case Coordinator, Shawneé Ziegler! We are excited to have her on the team.

Meet Shawneé':

Born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, I love summertime and need a sweater when it's below 80 degrees. I am an ASU Alumni (and avid Sun Devil football fan), with my Bachelors degree in Psychology and a Masters degree in Disaster Mental Health. I spent many years working in the humanitarian relief and development field, doing program management, community development and grant writing, specifically in post-disaster settings. I want to defend the marginalized, support the vulnerable, and give a voice to those who go unheard. I desire to see communities advocate for and be involved in creating lasting and sustainable solutions to the many social injustice issues that surround us. Also, I love books—real books — with pages you can fold and sketch and draw on and feel between your fingers.



## Meet Our New Operations Manager: Julie Rial



Julie became our Founder Larry Hammond's legal assistant in June of 2011, and has worked with the Project for several years. She initially volunteered her time assisting the Project with social media, marketing, and event planning. Julie officially joined the Justice Project in January 2015 as our Operations Manager, and assists with payroll, marketing, events, and more. She worked as a legal secretary and then as a Paralegal for 14 years. This year marks her 30th year working in the legal field.

## Ninth Circuit American Inns of Court Professionalism Award



Our founder, **Larry Hammond**, was nominated and won the *Ninth Circuit American Inns of Court Professionalism Award*. Circuit Professionalism Awards are presented each year in participating federal circuits to a lawyer or judge whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law. The *American Inns of Court Professionalism Award* in part recognizes Larry's work to establish the Arizona Justice Project, which he has chaired since inception. The Project is the fifth oldest Innocence Project in America and has helped secure the release from prison of over 20 Arizona inmates.

Larry will receive the award at the Ninth Circuit's judicial conference. Recipients also will be recognized in October at the 2015 American Inns of Court Celebration of Excellence at the U.S. Supreme Court.

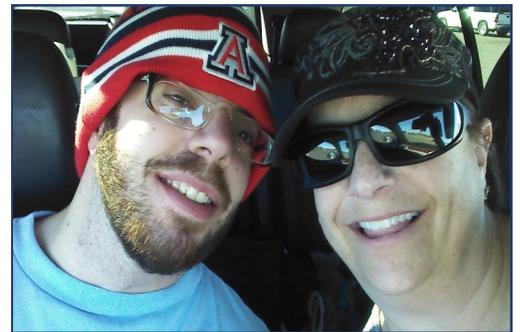
## Michael Levy Released

At the young age of 25, Michael Levy suffered a brain aneurysm and stroke while serving a five-year prison sentence for possession of methamphetamine for sale in Cochise County.

Due to his incarceration, Michael was not receiving the critical care he needed to recover from this life-threatening event. After hearing about Michael's medical condition, we looked into whether Michael was eligible for clemency or any other type of early release. We planned to assist Michael and his family with that process. According to Michael's sentence, however, he was not eligible for any type of early release.

Given Michael's dire need for regular and effective medical care, we eventually negotiated with the Cochise County Attorney's Office for Michael's release from prison. After serving over four years of his sentence, Michael was released on January 16, 2015. Michael has since had multiple surgeries and still suffers from the after effects of the brain aneurysm, stroke, and other complications.

Had Michael remained incarcerated, he may not have survived his prison sentence.



## Marshall Smyth

The Arizona Justice Project offers condolences and pays tribute to Marshall Smyth, who died on March 25, 2015 at the age of 92. Marshall's involvement with the justice-seeking goals of our Project is rooted in his lifelong devotion to advancements in fire science. His first expert testimony came in 1972 when he testified for the defense of Louis Taylor in the Pioneer Hotel Fire case. But that's not where Marshall's involvement in fire investigation ended; indeed, it is really where it began. For years after Louis's conviction, Marshall continued to be a leader in the study of fire science and fire investigation. Utilizing advancements in fire science, Marshall assisted Larry Hammond and defense teams in the post-conviction cases of John Henry Knapp and Ray Girdler, both wrongfully convicted of arson. After those cases were resolved, Marshall began working on the case of Louis Taylor. For years, working with Andy Silverman, Larry Hammond, the Justice Project, and law students from the University of Arizona College of Law, Marshall reinvestigated the fire evidence in Louis's case. Marshall came to believe that his testimony in the 1972 trial was inaccurate based on new science, and he dedicated more than 10 years of his life to correcting it. Marshall remained committed to seeking justice for Louis and his release from prison. After 42 years of incarceration, Louis was released in April 2013 based in significant part on the 102-page declaration submitted by Marshall Smyth. We remember and honor Marshall for his perseverance, his kind and caring heart, and his dedication to correcting injustice.



## National Institute of Justice Grant

The Arizona DNA Advocacy Project, a collaboration of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law's Post-Conviction Clinic, James E. Rogers College of Law's Wrongful Conviction Clinic, and the Justice Project, is pleased to announce the award of a grant from the Department of Justice under the National Institute of Justice Post-conviction Testing of DNA Evidence to Exonerate the Innocent program. The DNA Advocacy Project will investigate and evaluate potential cases of wrongful conviction in Arizona where DNA testing might show actual innocence, and bring appropriate cases forward for DNA testing. This unique partnership will for the first time provide coverage of the vast majority of Arizona.

Under the two-year \$935,000 grant, law faculty supervisors with expertise in wrongful convictions and post-conviction practice will lead case reviews at the two nonprofit state law schools, working closely with law students to review and investigate cases. The Arizona Justice Project will contribute its vast experience and excellent reputation in generating case leads as well as managing a certain number of cases itself.

## APDA Conference

This year we were excited to meet Piper Ker-  
man, author of *Orange  
is the New Black*, and  
attend some great ses-  
sions. Amanda Ham-  
mond, Kindra Fleming,  
and Katie Puzauskas  
presented on a sen-  
tencing issue: hun-  
dreds of inmates have  
been sentenced to life  
in prison and are eligible for release, but  
there is currently no mechanism for re-  
lease.



A big “thank you” to Gary Kula and Max  
Bessler who invite the Justice Project and  
our volunteers to attend the conference at  
no cost. Thank you for giving us this in-  
credible experience each year!



## 2015 Innocence Network Conference

The 2015 Innocence Network Conference  
took place at the end of April in Orlando,  
Florida. Over 500 guests attended, includ-  
ing over 125 exonerees, their families and  
friends, staff from Innocence Network  
member organizations, students, and  
members of the general public. From our  
attendees: It was nice to see friends from  
other projects and to meet new people.  
Collectively, we attended sessions on me-  
dia, arson review, DNA testing, ethics, re-  
cantation evidence, conviction integrity  
units, case review, and clinical teaching.  
The exoneree dinner was phenomenal. A  
video shared clips of each one of the 26  
people exonerated in 2014, followed by  
introductions from 150 exonerees across  
the country.



## Banding Together for Justice

The Justice Project hosted a special event in March at My Big Fat Greek Restaurant, which included exonoree **Khalil Rushdan**, music by **Quinn Jolly**, and a special presentation of “The Ballad of Louis Taylor” by singer, song-writer, **Carlos Arzate and the Kind Souls**, and filmographer, **Lesley Hoyt-Croft**. We raised over \$12,000 and are extremely grateful for everyone who came out to support us! A special thank you to the guitarist, **John Canby**, who is a long-time supporter and Board Member!

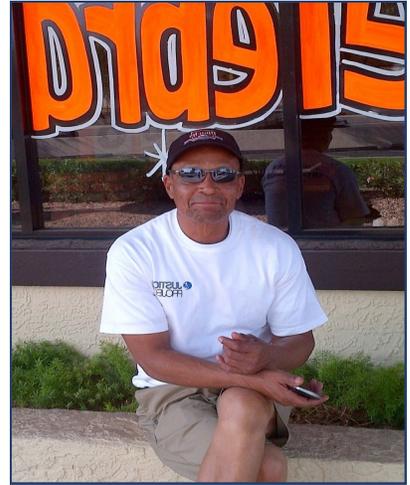


## Carlos Arzate and The Kind Souls are in town – July 31, 2015!

Carlos Arzate tells the story of wrongful imprisonment, corrupt court proceedings and the double tragedy of both the deadly fire and what happened to Louis Taylor afterwards in a new song, "The Ballad of Louis Taylor." The Justice Project sought relief for Louis after a group of nationally recognized fire experts concluded there was no proof of arson. Louis maintained his innocence for 42 years. He was set free in 2013. You can download the song on iTunes now: <https://itunes.apple.com/mo/album/the-ballad-of-louis-taylor/id983093647?i=983093651&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

SAVE THE DATE:

Carlos Arzate and The Kind Souls will be playing at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts on **July 31, 2015**. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased here: <http://www.scottsdaleperformingarts.org/event/carlos-arzate-and-the-kind-souls/>



**Purchase the single "The Ballad of Louis Taylor", written and sung by Carlos Arzate and The Kind Souls, and 50% of your purchase goes to the Arizona Justice Project!**

**Downloads available at:**  
<http://carlosarzate.bandcamp.com>



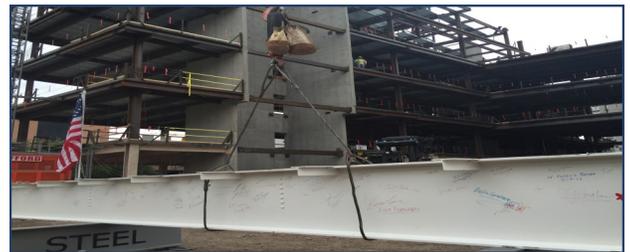
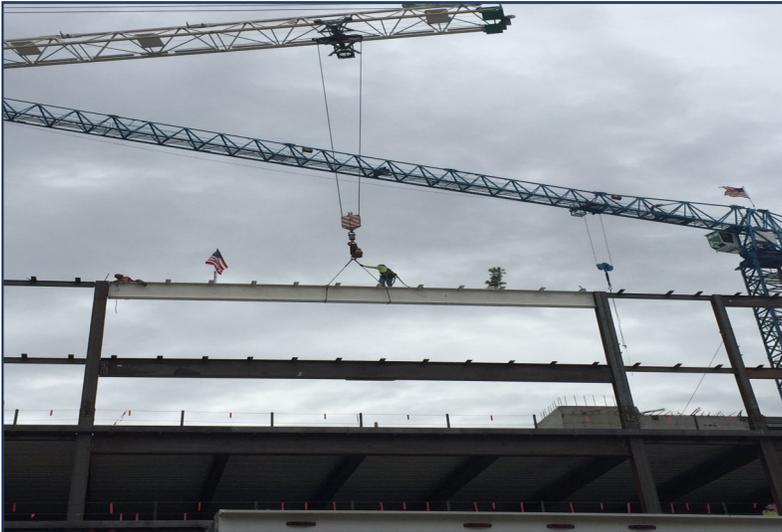
## Arizona Gives Day

For the second year in a row, the Justice Project participated in Arizona Gives Day – an online giving experience where the public can donate to nonprofit organizations and receive awards. This year, we raised over \$14,000, with 70+ donors. We are extremely grateful to everyone who donated! Thank you!!



## ASU College of Law is Moving Downtown!

The Justice Project is proud to work with Arizona State University and the Sandra Day O’Conner College of Law. Arizona State University is moving the law school downtown to the Arizona Center of Law and Society, which is currently under construction and scheduled to open in August of 2016. The Project attended the “Topping Out” Ceremony on June 9, commemorating the completion of the main structural work of the building. When it opens, the new location will bring about 1,000 new students to the Downtown Phoenix Campus.



## Facts and Figures

- ◆ There have been 330 DNA exonerations in the United States. (The Innocence Project)
- ◆ There have been over 1,000 additional exonerations that do not rest on DNA evidence. (The National Registry of Exonerations)
- ◆ The Justice Project has received more than 5,000 requests for assistance since its inception.
- ◆ The Justice Project has represented more than 50 prisoners in post-conviction relief proceedings or before the Board of Executive Clemency.
- ◆ The Justice Project has been successful in 24 cases.
- ◆ 16 of the Justice Project’s clients have been released in the past 6 years.



## Donate to the Arizona Justice Project!

To donate, visit our website at [www.azjusticeprojet.org](http://www.azjusticeprojet.org) or send a donation by mail to our mailing address listed below.

Your support helps us continue to work on behalf of those who have been wrongfully convicted or have suffered a manifest injustice, like Louis Harper and Patrick Maloney pictured below. We are extremely grateful for any contribution you can make.



**Louis Harper** was sentenced to 50 years for selling \$20 worth of crack cocaine to an undercover officer in 1989. With help from the Justice Project, he was re-leased after serving 21.5 years.

**Patrick Maloney** was 15 years old when he was sentenced to life in prison. After serving nearly 50 years, Patrick's sentence was commuted. The Justice Project represented Patrick at his parole hearing in 2014.

## Support the Justice Project through Amazon Smile!

By joining Amazon Smile, **at no cost to you**, you can support the Justice Project. Every time you make a purchase, Amazon will donate %0.5 to the Justice Project! To sign up, visit <http://smile.amazon.com> and designate that you would like your contribution to go to Justice Project, Inc.

Thank you for your support!





*We seek justice for the innocent and the wrongfully imprisoned – the marginalized and forgotten of Arizona’s Criminal Justice System.*

---

Find us at:

[www.azjusticeproject.org](http://www.azjusticeproject.org)

Facebook

Twitter

---



**Arizona Justice Project**

c/o Arizona State University

Mail Code 4420

411 N. Central Avenue, Suite 600

Phoenix, AZ 85004-2139

Phone: (602) 496-0286

Email: [info@azjusticeproject.org](mailto:info@azjusticeproject.org)

