

BE PART OF OUR MOVEMENT

COVID-19 has made us feel limited in many ways, but we also see opportunities to reach beyond physical limitations. We are breaking traditions and exploring new ways to connect.

This year we have built an online integration at themip-act.org to provide a multi-media experience—hear more about our clients; watch our fireside chats; learn more about the issues that contribute to injustice; join our email list to stay up to date on all things MIP; and download freebies!

We're also thrilled that the 2020 Annual Report includes a mini activist kit, designed so you can easily help spread our message to people in the position to make change happen.

Mail these postcards to representatives and friends to show your support for justice reform. Send a note of support to give our clients hope. You can find addresses and resources at themip-act.org.

Help us break barriers and conquer the resistance we face in the pursuit of justice.

VISIT OUR ANNUAL REPORT
ONLINE EXPERIENCE

themip-act.org

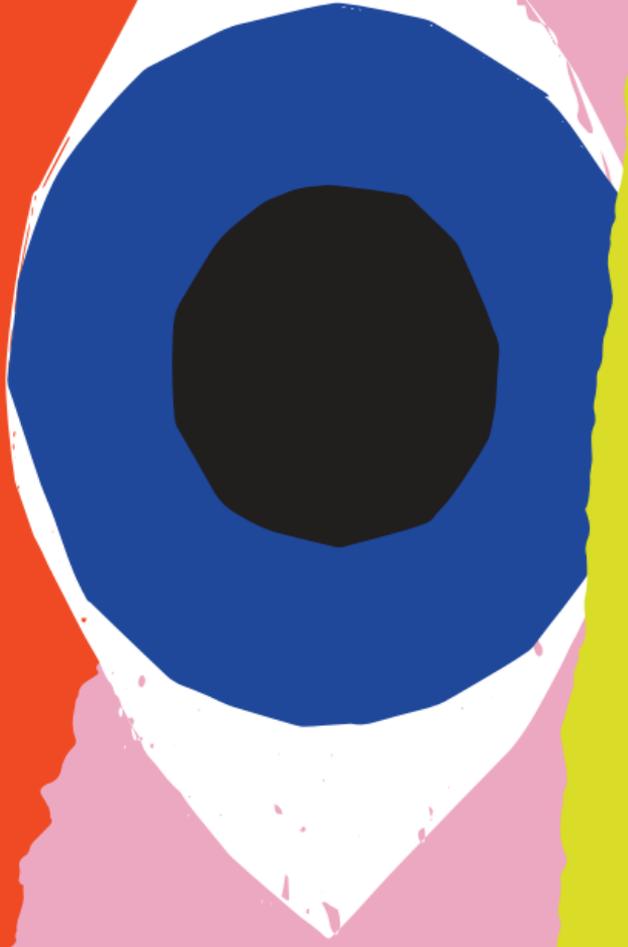


MIDWEST
INNOCENCE
PROJECT

Resist...

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MIDWEST
INNOCENCE
PROJECT

Some factors that affect the integrity of an eyewitness identification:

- Length of time between the crime and the identification
- Whether the eyewitness was presented with a single photo of the defendant, or a photo array of multiple people
- If the eyewitness was a stranger or had a pre-existing relationship with the defendant
- If there was a disguise, mask, or hat worn by the perpetrator
- Lighting where the crime took place
- If a weapon was involved in the interaction
- If the identification was cross-racial or cross-age
- How many other people were included in a photo array or lineup from police
- How many exposures the eyewitness had to the defendant's photo (a photo array from police, a media story, etc)
- Whether the eyewitness was a child at the time of identification

Share this card with a friend so that more people can fight for our cause.



To learn more, visit:
themip-act.org



Resist
Injustice

Mail this card to a friend or colleague to help inform others of our fight for justice.

Dear

When the greatest failures of our society are systemic, it's easy to feel like change will never come.

But together, we are all the cogs in the machine. We all have the potential to break apart what's not working, and to build something better.

We must never give up on fighting for justice—one of the central tenets of our country, and of a functioning society.

Resistance against injustice can be one step at a time. But we must keep moving forward.

Join us in our resistance by donating today, to fund critical legal hours, DNA testing, investigative work, and advocacy for those still waiting for justice.

Sincerely,



**MIDWEST
INNOCENCE
PROJECT**

themip-act.org



Resist... injustice.

To:

**WE
CAN'T
HEAR
YOU**



**Resist
ableism**

Mail this card to your legislator to show your support to end ableism in the criminal legal system.

Dear

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, those in state or federal prison are three times as likely to report having a disability than a nonincarcerated population.

Those who are deaf and disabled are discriminated against every step of the way in our legal system, and are more likely to be wrongfully convicted. Deaf prisoners frequently go without ASL interpreters through court proceedings and during incarceration. Those with physical disabilities often go without adequate healthcare, necessary medical devices, or accessibility.

Our legal system operates by only thinking of the able-bodied, the literate, and those who can hear and see. It isolates, discriminates against, and punishes those who aren't.

As my legislator, I ask you to push for video phones in jails & prisons; more funding for translation services, during court proceedings and within jails and prisons; and to support adequate health care and equal accessibility for the incarcerated.

Sincerely,



MIDWEST
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PROJECT
themip-act.org



Resist... ableism in our legal system.

To:

RESIST



misconduct & negligence

Mail this card to your local prosecutor to show your support for CIUs in your county.

Dear

According to the National Registry of Exonerations, more than half of wrongful convictions involved official misconduct and/or negligence from police or prosecutors.

We cannot continue to accept a system in which those who have sworn to uphold justice are the ones taking it away.

As a believer in justice and fairness within our legal system, I support the funding, crucial work, and oversight of county Conviction Integrity Units. CIUs are critical guardrails against wrongful conviction in our community, and I support and encourage further investment in these units within the county.

Sincerely,



**MIDWEST
INNOCENCE
PROJECT**

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**Resist... misconduct
and negligence.**

To:

We will fight

until
you're
FREE



Mail this card to one of MIP's clients to show your support in the fight for their freedom.

Dear

**A little note to say hello! Thinking of you
and sending you warm thoughts.**



**MIDWEST
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We will fight injustice.

To:

Sincerely,

Amor

is Enough



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When will Innocence be Enough?

In the case of Lamar Johnson, it's not a question of whether he is innocent. After being wrongfully convicted of a 1994 murder, even the prosecutor's office that sent him to prison for the last 25 years has called for his release. Extensive police misconduct has been uncovered that led to Lamar's conviction. The true killers admitted to the crime.

In Lamar's case, it's a question of whether that innocence is enough. That is the question at the feet of the Missouri Supreme Court now: whether Lamar's innocence is enough to warrant his release from prison, or if he'll continue to be trapped there by arbitrary rules and legal red tape.

The question is a critical one: should prosecutor's offices have the power to come back years after a conviction and say their predecessors made a mistake? Should they have the power to correct that injustice? Should a person's innocence alone be enough for their freedom? Or does innocence also require the perfect storm of legal loopholes and precedent?

We—and most importantly, Lamar—are still waiting on that decision.

But we believe innocence is enough. We know that in a just system, innocence IS enough.

Lamar Johnson's innocence is enough in the eyes of morality, so why not in the eyes of the law?

That's why we began the #InnocenceIsEnough campaign this year, as a lead-up to the 25-year mark of Lamar's conviction in July. That's why dozens of supporters like you gathered with us this summer on the steps of the Dred Scott Courthouse in St. Louis, to cry out that innocence is enough. To mark that 25-year anniversary as the solemn occasion that it was - and to ask that Lamar not spend another quarter-century waiting for justice.

Lamar's daughters spoke to the crowd with tears in their eyes, of a father that they loved, but who had been stolen from them. St. Louis circuit attorney Kim Gardner joined, and spoke of a failed system that had caged an innocent man for more than half his life. Exoneree Ricky Kidd, Lamar's good friend, spoke of a promise he made to Lamar - when the two shared time at the same prison—that if one of the two innocent men was released first, they would come back to get the other.

At the Innocence is Enough rally, we spoke of failures. We shared in our anger at an unjust system. But we also spoke of hope—that the system in which we function would come to agree with us. Innocence is enough for freedom in this country.

Innocence as a concept is only as good as the people and systems that believe in it. As we've seen, a man can be innocent of the crime for which he's gone to prison—for 25 years—and yet that innocence is still not enough in the eyes of the system that mistakenly put him there in the first place.

**Innocence is only as good as the structures that support it.
Innocence is only as good as the people who uphold it.**

So what does innocence mean to you? Is it enough to fight for?