

annual report 2018

OVERCOMING LEGAL BARRIERS *to justice*



**PENNSYLVANIA
INNOCENCE
PROJECT**

*Unlocking the Truth.
Freeing the Innocent.*

LOOKING BACK AT 2018

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From Our EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2018, another innocent man joined his fellow exonerees in finding his freedom.

Dontia Patterson was released from prison, wrongly convicted of murdering a childhood friend. We celebrate with Dontia's family and are working with him as he enters a world so foreign to the one he left over a decade ago.

With each release of an innocent man or woman, we feel the obligation to these heroes as they try to navigate an unfamiliar world. That is why we are working with a group of dedicated volunteers to establish the country's first peer-led support group, so exonerees can meet together in a safe space to support each other. We also hired a social worker this year, Margaret Mason, who is working to put that group together as well as providing direct case management for our clients. And we are working to the day when Pennsylvania joins the majority of our sister states in providing compensation to those unjustly imprisoned for crimes they did not commit.

This past year was also the culmination of many years of hard work in advocating for major changes in Pennsylvania. **The Pennsylvania Legislature passed two pieces of legislation** that will dramatically impact the way we do our work, enable the convicted innocent to more easily get into court, and provide DNA testing that had been unjustly and arbitrarily denied before. We're grateful to all of our partners who helped make that a reality. You can read about this victory in more detail further in this Report.

But we have so much more to do.

We also continue working with law enforcement to improve the bad methods that lead to these tragedies. This past year, we helped the Montgomery County District Attorneys office train detectives and prosecutors in interview and interrogation techniques used in the UK that don't rely on coercion to achieve results, but cognitive interview methods that yield more accurate and reliable information. In other words – methods that don't lead to false confessions. We've continued our work with the Philadelphia Police Department, encouraging their adoption of best-evidence based live lineup presentations that lessen the likelihood of eyewitness error. And we continue our advocacy for "open file" discovery statewide so that prosecutors turn over everything they have from the investigation, not just documents they choose to disclose.

Of course, none of this is possible without you. **Not one of our clients would have found freedom without your financial support.** And without you, Pennsylvania justice would elude so many. Thank you for all you do to support the Project and the extraordinary men and women we are so honored to serve.



Marissa Boyers Bluestine
Executive Director,
Pennsylvania Innocence Project

From Our BOARD PRESIDENT

The Pennsylvania Innocence Project has now completed its ninth year. We persist notwithstanding the changes in our broader community.

Making improvements to the justice system to avoid wrongful convictions is very much a part of our mission. Whether it is our pursuit of open investigation files to avoid the withholding of information by prosecutors or the exclusion of confessions or eyewitness evidence obtained improperly, **the Pennsylvania Innocence Project works to achieve justice for all.** That is the core of our mission and **we have made advances toward that goal in several tangible ways:** requesting the introduction of a rule of criminal procedure that would allow access by defense counsel of prosecution files, and extending from 60 days to 1 year the time within which a petition for post-conviction review based on newly discovered evidence must be filed.

We have not yet succeeded in having the Pennsylvania Supreme Court adopt the open file rule nor have we succeeded in completely eliminating the Post Conviction Relief Act's time limitation. But we are moving in the right direction. **Our "north star" is our belief that no one should spend one night in jail for a crime he or she did not commit.** And we will continue to work tirelessly to identify any and all persons incarcerated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who fit that criteria and do everything we can to have them exonerated as quickly as possible.

In order to achieve our goals, we need an infrastructure and resources. **Through the**

generosity of people like you, we have been able to develop and expand our capacity.

We now have a forensic science specialist who has provided training for Pennsylvania attorneys on complex forensic matters such as complex DNA testing, fire investigations, and cases of alleged shaken baby syndrome. In addition, we now have a social worker to help exonerated clients transition to the world of freedom.

Our work helping wrongfully convicted persons find freedom continues. We receive and review and carefully investigate letters from inmates across the Commonwealth and work tirelessly to develop approaches to achieve their exoneration. Across the country and in Pennsylvania, the public is increasingly aware of situations in which an innocent person is convicted and incarcerated. We are working to reduce that number to zero. In 2018, we furthered those goals by exonerating Dontia Patterson, and helping Letitia Smallwood bring her 44-year nightmare to an end. You will read their stories in this report.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of our creation, you can be sure that **every dollar contributed to the Pennsylvania Innocence Project is spent in a way designed to reduce the time it takes for an innocent person to be freed.** On behalf of each of those unjustly incarcerated, we thank you.



Howard Scher
President, Board of Directors

Our HISTORY

The Pennsylvania Innocence Project was founded in 2008 under the leadership of **David Richman** and **David Rudovsky**. In 2009, thanks to the immense support of then **Dean JoAnne Epps**, our doors opened at Temple University's Beasley School of Law.

In 2016, the Project opened a second office in Pittsburgh, housed by Duquesne University Law School. This office helps to better serve clients incarcerated in Western Pennsylvania and build upon the Project's movement for wrongful conviction reform statewide.

The Project continues working to exonerate wrongfully convicted persons across the Commonwealth with the help of its dedicated staff, legal interns, and supporters.





CHANGING PENNSYLVANIA LAWS

for all of Pennsylvania's **CONVICTED INNOCENT**

Identifying the incarcerated innocent and working to exonerate them is certainly the heart of our work at the Pennsylvania Innocence Project. But since our founding we have worked to prevent wrongful convictions and improve our criminal justice system to respond to these grave injustices in meaningful ways. This year, we had our biggest impact yet: **Governor Wolf signed two bills into law that will dramatically improve the ability of the convicted innocent to seek redemption in court.**

Innocence Should Never Be Time-Barred

It's not enough to establish strong evidence of an individual's innocence. That evidence has to be presented to a court. In Pennsylvania, the statute that governs these petitions is the Post-Conviction Relief Act (PCRA). The PCRA is the only means by which a wrongly convicted person can hope to reverse their conviction and clear their name. And **of all state laws governing post-conviction innocence claims, Pennsylvania has been among the harshest.**

Hundreds of viable innocence claims have been turned away by Pennsylvania courts for being "time barred." That means that, no matter how convincing the evidence of innocence, if a convicted individual does not file a petition

within the law's time limits, courts don't have the power to hear the petition and must dismiss it – without even a hearing.

When Pennsylvania inmates gained access to information capable of proving their innocence, **they only had 60 days to file something** back in the court that convicted them. Sixty days. There was never a reason the time was so short; the legislature just created that deadline out of thin air in the late 1990s. The stories of injustices caused by this arbitrary deadline are legion: cases where actual perpetrators gave detailed confessions to the crime, or eyewitnesses who knew the true offender finally garnered the strength to come forward, even children finally able to confront the fact that they lied about their parents' abuse which never actually happened. In each case, inmates' petitions were dismissed without a hearing in court because they could not meet the 60 day filing deadline.

Pennsylvania Lagged Behind Most Other States in DNA Testing Statutes

DNA has been used to overturn hundreds of convictions nationwide – 13 of them here in Pennsylvania. Yet in significant ways, our laws denied convicted innocent

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people the ability to access the very evidence that could not only prove their innocence but identify the actual offender. For those who pleaded guilty or completed their sentences DNA testing was simply not possible. All that changed this year.

Nationwide over 90% of all criminal trials are resolved through guilty pleas. Last year, the National Registry of Exonerations recorded 139 exonerations in the United States; 36 of those individuals pleaded guilty at trial.

Despite this, **until this year Pennsylvania was one of five states that did not allow those who pleaded guilty to get DNA testing.**

Similarly, in 36 states post-conviction relief is not limited to those serving a sentence. For those convicted of crimes they never committed, the stigma of that conviction continues long after they leave prison walls. Limitations on employment, housing, economic opportunity, and restrictions imposed by having to register under Megan's Law cause lifelong difficulties. Pennsylvania law denied the opportunity for those who are innocent but had completed their sentences even to obtain DNA testing.

Pennsylvanians Have Pleaded Guilty to Crimes They Did Not Commit

William Kelly both confessed to a crime he did not commit and pleaded guilty to it.

Mr. Kelly was exonerated due to the hard work of then-Assistant District Attorney, now Judge, William Tully of Dauphin County. When Mr. Kelly was unjustly accused of committing a rape/murder then burying the victim's body in a landfill, he succumbed to police pressure and confessed to the crime. He even pleaded guilty to third-degree murder. Years later, another man – Joseph Miller – confessed to similar murders in the area. Assistant District Attorney Tully noted the location as the same where the victim from Mr. Kelly's case had been discovered. ADA Tully insisted the District Attorney pay for private DNA testing from that crime. When the DNA matched to Miller, ADA Tully went to court and asked that Mr. Kelly's conviction and sentence be vacated. William Kelly was freed in 1994 – three years into his 10-20 year sentence, and before Pennsylvania law prohibited those who pleaded guilty to obtain DNA testing.

Mr. Kelly is the only Pennsylvanian exonerated by DNA evidence after pleading guilty – testing that was only possible because the

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“ The 60-day requirement, established decades ago, ... created a hardship for too many individuals in possession of evidence that could aid in post-conviction relief. ”

~ Governor Wolf





“ The new one-year rule is fair & could make a positive difference in the lives of many incarcerated individuals. ”

~ Governor Wolf

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prosecutor initiated it. Other Pennsylvanians have been exonerated after pleading guilty, but no others were able to obtain DNA testing.

Changing those laws have been goals of the Project's since our founding. Through our own public education campaigns, we have worked to raise awareness of these injustices to support meaningful change by our state legislature.

New Laws in 2018!

Everything turned around in 2018. With tremendous support from our colleagues at The Innocence Project, based in New York, we were able to change those antiquated laws.

Working with the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association, we drafted laws that met mutual concerns for public safety and victim privacy and submitted them to the Legislature. With leadership in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from **Representative Joanna McClinton** and **Representative Tedd Nesbit** and in the

Senate from **Senator Stewart Greenleaf**, both chambers overwhelmingly passed critical legislation to improve access to courts for the convicted innocent. **Governor Tom Wolf signed those bills into law on October 24, 2018.**

- ◆ **Act 146** gives people more time to file a petition in court when new evidence of innocence is uncovered, and
- ◆ **Act 147** allows those who pleaded guilty or who have served their sentence to request DNA testing so they can get the evidence needed to secure their freedom. These victories mean huge change for Pennsylvania's convicted innocent.

We have many other battles to fight – compensation for the exonerated, recording suspect interrogations, better lineup procedures across Pennsylvania, to name a few. But this year, we celebrate.

Keep up with us ...

... we're just getting started! To help our policy and legislative work, go to [our website](http://ourwebsite) to learn about our comprehensive **#Act4Innocents** campaign.



2018 Exonerees: WHEN THE BARRIERS COME DOWN

In 2018, two more of our clients overcame barriers to freedom. Dontia Patterson and Letitia “Teri” Smallwood are free after serving a combined 52 years in prison and additional time under state supervision. Here are their stories.

Dontia Patterson

Dontia Patterson has always maintained that he did not shoot his friend Antwine Jackson outside a neighborhood grocery store. The Commonwealth never advanced any reason why Dontia would have killed Antwine. The store owner – who had known Dontia for years and who saw Antwine’s killer right before the shooting – consistently told police that Dontia was not the shooter. Nevertheless, **Dontia was convicted in 2007 of his friend’s murder based on testimony from “eyewitnesses” who saw the shooting from a block away and grainy store surveillance video.** Dontia’s trial attorney never called the store owner to testify. Based on this and other failings by his lawyer, the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office agreed in 2018 that Dontia deserved a new trial. A few months later, the Commonwealth dropped all charges against Dontia, filing an unprecedented motion, acknowledging that Dontia is “probably innocent” and recognizing that concealment from him of evidence pointing to the actual perpetrators was “an egregious example of police and prosecutorial misconduct.” **Dontia walked free before his 30th birthday and is now able to parent his 11-year old daughter in person** rather than over a recorded prison phone line. The Project represented Dontia with a remarkable team from Cozen O’Connor – Vince McGuinness, Hayes Hunt, Art Fritzinger, Calli Padilla, and Dylan Alper.



Letitia “Teri” Smallwood

In 1973, 20-year-old Teri Smallwood was convicted of arson and murder. In April 2015, her conviction was overturned when the Project, along with co-counsel Joshua Snyder of Boni Zack & Snyder, demonstrated that **the fire investigation leading to the arson determination was unreliable for multiple reasons**, including because the investigator failed to adequately investigate accidental causes. The Commonwealth appealed, arguing that Teri filed her petition based on new fire science developments too late. Unfortunately, the Superior Court agreed, even though it acknowledged that a jury likely would have decided the case differently if it heard the testimony of our fire investigation expert. After reporting on Teri’s case for many years, we are delighted to share that, in the spring of 2018, **the Commonwealth agreed to have Teri plead no-contest to lesser charges so that she can put her almost five-decade experience with the criminal justice system behind her.** Teri can now spend her remaining years at home with her family and try to obtain the kidney transplant she desperately needs.



Client Breakthroughs: JUSTICE IS WITHIN REACH

Overcoming barriers is a long and frustrating process. For too many of our clients, we see some gains and wins followed by heartbreaking setbacks. This year, **many of our clients inched a little closer to freedom.** These are five.

Rusty Brensinger

The Pennsylvania Innocence Project, with pro bono partners Howard Scher, of Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney PC, solo practitioner Mark Freeman, and John Powell, of Montgomery McCracken Walker and Rhoads LLP, has represented Rusty Brensinger in his quest for a new trial since 2015. **Scientific developments since Rusty's trial show that the murder for which he was convicted was most likely the result of a tragic accident; in other words, no crime even occurred.** Rusty's PCRA petition based on new scientific expert opinions was denied as untimely in 2017. Now, things are looking up. In the fall of 2018, a full panel of nine Superior Court judges heard argument about the important issues Rusty's case raises regarding when petitions based on new science should be filed, and we hope he will finally get a hearing in 2019 on the merits of his claims. Happily, **Rusty was released on parole in late March,** having maintained his innocence throughout the process, and is continuing to fight from home with the support of his family.



Larry "Trent" Roberts

Larry Trent Roberts was convicted of murdering his friend in Harrisburg, and has been incarcerated for that murder since 2006. As we reported last year, the Commonwealth appealed an order that granted Trent a new trial based on: the ineffective assistance of his trial counsel in failing to present alibi evidence showing Trent could not have committed the murder; the recantation of a key trial witness; and the suppression of exculpatory evidence. **In 2018, the Superior Court affirmed the order granting a new trial, and the Commonwealth decide not to pursue a further appeal. Trent is now in a pre-trial status!** Unfortunately, he remains incarcerated while the Commonwealth determines its next steps. We thank our pro bono partners Tom Schmidt of Pepper Hamilton and solo practitioner Tucker Hull for their continued advocacy on Trent's behalf.

Robert Outlaw

After Jamal Kelly was shot in Philadelphia in 2000, he identified "Shank" as the person who did it or who "set him up." Three years later, police arrested Robert Outlaw for Kelly's shooting based on statements implicating him given by Shank, the original suspect, and three other men. **Robert, who was 17 at the time of Kelly's shooting, was convicted of murder in 2004 even though all four Commonwealth witnesses recanted at his trial.** In 2018, Robert, represented by former Project intern Edward Foster of Alva & Shuttleworth, with support from the Project, had a two-day evidentiary hearing on his PCRA claims. One witness testified for the first time that she had seen Shank shoot Kelly; Robert also presented previously-suppressed exculpatory **evidence showing the police had investigated other leads and that a key witness believed he would receive benefits for his testimony.** We are awaiting a decision on these claims; if these claims are denied, Robert will still be entitled to re-sentencing as a "juvenile lifer." H. Robert Fiebach and Leigh Ann Benson of Cozen O'Connor represent Robert on that claim.

Montrell Oliver

Montrell Oliver was convicted of a robbery-murder that occurred when he was 17 years old. **Montrell has always maintained his innocence, but he is also entitled to re-sentencing under**

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Supreme Court decisions making mandatory life without parole sentences for juveniles unconstitutional. The Project represents Montrell in efforts to prove his innocence at the state level, the Federal Community Defender Office represents Montrell in federal proceedings, and Jessica Priselac and AJ Rudowitz of Duane Morris represent Montrell for his re-sentencing. We have worked as a team to help Montrell maintain his innocence through his sentencing proceedings, where acceptance of responsibility is usually required, and to ask the Conviction Integrity Unit at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office to review his innocence claims. Montrell's re-sentencing hearing is scheduled for January 2019.

Khalif McDuffy Anderson

Khalif McDuffy Anderson was convicted of killing his longtime friend, Kareem Johnson, even though Johnson said he did not know his attacker. We represent Khalif, along with solo practitioner Henry DiBenedetto Forrest, in his efforts to obtain a new trial based on the ineffective assistance of his trial counsel in failing to litigate issues going to Khalif's innocence, including the unreliability of the eyewitness identifications used at trial and the failure to investigate his alibi. **After three days of evidentiary hearings that took place over the course of a year, Khalif's claims are now ready for decision.** Even if Khalif does not succeed in his challenges to his conviction, he, like Montrell Oliver and Robert Outlaw, is a "juvenile lifer" who will be entitled to re-sentencing, as he was 17 at the time of Johnson's murder.

From Our PHILADELPHIA & PITTSBURGH OFFICES

2018 was another remarkable year for case work at the Pennsylvania Innocence Project.

As you've read, we had the privilege of ending Teri Smallwood's and Dontia Patterson's tortured journeys through the criminal justice system with their exonerations and, in Dontia's case, an unprecedented admission of misconduct by the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Rusty Brensinger home on parole as he continues his quest for freedom. In one of the highlights of 2018, we saw Dontia and Rusty, who became close friends during their incarceration at SCI Somerset, reunited outside the walls at Rusty's wedding in May! Moments like that make all of our work worthwhile.

In addition to continuing our work on the 20+ cases already in court as we began 2018, we also moved more cases forward to active investigation and representation than in any previous year in Project history.

We held a record eight meetings (six in Philadelphia and two in Pittsburgh) of our Case Review Committee, a rotating panel of attorneys with prosecution and/or criminal defense experience that must approve a case before the Project can take it on. Through those meetings, the Project received approval to investigate six cases, to file one motion for DNA testing, and to represent nine clients either in litigation or in requests that the Conviction Integrity Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office review their convictions. These cases come out of Allegheny, Beaver, Blair,

Centre, Dauphin, and Philadelphia counties – highlighting the Project's reach and our ability to seamlessly provide services to the convicted innocent throughout the entire Commonwealth through our eastern and western Pennsylvania offices.

In 2018, the Project also shepherded dozens of cases through our intensive, multi-stage review process; provided clinical training for law students, undergraduates, forensic science, and social work students from 18 schools; provided over 30 continuing legal education and volunteer training programs throughout the Commonwealth; and provided numerous training and education sessions on issues related to wrongful convictions to community members, students, and law enforcement personnel.

None of this could be accomplished without the support of our donors and pro bono partners who make our work possible. Your commitment and compassion mean so much to us and to our clients. We look forward to another banner year in 2019, when the Project will celebrate its 10th anniversary!



Nilam A. Sanghvi
Legal Director



Liz DeLosa
Managing Attorney,
Pittsburgh Office

Continuing Support: LIFE AFTER EXONERATION

Our lawyers forge strong bonds with our clients over the years it takes to obtain an exoneration, often becoming surrogate family members. When clients ask what our relationship with them will be like if we are fortunate enough to win their freedom – our reply is always, “don’t worry, you’re stuck with us!” In fact, providing structured and ongoing re-entry support services for our exonerated clients has long been a Pennsylvania Innocence Project goal – one that 2018 saw move closer to reality with the hiring of a staff social worker.

Margaret Mason, LCSW, joined the Project in September 2018 to assist with the re-entry process.

Margaret uses her Clinical Social Work skills to help exonerees and their families by providing emotional support and assisting them with their needs and goals. In 2018, she assisted in supervising the Project’s social work interns from the University of Pittsburgh and also set up an



MSW internship program for the Philadelphia office that will launch in the fall of 2019. Margaret also set other initiatives into motion, including the Transition to Innocence Exoneree Support Group. With the help of Project HOME and Carceral Communities, **this program, the first of its kind in the country**, will launch in March 2019. **Pennsylvania exonerees will have the opportunity to come together and support each other through the challenges and triumphs of their unique experiences.** Exoneree Shaurn Thomas, a trained peer facilitator, will lead the group, and Margaret will assist with any goals group members might have.

Here are just two stories showing the importance of re-entry services to our clients.

Jim Fogle, an exoneree from Indiana County, spent 34 years in prison for a rape and murder he did not commit. When Jim was arrested, he was just 30 years old; he had been married for just 3 months and had a 7-month-old son. In August 2015, the charges against him were dropped, and he claimed the title of Pennsylvania’s longest-serving exoneree. Jim now lives in Indiana, Pennsylvania, with his wife Deb and his beloved German Shepard Zoey. Pennsylvania Innocence Project staff members and interns have been able to connect Jim with an array of resources to help

him re-acclimate to society and live healthfully, such as doctors, prescription subsidies, and even a volunteer opportunity working at a local animal shelter. Jim has also been asked by a local senior center to teach painting workshops.

Lance Felder, a Philadelphia exoneree, was 18 when he was incarcerated for a murder he didn’t commit. He was in prison for 16 years. When he got out at age 34, he had never been an adult in the community. He moved in with his sister, but he did not have a state ID, a social security card, or any other documentation. Pennsylvania Innocence Project staff members

were able to help him with that. Getting this documentation allowed Lance to find a job at Flagger Force, but it was seasonal. After that, he began delivering packages for Amazon. When his brother, as well as his **co-defendant and fellow exoneree, Project client Eugene Gilyard**, both began to work at Humphrey’s Cover Sports, Lance found a job there so that they could all three work together. He currently works at Humphrey’s, delivering football field turf and other field covers. Lance met the love of his life after his incarceration and got married. The happy couple now lives in Mullica Hills, New Jersey, where they have a house with a swimming pool. Lance remains in close touch with the Project staff who helped secure his release. When asked how he feels about them, he says, “That’s my other family.”

Both Jim and Lance have also benefited from attending the **annual Innocence Network Conference, which gives exonerees across the country the opportunity to gather and support one another.**

The Pennsylvania Innocence Project looks forward to continuing its efforts to address the needs of exonerees as they re-enter the community and to providing support from trained social workers to clients during their litigation journeys.



Lance Felder, Donte Rollins, Marshall Hale, Kenneth Granger, and Gene Gilyard. Together, these men served over 100 years in prison for crimes they did not commit.

EDUCATIONAL *Institution Support*

A core part of our mission is to provide clinical training and experience to students in the fields of law, communications, criminal justice, and forensic science, as well as undergraduate programs. Being housed at Temple University through Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia and at Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh allows us to work with students on cases and all aspects of our work.

In 2018, we worked with interns and provided law clinics to students all over the Commonwealth and beyond. Their schools included:

- ◆ Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law
- ◆ Duquesne University
- ◆ Duquesne University School of Law
- ◆ Penn State Dickinson Law
- ◆ Rutgers Law School
- ◆ Temple University
- ◆ Temple University Beasley School of Law
- ◆ University of Arizona
- ◆ University of Miami
- ◆ University of Pennsylvania
- ◆ University of Pennsylvania Law School
- ◆ University of Pittsburgh – Greensburg
- ◆ University of Pittsburgh School of Law
- ◆ University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
- ◆ University of Toronto
- ◆ Villa Maria Academy
- ◆ Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law
- ◆ Widener Commonwealth Law

PRO BONO & CORPORATE *Partners*

As a tiny public interest law firm, we would never be able to do the work that we do, or have the impact that we have, without the steadfast support and partnership of lawyers all along the Commonwealth and beyond. **In every case we take to court, or to a DA's office, we are accompanied by extraordinary, dedicated lawyers who volunteer their time and resources to help free our clients.** For their tireless efforts, we are immensely grateful.

- ◆ Ballard Spahr LLP
- ◆ Barley Snyder LLP
- ◆ Blank Rome LLP
- ◆ Boni, Zack & Snyder LLC
- ◆ Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
- ◆ Capital Blue Cross
- ◆ Chamberlain Hrdlicka Attorneys at Law
- ◆ Chubb Limited
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- ◆ K&L Gates LLP
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- ◆ Lockheed Martin Corporation
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- ◆ Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP

PHILADELPHIA ANNUAL EVENT

May 2018

Celebrating 9 years of freeing the convicted innocent and celebrating the people who make it happen.



We proudly presented our Champion of Justice Award to Pennsylvania State Senator Stewart Greenleaf, for his tireless dedication to criminal justice reform in Pennsylvania. He's pictured with our Executive Director Marissa Boyers Bluestine.



Richard C. Glazer (*left*), who volunteered his time to get the Project on solid footing, received our Maureen Rowley Award. He's pictured with Project founder David Richman.



Our Board President Howard Scher with his wife Linda.



The recipients of our Edward Ohlbaum Volunteer Award were (*from left*) John Summers, Maureen Smith Lawrence, & Dina Hardy Grove.



We were proud to recognize three of our exonerees (*from left*): Lance Felder, Gene Gilyard, & Donte Rollins. Lance's story is on page 10.

PITTSBURGH ANNUAL EVENT

October 2018

We were thrilled to note the 2nd year of operations for our Pittsburgh office. Once again, PNC welcomed us with their trademark hospitality and generous support.



Thanks to everyone who attended our events & supports us throughout the year!



Among our attendees was Jim Fogle (*wearing hat*), who we helped exonerate in 2015. Jim's story is on page 10.



Liz DeLosa (*middle*), managing attorney in our Pittsburgh office.



We are grateful for all of our board members, including Ann C. Flannery (*right*).



We were proud to host our client Greg Brown & his mom.

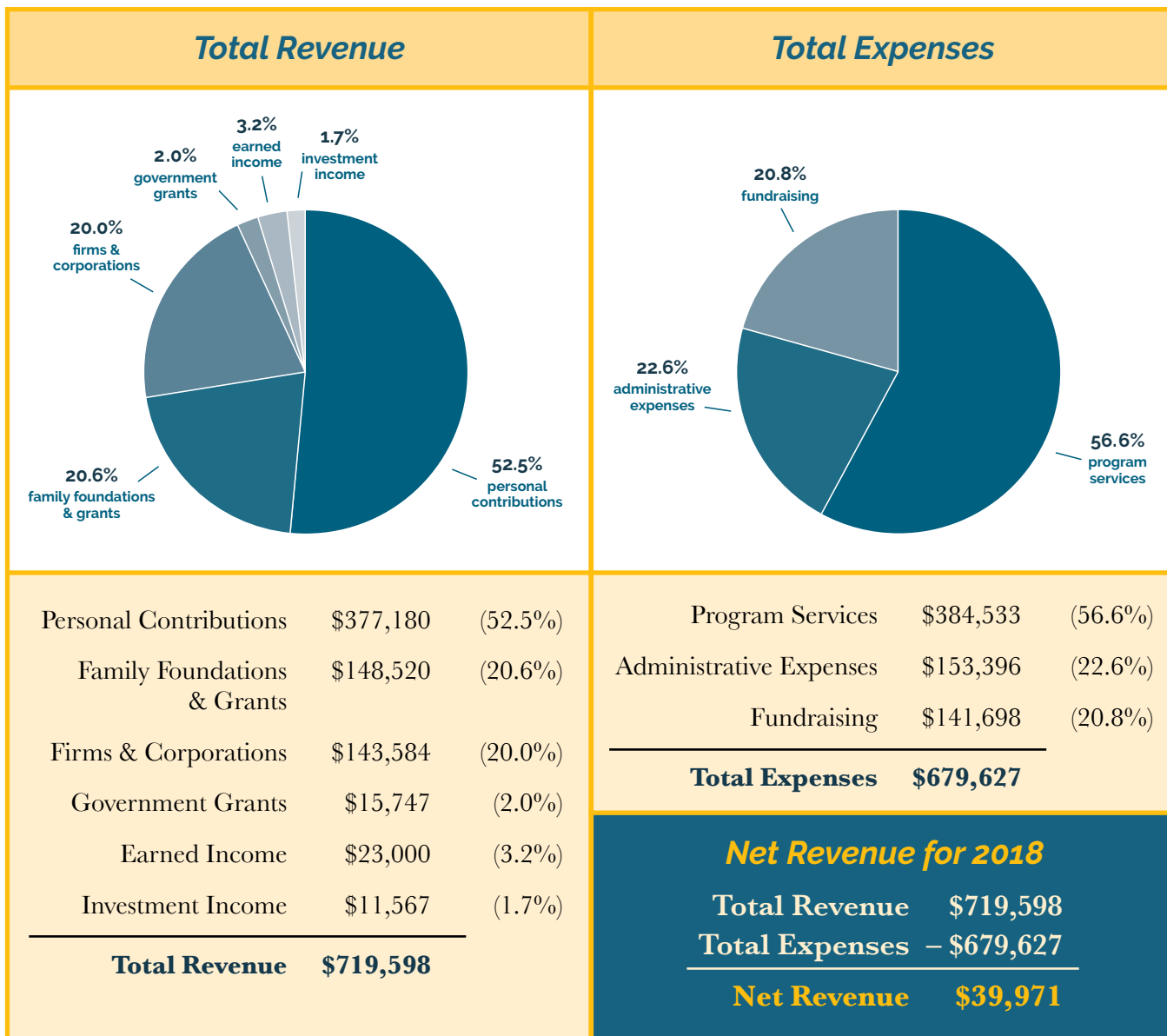


Our annual events provide a wonderful opportunity for our clients, their families, & supporters to reconnect.



Our guests included Judge Timothy Lewis, Samuel W. Silver, & Paul Titus.

Our 2018 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



For greater detail, you are welcome to review our 990 on Guidestar.org.

A Worthwhile Investment

- \$50** Helps the PA Innocence Project collect critical legal documents of an incarcerated inmate
- \$100** Covers travel costs to see a client or witness in prison
- \$250** Sends an investigator to interview one witness
- \$750** Funds initial expert review in preparation for litigation
- \$1500** Provides for critical testing of one item for DNA to compare to our client

Thanks to all of OUR 2018 DONORS!

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