

INTRODUCING THE RECIPIENTS

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AWARDS **2014** 

CALIFORNIA WESTERN
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California Innocence Project, San Diego, CA

The California Innocence Project (CIP) is a law school clinic at California Western School of Law dedicated to freeing the innocent, training law students, and changing laws and policies in the state of California. The California Innocence Project reviews and investigates more than 1500 requests for assistance each year and represents between forty and fifty clients a year who have been wrongfully convicted and are currently incarcerated.

Over the course of 2014, students worked approximately 7,280 hours culminating in the release of two wrongfully convicted prisoners. After serving eight years for a sexual assault he didn't commit, one client was freed from prison in May 2014 through the help of the California Innocence Project. Another, Michael Hanline, was released after spending 36 years of wrongful incarceration, the longest-serving innocent person in California's history. In addition, the CIP cosponsored legislation, SB 980, which will provide convicted prisoners with improved access to DNA testing. The bill became law in September 2014.