

## *Sentencing Reform & Advocacy*

**Illinois Prison Project** works for a more sensible and humane prison system in Illinois by advocating for and on behalf of thousands of people who are needlessly incarcerated. We provide direct representation to elderly people, disabled and infirm people, and people who have been rehabilitated after substantial periods of incarceration. We work directly with public officials to develop policies and mechanisms to reduce Illinois' bloated prison system. We work alongside currently and formerly incarcerated people to educate the public about the high cost of Illinois' prison system, the broken sentencing laws and policies that have led us here, and the many paths for criminal justice reform.

<https://www.illinoisprisonproject.org/>

**Parole Illinois** is a coalition of people inside and outside of prison who are working toward a more just and humane legal system. We believe in the power of redemption and transformation; and that it is inhumane to order people to spend decades in prison until they die there without any periodic assessment of whether such sentences are necessary for public safety. We therefore stand against policies that sentence people to death by incarceration, whether that be life-without-parole or excruciatingly long sentences that people cannot outlive. We are building a grassroots movement and working with legislators to promote parole legislation that is inclusive and that prioritizes rehabilitation and return to full citizenship. We seek to mobilize people behind the wall as well as activists and loved ones of incarcerated individuals to fight for a fair and inclusive system of discretionary release and, more broadly, for a more just and humane legal system.

<https://paroleillinois.org/>

**Restore Justice** advocates for fairness, humanity, and compassion throughout the Illinois criminal justice system, with a primary focus on those affected by extreme sentences imposed on our youth. Restore Justice creates and supports policies that allow those who are rehabilitated to go home, and that ensure those incarcerated, their families, and victim families have opportunities for healing and justice. They engage currently and formerly incarcerated individuals and their families, victims and their families, communities, and concerned Illinoisans in advocacy and service within the criminal justice system. Restore Justice supports policies that would eliminate or reduce mandatory minimums, roll back firearm enhancements, and otherwise change the laws that rigidly increase sentence lengths or restrict judges from applying appropriate sentences.

<https://restorejustice.org/about-us/>

**Illinois Justice Project** is a continuation of the Justice and Violence Group at Metropolis Strategies and engages in criminal justice reform efforts that promote policies that will make our communities safer and reduce recidivism among youths and adults. Established in 2014 as a legacy project of Metropolis Strategies, the non-profit ILJP is a supporting organization of the Chicago Community Trust and an affiliate of The Commercial Club of Chicago.

<https://www.iljp.org/about>

## *Legal Aid*

**Northwestern Law Center on Wrongful Convictions (1989):** When the Center on Wrongful Convictions (CWC) launched in April 1999, wrongful convictions were viewed as anomalies — rare exceptions to an otherwise well-oiled criminal justice machine. We know now, however, that prisons and death rows around the country are populated by countless individuals who have been wrongly convicted: innocent people doing someone else's time. The Center on Wrongful Convictions is dedicated to identifying and rectifying wrongful convictions and other serious miscarriages of justice. The CWC's work focuses primarily on three areas: representation, education, reform.

<http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/wrongfulconvictions/aboutus/http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/wrongfulconvictions/aboutus/>

**Exoneration Project:** The criminal justice system is not perfect. Innocent people are sometimes convicted of crimes they did not commit. When that occurs, the consequences for the lives of the wrongfully convicted and their families are truly devastating. By investigating and petitioning courts to reverse wrongful convictions, our Exoneration Project is dedicated to restoring justice.

<https://www.exonerationproject.org/about-us/>

**The Illinois Innocence Project's** three-pronged mission guides our work to bring justice to the wrongfully convicted. Advocacy: We evaluate and investigate cases for credible claims of an Illinois inmate's innocence, and, when appropriate, provide legal representation and/or other assistance toward proving innocence. Education: We provide education about wrongful convictions and important educational and experiential opportunities for undergraduate students at UIS and law students around the state. Reform: We work to enact meaningful reforms to the Illinois criminal justice system to protect innocent people from wrongful conviction.

<https://www.uis.edu/illinoisinnocenceproject/>