



## CAMPAIGN TO EXONERATE WRONGFULLY CONVICTED OREGONIANS STRENGTHENED BY NEW GLOBAL CONNECTION

September 3, 2015

PORTLAND, Ore. – Oregon Innocence Project is delighted to announce it has been approved for membership in the Innocence Network, an international group of 70 organizations dedicated to helping people prove their innocence of the crimes of which they have been convicted. The Network held its conference in Portland in the spring of 2014.

Oregon Innocence Project was founded in April 2014 and is a project of the Oregon Justice Resource Center. Oregon Innocence Project is the only program within Oregon whose sole mission is to actively track inmates' claims of actual innocence, investigate those claims, test DNA and other scientific evidence, and litigate when appropriate. Oregon Innocence Project also educates and trains law students and promotes legal reforms aimed at preventing wrongful convictions.

The new affiliation in the Innocence Network will allow Oregon Innocence Project to exchange ideas and experience with other Network members. It also provides recognition of Oregon Innocence Project's work in its first year of existence advocating for those who may be wrongfully incarcerated for crimes they did not commit. In general, formal membership in the Network is limited to organizations dedicated to providing legal and/or investigative services free of charge to individuals seeking to prove their innocence of crimes of which they have been convicted. Eligibility for membership also depends on complete compliance with the Innocence Network Ethics and Best Practices Guide.

Oregon Justice Resource Center Executive Director, Bobbin Singh, says this is a great opportunity:

“Joining the Innocence Network is an important moment for Oregon Innocence Project. While the Oregon Justice Resource Center and Oregon Innocence Project are an independent nonprofit, membership in the Network will strengthen our work on behalf of those Oregonians who are currently incarcerated despite their innocence. We look forward to working with our sister projects across the US and beyond.”

The Director of the Innocence Network Support Unit, Meredith Kennedy, welcomes Oregon Innocence Project as the Network’s newest member:

“We’re excited to have Oregon Innocence Project join us to benefit like all our members from sharing knowledge and expertise as well as information about cases. By working together, we can do more to help clients overturn wrongful convictions.”

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**For more information or to arrange interviews, contact Alice Lundell, Director of Communication, Oregon Justice Resource Center/Oregon Innocence Project at 503-563-3356 or [alice@ojrc.org](mailto:alice@ojrc.org).**