

# Innocence Project Northwest Clinic

Jacqueline McMurtrie, Associate Professor of Law  
Director, Innocence Project Northwest Clinic



## Type of Work

The IPNW Clinic provides free legal assistance to convicted prisoners whose:

- Innocence can be demonstrated through DNA testing or other newly discovered evidence;
- Direct appeal is finalized, and the case is on collateral attack;
- Cases are in Washington State Superior Courts, Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court.

The IPNW does not take cases of:

- Prisoners who have had any level of involvement with the crime—this eliminates self-defense or accidental death cases;
- Where the inmate is seeking a reduction of his sentence.

## Clinic Numbers

Quarters Offered:	Full year (Autumn, Winter and Spring)
Students:	13 in Autumn & Winter; 11 in Spring
Advanced Clinic Students:	3 Autumn; 1 Winter

## Staffing

Jackie McMurtrie, Associate Professor, Director

Joseph Adamson, Weil Deferred Associate Staff Attorney

Kelly Canary, Staff Attorney

Lara Zarowsky, Policy Staff Attorney

## Notable Accomplishments

- Clinic students were successful in obtaining two orders for post-conviction DNA testing in Spokane and Snohomish counties.
- The Court of Appeals, Division 3, set oral argument for September 2011, in a case briefed by clinic students.
- Staff Attorney Kelly Canary conducted an ISRB hearing and co-counseled an evidentiary hearing with volunteer attorney Anna Tolin.
- Policy Staff Attorney Lara Zarowsky joined the IPNW in the fall of 2010. She drafted a bill that would establish a wrongful conviction compensation statute in Washington State. IPNW clients Ted Bradford, Larry Davis and Alan Northrop were invited to testify. Several students also testified in support of the bill. The bill passed easily out of the policy committee, but it was not voted out of the fiscal committee.
- On June 10, 2011, at the 2011 Washington Association of Criminal Defense Attorney's (WACDL) Annual Conference, the Innocence Project Northwest Clinic received The Champion of Justice Award for its work to free wrongly convicted individuals in Washington State. The Champion of Justice Award recognizes an individual or group that has staunchly preserved or defended the constitutional rights of Washington residents and endeavored to ensure justice and due process for those accused of crimes. Kelly Canary, Joe Adamson, and Jackie McMurtrie attended the conference to accept the award, which was presented by IPNW exoneree Ted Bradford.



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## Faculty and Staff Update

Clinic Director Jackie McMurtrie:

- Has an article, *The Criminal Justice System's Disparate Treatment of Individuals with FASD in Cases Involving Sexual Activity*, forthcoming in the *J. Psychiatry & Law*.
- Published *Swirls and Whorls: Litigating Post-Conviction Claims of Fingerprint Misidentification after the NAS Report*, 2010 *Utah L. Rev.* 267-97, available at : <http://epubs.utah.edu/index.php/ulr/article/view/419/317>
- Served as Vice-Chair of the Washington State Bar Association Council on Public Defense.
- Served as a panelist at the following conferences:
  - *Innocence Project NW, WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Chelan, WA, June 2011).*
  - *Pro Bono Representation in Criminal Conviction Cases, UNAM-UWLS SYMPOSIUM ON PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES (Seattle, WA, May 2011).*
  - *The Wrath of Math: Using the NAS Report to Challenge Imprint Evidence, WASHINGTON DEFENDER ASSOCIATION 2011 DEFENDER CONFERENCE (Winthrop, WA, April 2011).*
  - *New Washington Supreme Court Rule on Compliance With Standards - How Will It Affect Your Practice and Help Your Clients?, SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, DEFENDER INITIATIVE CONFERENCE (Seattle, WA, Feb. 2011).*
- *Exoneree Panel Discussion, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF LAW, JUSTICE FOR WASHINGTON'S WRONGLY CONVICTED? (Seattle, WA, Oct. 2010).*
- *Fingerprints and Toolmark Evidence, WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, CHALLENGING BAD SCIENCE: PUTTING THE NAS REPORT TO WORK, (Seattle, WA, Oct. 2010).*
- *How Public Defenders Should Meet Their Ethical Obligations in a Time of Budget Crisis, WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION, 17TH ANNUAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE (Seattle, WA, Sep. 2010).*

