



Innocence Project London – trustee vacancies

About: Innocence Project London (IPL)

The Innocence Project London (IPL) was established in 2010 and became a registered charity in 2020. Law and criminology students at the University of Greenwich work in small groups alongside a practising lawyer, to review and investigate cases of convicted individuals who have maintained their innocence but have exhausted the criminal appeals process.

In January 2016, the IPL became a member of the Innocence Network, an affiliation of 9 innocence organisations from several different countries, all of which offer pro-bono legal and investigative services to convicted individuals who have maintained their innocence.

The majority of clients that apply to the IPL, are situated in prisons in England and Wales, and will have already appealed their conviction or sentence. Therefore, the aim of our work is to submit an application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC). The CCRC is an independent body that reviews possible miscarriages of justice in the United Kingdom. They have the ability to decide whether a conviction or sentence should be referred back to the Court of Appeal. The CCRC will only refer a case back to the Court of Appeal if they find a new piece of evidence or a new legal argument that was not put forward at the time of the trial, which would render the conviction unsafe in the context that it would have changed the decision of the jury had they had been aware of it.

Students working on the IPL learn through the “innocence project model” of clinical legal education which developed in the US, where the first innocence project was founded in 1992. They analyse the evidence that led to conviction, develop legal theories that could reopen the case, and search for factual evidence of innocence. Both law and criminology students can apply to work on the IPL as volunteers or for criminology students they can apply as part of a credit bearing module.

The Innocence Project London does not provide legal advice, if you require legal advice please consult a qualified solicitor or barrister.

Innocence Project® is the registered trademark of Innocence Project Inc. and is used under license.

Opportunities: trustee vacancies

The IPL is looking to recruit several board members to assist with its ambitious growth plans. The IPL is run by Director, Dr Louise Hewitt, who also lectures at the University of Greenwich. The charity currently consists of a small team of ad-hoc interns and volunteers, with the objective of growing this into a body of executives in due course. The successful Trustees will play a key role in working with the Directors to build the charity's awareness and scale the appropriate infrastructure. We are seeking board members, from all backgrounds and walks of life, who have demonstrable competence, a proven track record and are passionate about tackling and preventing future miscarriages of justice, and reforming the criminal justice system, with skills in the following areas:

- Fundraising
- Commercial (business planning/growth)
- Legal
- Accountancy
- HR

In addition, we welcome candidates with empathy, energy, intellectual rigour and a grounded real-world perspective and a willingness to engage in tactical activities which will be essential to achieve scale. Previous board experience would be ideal but not necessary.

Time commitment

The IPL has been around for more than ten years. However, it was only in 2020 that it received charitable status with the Charity Commission. Therefore, in this 'start-up' phase, it is intended for trustees to attend a two-hour meeting every two months. Once the charity has established and started to progress its growth plans, we envisage board meetings will be held on a quarterly basis, with several sub-committees (finance, nominations, risk etc.) to be established.

All meetings for the foreseeable future will be conducted via Zoom/Teams.



Support for trustees

In addition to help shaping the future direction of the UK's first Innocence Network member, trustees will be offered numerous ways to enhance their knowledge of the miscarriages of justice, and the work IPL carries out such as:

- Invitation to the IPL's annual Miscarriages of Justice Symposium
- Opportunities to attend IPL workshops and discussions with students working on lives cases
- Opportunities for training from pro bono law firm supporters

Further information

Applicants can find out more information here:

- [Innocence Project London website](#)
- [Innocence Project London blog](#)
- [Innocence Project London podcast](#)

For further information, please contact Louise.Hewitt@greenwich.ac.uk

How to apply

Please send your CV and a cover letter of no more than 300 words, setting out your passion for supporting the IPL to Louise.Hewitt@greenwich.ac.uk

Please submit your application by no later than Wednesday 30 June.