Fall Newsletter
MONTANA INNOCENCE PROJECT
Students with the University of Montana's School of Business and School of Social Work conducted surveys and interviews at the Montana Women's Prison on October 12 aimed at identifying barriers to accessing MTIP's legal resources and other information from our organization. Nearly 20 people incarcerated at MWP completed surveys and attended the circle-discussion with the students.

The students are currently analyzing the data from the surveys and will make recommendations to MTIP on steps for addressing access barriers. We look forward to reviewing the results and enhancing our communication with those at MWP who wish to apply for legal representation or want to learn more about MTIP and its advocacy work.
MTIP will submit an Opening Appellate Brief regarding the denial of Kelly Worthan's Post-Conviction Relief Petition and Motion for New Trial on November 1. Kelly was wrongfully convicted of Sexual Intercourse Without Consent, Incest, and Tampering With a Witness.

Kelly is a father and a veteran. He loves to crochet and listen to modern blues and alternative rock music! [Click here](#) to learn more about Kelly and his case.

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Aaron Oliphant
On November 20, MTIP will submit a Reply Brief to the State of Montana's Response regarding our appeal to the Montana Supreme Court of the denial of Aaron Oliphant's Post-Conviction Relief Petition. Aaron was wrongfully convicted of aggravated assault based on the highly controversial hypothesis of Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma, and he received ineffective assistance of counsel.

Aaron is a father, a wild land firefighter, and a video gamer! Click here to learn more about Aaron and his case.

Bernard Pease Jr.

Bernard Pease Jr. will have a Parole Hearing on November 29. Bernard has been wrongfully incarcerated for nearly 40 years for a murder he did not commit. Microscopic hair analysis, which was disqualified as scientifically valid in 2015, contributed to his wrongful conviction.
Bernard is an artist specializing in beadwork and a beloved brother and cousin! Click here to learn more about Bernard and his case.

**Katie Garding**

The Montana Board of Pardons and Parole denied Katie Garding Petition for Executive Clemency. The Board justified its decision by stating Katie had not exhausted all other remedies, citing her pending Writ of Habeas Corpus. The final decision rests with the governor. MTIP sent a letter to Gov. Gianforte explaining the error in denying Katie’s Petition on these grounds, as the statute does not require Katie to exhaust all remedies to be granted clemency. Katie was wrongfully convicted of Vehicular Homicide based on false, incentivized testimony and ineffective assistance of counsel.

Katie is a mother, an artist specializing in sketching, and an animal lover! Click here to learn more about Katie and her case
MTIP to release podcast on freed client Dave Wilkes case

MTIP will release a multi-episode podcast series detailing the case of our freed client Dave Wilkes. Dave was wrongfully convicted of killing his infant son Gabrielle based on the highly controversial hypothesis of Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma. Dave had in-depth, emotional conversations with us about his case and what matters most to him: sharing Gabe’s story. The podcast will be available on all listening platforms December 16!
Shop MTIP merch!

In case you missed it, the MTIP merchandise store opened last month. You can shop "The State of Montana Convicts Innocent People" t-shirts and MTIP logo mugs and stickers.

Click here to visit the store!