

Court TV, A&E, Discovery Channel Focus Attention on Innocence Project

The Wisconsin Innocence Project, based at the UW Law School, continues to receive national attention for its outstanding work investigating and overturning wrongful convictions.

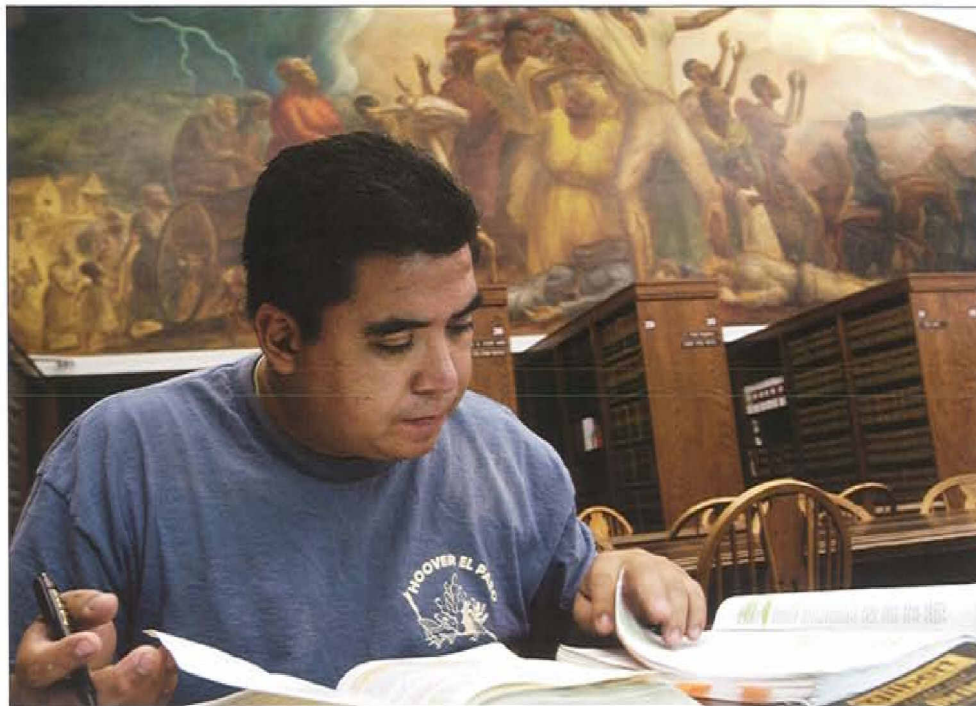
The Innocence Project has been the subject of news articles throughout the country and has been featured in a wide variety of magazines. National television has also been following the Innocence Project's successes, and three Innocence Project cases will be the subject of upcoming national television programs.

Court TV is completing a 60-minute documentary on the Innocence Project's exoneration of Steven Avery as part of its series called *Stories of the Innocence Project*. Avery, who spent 18 years in a Wisconsin prison for a rape and attempted murder he did not commit, was released after the Innocence Project obtained a court order requiring evidence from the 1985 case to be reexamined using newer, more powerful DNA tests. The DNA results conclusively excluded Avery and identified the true perpetrator of the crime, who is currently serving a 60-year sentence for sexual assaults he committed after the 1985 attack.

The A&E network has produced a special two-hour episode of *American Justice* covering the Evan

Zimmerman case, in which the Wisconsin Innocence Project represented ex-policeman Zimmerman on appeal and got his murder conviction reversed. The documentary

Law School, was exonerated of a wrongful conviction for rape and murder in Texas after DNA tests showed that he was not linked to the crime. The *Guilty or Innocent?*



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The Chris Ochoa case will be the subject of a dramatization on the Discovery Channel's television program *Guilty or Innocent?* Ochoa, now a UW law student, was exonerated in 2001 with the help of the Innocence Project.

picks up after the reversal, which was based on ineffective legal representation, and follows the case as it went to retrial with Innocence Project assistance, leading to dismissal of all charges by the prosecutor after five days of a scheduled two-week trial.

Both the Zimmerman case and the 2001 case of Christopher Ochoa, the Innocence Project's first exoneration, will be the subjects of dramatizations being produced for the Discovery Channel's television program *Guilty or Innocent?* Ochoa, currently a third-year student at the

dramatizations will each tell the story of the convictions and will highlight the work of the Innocence Project to obtain reversals.

For dates and times of these programs, check your local listings.

The Wisconsin Innocence Project, which was founded in 1998 by clinical professors Keith Findley and John Pray of the Remington Center, investigates claims of innocence by convicts in state and federal prisons, mostly in Wisconsin. At any given time, approximately 20 law students are enrolled in the clinical program.