

## Innocence Project Seeks Alumni Volunteers Throughout U.S.

The Wisconsin Innocence Project at the UW Law School is recruiting alumni volunteers throughout the country to interview witnesses in cases in which innocent persons have been convicted and are serving long prison terms.

The Innocence Project's plan is to compile a list of alumni willing, on an as-needed basis, to interview witnesses after extensive briefings about the case from Innocence Project lawyers and law students. Law School alumnus Victor Temkin '60 of Los Angeles, California, is coordinating the project. Alumni interested in volunteering should contact Temkin directly at [victemkin@adelphia.net](mailto:victemkin@adelphia.net). While the witness interviews would entail intensive preparation, it is unlikely that an individual would be called on with any frequency.

According to Professor Frank Tuerkheimer, who is working with Temkin on the new project, "As is true of most litigation, facts are as

important as legal issues—if not more important. In many innocence investigations, witnesses have to be interviewed in order to perfect motions that lead to exoneration and, often, release from long prison terms. However, it is financially and logistically difficult for the Law School to conduct interviews when the witnesses, many of whom testified years if not decades earlier, no longer live within easy access to the law students working on the cases."

In time, the new project may be coordinated with innocence programs at other law schools, forming a nationwide network of assistance. If coordinated, an innocence project anywhere in the country in need of an interviewer would be able find one through the project and Temkin.

"This project seems an ideal continuation of the Law in Action concept that underlies so much of what the UW Law School is about," comments Tuerkheimer. "Hopefully this working combination of law

students and alumni will have great success; the Law School thanks the alumni in advance for their important contribution."

*(Katrina continued from page 1.)*

As a result, seven students who were displaced from Tulane and Loyola became part of the UW Law School community.

The Student Bar Association (SBA) also assisted in the effort. The SBA solicited cash donations for hurricane relief and set into motion a multi-organizational fundraising week to benefit families who relocated to the Madison area. Law School students donated books to displaced students who arrived throughout the first two weeks of September and offered support through a discussion session held during a weekday morning. As part of the "Donuts and Faculty" program, two second-year law students shared their experiences of returning to the Gulf Coast area to help with rescue efforts, and visiting students shared their stories of evacuating in the aftermath of the storm.

The university offered help with housing information for all newcomers and compiled information on campuswide relief efforts, including where to send donated school supplies, where to give blood, and updates on fundraisers held throughout the campus. The university also waived tuition for displaced students attending class at UW-Madison, a plan approved by the state legislature.



JEFF MILLER, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Professors John Pray (L) and Keith Findley co-direct the Wisconsin Innocence Project, which is recruiting alumni volunteers.