

**Servant Leadership Summer Internship Placement Site
Job Description Information Sheet
Summer 2023**

Organization Name: Georgia Innocence Project

Address: 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 350; Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: 404-373-4433

Web site: georgiainnocenceproject.org

Internship Supervisor: Mike Coszalter (Admin Supervisor) / Meagan Hurley (Subject Matter Supervisor)

Supervisor's contact information including e-mail:
mike@georgiainnocenceproject.org

Organization's Mission Statement: Georgia Innocence Project (GIP) is an independent nonprofit organization that works to correct and prevent wrongful convictions in Georgia. Our mission is to: Free the imprisoned innocent using DNA testing and other methods; Advance practices that minimize the chances of others suffering this fate; Educate the public about the problem of wrongful convictions; and Connect the exonerated with resources to help rebuild their lives.

Summary of organization's primary programs and services:

Collaborating with a network of pro bono lawyers, volunteers, and students, GIP attorneys and staff conduct investigations into criminal convictions where modern DNA testing was not available at the time of trial, or where there is other newly available evidence. In cases where there is a compelling claim of actual innocence, GIP litigates to secure the release of the person who was wrongfully convicted. We do not charge for our services. GIP helps prevent future wrongful convictions by raising awareness through educational initiatives, such as the Annual Wrongful Conviction Day, and by advocating for policy and legislative reform. By remedying the causes of wrongful conviction, the criminal legal system is improved for everyone. GIP also works with our freed clients to connect them with resources to reintegrate into society and to create a supportive community. Exonerees and

those who have been freed from wrongful imprisonment are our inspiration.

Intern's title: Accountability Research Intern

Number of interns requested: 1

Internship project/job description (please include a virtual/socially distanced option if possible):

So many of the people exonerated by Georgia Innocence Project were wrongfully convicted as a result of official misconduct, which is one of the most common factors that lead to wrongful conviction. This misconduct appears in many forms, from coercive interrogation tactics, to lying under oath, to mishandling evidence or failing to disclose exculpatory evidence - to name a few. Even after our clients are exonerated, rarely is there sufficient accountability for these officials. With this in mind, GIP works to identify and correct wrongful convictions where official misconduct is involved, as well as to advocate for reform and policy change that can prevent issues of official misconduct from happening in the future. Georgia Innocence Project is looking to hire an intern to work with GIP's Accountability Counsel to track and digest information related to official misconduct nationally and in Georgia wrongful conviction cases. This intern would assist GIP in collecting and summarizing official misconduct data and studying patterns and trends across cases to strategize about community education initiatives, policy reforms, and litigation tactics.

Qualifications:

This position is designed for any student who would like to learn more and gain experience in the fields of innocence work, government and official misconduct and accountability, and criminal legal reform.

Students do not have to be experienced in these fields already, although we encourage individuals who are skilled in research and writing, and who display a strong attention to detail. As of now, this position can be conducted in-person and/or virtually, so the intern would need a personal laptop/computer with internet access and the ability to make phone calls as part of this research project.

Are there other requirements for this position (security check, drug screen, immunizations, etc.)? If yes, please note them here:

N/A

Will the internship require that the student have a car?

No

Is placement site accessible by public transit or other transportation options?

Yes, our office is located in downtown Atlanta convenient to MARTA.