

TMSL INNOCENCE PROJECT

Because truth matters...

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Innocence Project (TMSLIP) is operated under the auspices of the Earl Carl Institute Center for Criminal Justice. The Innocence Project at Thurgood School of Law (TMSLIP) was created in June of 2007. In March of 2009, the Innocence Project began operating under the Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc. The Project promotes student development by employing a full time supervising attorney as well as numerous law student investigators who review claims of actual innocence. Like most statistics associated with our criminal justice system the problem of wrongful conviction impacts the African American community more than any other. The reflection of disparate impact on the African American community is caught in Texas' DNA exonerations; of the first 45 persons found to be wrongfully convicted based on DNA tests more than 80 % are African American.

Our program only investigates claims of actual innocence. That is, we only take cases where there was either: no offense; or there was an offense and they convicted the wrong person, and, cases where new evidence potentially exists that was not presented in the original trial and that would exonerate the convicted person. We also do not accept cases that are on direct appeal.

Inmates or friends and relatives of inmates may make a formal request for assistance by completing a TPIQ (Texas Prisoner Innocence Questionnaire) which can be found in prison libraries or on our website (www.earlcarlinstitute.org) and mailing it to the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Innocence Project, Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc., 3100 Cleburne St., Houston, Texas 77004.

TMSLIP currently has more than 1300 requests for service so there may be an extended period before we can begin investigating a new case. **For more information, please call 713.313.1161.**

Because Truth Matters



Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Innocence Project



JUVENILE JUSTICE PROJECT
EARL CARL INSTITUTE



Free Legal Services



EARL CARL INSTITUTE FOR
LEGAL AND SOCIAL
POLICY, INC.



THURGOOD MARSHALL
SCHOOL OF LAW

3100 Cleburne St.
Houston, TX 77004

Phone: (713) 313-1139

Fax: (713) 313-1153

www.earlcarlinstitute.org



The Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc. at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law seeks to identify, address, and offer solutions to issues that affect traditionally urban and disenfranchised communities. The Institute was established in 1992 and is a nonprofit corporation exempt from taxation under §501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Institute was named in honor of Professor Earl Carl, a founding faculty member of the Law School. Professor Carl, blind from an early age, graduated from Fisk University before earning his law degree from Yale University Law School. A symbol of personal triumph over misfortune, Professor Carl is a reminder that we are limited by only the barriers we choose not to overcome.

The Earl Carl Institute currently operates three legal services projects:

- ◇ **Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation and Foreclosure Defense Project (OMLPPP)**
- ◇ **Thurgood Marshall School of Law Innocence Project (TMSLIP)**
- ◇ **ECI Juvenile Justice Disproportionate Minority Contact Project (JJP)**

Our geographic service area is generally Harris County and its contiguous counties (Brazoria, Galveston, Chambers, Liberty, Montgomery, Fort Bend, & Waller).

To apply for any of our services, please call our offices Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at 713.313.1139.

OPAL MITCHEL LEE PROPERTY PRESERVATION PROJECT

Helping minority communities obtain or maintain wealth...

The **Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project (OPLPP/OML)** is funded through a grant from Texas Access to Justice Foundation. The OMLPPP addresses the legal challenges lower income people face in maintaining their real property and enhancing their wealth.

The program was named after Ms. Opal Mitchell Lee, whose family acquired more than one hundred acres of mineral land in East Texas after the death of her great grandfather. Over the years many of her relatives died intestate, leaving title to the land fractured among numerous heirs. As a result of being unable to locate all heirs to share in payment of tax liens, the property was lost in a tax foreclosure sale. The legal issues surrounding Ms. Lee's loss are widespread within many disenfranchised communities and it is our goal to help reduce property loss of this and other types.

THIS PROJECT SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ◇ actions involving probate, will preparation and estate planning
- ◇ adverse possession
- ◇ clearing title to property and Partitions
- ◇ mortgage, homeowner association and tax foreclosure defense
- ◇ property tax exemptions
- ◇ formation of nonprofit corporations that assists with community development and
- ◇ consumer credit card debt issues.

This program has income qualifications of 125% of poverty. To apply by telephone call 713-313-1159.

ECI JUVENILE JUSTICE PROJECT

Helping children today to have a better future tomorrow...

ECI Juvenile Justice Project - has operated since 2009 with financial support from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and grants from the Litigation Section from the State Bar of Texas, Texas Bar Foundation and the Houston Endowment. The Earl Carl Institute's Juvenile Justice Project addresses the issue of disproportionate minority contact (DMC), through a holistic approach, by providing legal representation to children who are in multiple systems including the criminal justice system, disparate educational systems, the mental health system and foster care system.

OUR FREE SERVICES INCLUDE:

School Disciplinary/Special Education Hearings

- ◇ **Sealing of Criminal Records**
- ◇ **Direct Legal Representation in School Disciplinary Actions & Special Education**
- ◇ **Direct representation in the juvenile delinquency, foster care, and mental health care systems**

Our Representation Includes:

- ◇ Legal Advice & Consultation
- ◇ Review of Student Records
- ◇ Meeting with Parents
- ◇ Negotiating with the School District & Prosecutors
- ◇ In-Court Representation

This program has **NO** income qualifications. To apply by telephone call 713-313-1130.