

INNOCENCE & JUSTICE LOUISIANA

Formerly Innocence Project New Orleans



25 YEARS OF COMING HOME

2026 Annual Gala Sponsorship Opportunities

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Xavier University | New Orleans, Louisiana



ABOUT INNOCENCE & JUSTICE LOUISIANA

Innocence & Justice Louisiana (formerly Innocence Project New Orleans) frees innocent people sentenced to life in prison and those serving unjust sentences. We recognize the root causes of wrongful convictions and unjust sentences as systemic racism and inequities. We work to expose and address these root causes by sharing our clients' stories in court, the legislature, the community and the media. We support our clients living well and fully in the world after their release.

A LETTER FROM OUR FORMER CLIENT

I never thought I would see freedom again.

There was a point when I stopped counting the days because hope felt like something other people were allowed to have, not me. I had been convicted, labeled, and forgotten. Not because I was guilty, but because the system failed me.

Years passed. Birthdays. Holidays. My family kept going without me. My name became a case file. My voice disappeared.

And then Innocence & Justice Louisiana found me. They believed me when no one else would. They fought for me when the odds didn't make sense. When it would have been easier to walk away, they stayed.

They investigated. They challenged what had been accepted as truth. They stood in rooms where my life had already been decided, demanding that someone look again. Because of them, I got my life back. But freedom doesn't erase what was lost. You can't replace years. You can't rewind time. What you can do is make sure it doesn't keep happening to someone else.

That's why this work matters. That's why your support matters.

When you support Innocence & Justice Louisiana, you are not just funding legal work. You are restoring lives. You are reuniting families. You are standing in the gap for people who have been overlooked, unheard, and unjustly silenced.

There are still people waiting, hoping someone will believe them; counting days they shouldn't have to count.

Your partnership helps bring them home.



CLIENT SERVICE DIVISION
PEER MENTOR

OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

For 25 years, Innocence & Justice Louisiana has fought to free innocent and unjustly sentenced people. Our 25th Anniversary Gala celebrates that work and raises critical support for the next generation of advocacy. Sponsorship is more than event recognition — it is a public commitment to justice, fairness, and the belief that every person deserves a voice.

This annual event supports our mission. Join us for an extraordinary evening with our venue partner Xavier University, featuring premier local cuisine, an exclusive silent auction, music, and more.

DATE & TIME

Saturday, September 19, 2026
GALA: 6:00 PM—9:30 PM

LOCATION

Xavier University of Louisiana
University Center Ballroom | 3rd Floor
4955 Drexel Dr, New Orleans, LA

MOMENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

John Thompson Award for Courage & Justice, Silent Auction, Live Music

PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$50,000 (EXCLUSIVE)

Make a Bold Statement for Justice

As the Presenting Sponsor, this support anchors IJLA's 25th Anniversary celebration. Your gift ensures that clients who have been wrongfully convicted or unjustly sentenced are celebrated, supported, and that our critical advocacy continues. This is a unique opportunity to publicly demonstrate your commitment to justice and equity in Louisiana.

Benefits:

- Recognition as Presenting Sponsor on all gala materials and promotions
- 10 tickets with premier reserved seating
- Opportunity to speak during the program
- Full-page recognition ad in the event program
- Prominent logo placement on the stage screen throughout the event
- Featured recognition in press, website, and social media

FREEDOM MATCH SPONSOR - \$25,000 (3 AVAILABLE)

Champion Justice and Multiply Your Impact

As a Justice Match Sponsor, your gift will directly inspire others to give during the gala. During the program, IJLA will make an on-stage appeal for contributions, and your sponsorship will be used to match donations in real time, effectively doubling the impact of every gift. Your support ensures IJLA can continue freeing innocent and unjustly sentenced people, supporting post-conviction advocacy, and training the next generation of justice leaders.

Benefits:

- 10 tickets with reserved table seating
- Half-page recognition ad in the event program
- Logo placement on event signage and website
- Verbal recognition during the program as the match sponsor
- Highlight as the match sponsor during the live appeal, showing your leadership and inspiring others to give

LEGACY SPONSOR - \$15,000

Invest in the Next Generation of Advocates

Legacy Sponsors provide law students with direct exposure to critical post-conviction work. Your support ensures the future of justice advocacy in Louisiana.

Benefits:

- 20 tickets reserved for law students from Southern, Loyola, Tulane, and LSU Law
- Podium recognition during the event
- Logo placement on event signage and website
- Recognition in the event program

JUSTICE SPONSOR - \$10,000

Fuel the Fight for Freedom

A Justice Level sponsorship enables IJLA to continue investigating wrongful convictions and providing life-changing representation to those forgotten by the system and supporting them in their re-entry.

Benefits:

- 10 tickets with reserved table seating
- Logo placement on event signage and website
- Recognition in the event program

ADVOCATE SPONSOR - \$7,500

Stand on the Front Lines of Justice

This level of support ensures that IJLA's advocacy and legal representation reach those who need it most, while publicly aligning with justice and equity.

Benefits:

- 8 tickets with reserved table seating
- Logo on event invitation
- Recognition in the event program
- Logo placement on event signage and website

CLIENT HONOR SPONSOR - \$5,000

Celebrate and Include Clients

This sponsorship ensures that IJLA clients and their families can attend the gala as honored members of the community we serve, highlighting the real-life impact of your support.

Benefits:

- Tickets for 6 IJLA clients and their families
- 4 sponsor tickets with reserved seating
- Recognition in the event program
- Logo placement on event signage and website

SUPPORTER SPONSOR - \$2,500

Strengthen the Movement for Justice

Supporters make the gala possible while reinforcing IJLA's mission of fairness and legal advocacy.

Benefits:

- 4 tickets with reserved table seating
- Name/logo on guest tables
- Logo placement on event signage and website

FRIEND OF JUSTICE - \$1,000

Be Part of Someone's Second Chance

Friends of Justice help make IJLA's mission possible while celebrating 25 years of impact.

Benefits:

- 2 tickets with reserved seating
- Name recognition in the event program
- Logo placement on event signage and website

INDIVIDUAL TICKET - \$250

Benefits:

- 1 gala ticket

**INNOCENCE
& JUSTICE
LOUISIANA**

Formerly Innocence Project New Orleans

**THANK YOU FOR
25 YEARS
OF SUPPORTING JUSTICE**

All levels can be purchased online at bit.ly/IJLAGala2026
or via mail with checks made payable to:

Innocence & Justice Louisiana
PO Box 792808, New Orleans, LA 70179

For additional questions or payment methods, please contact:
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