

**Servant Leadership Summer Internship Placement Site
Job Description Information Sheet
Summer 2022**

Organization Name: Georgia Innocence Project

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

Phone: (404) 373-4433

Website: georgiainnocenceproject.org

Internship Supervisor: Mike Coszalter (Program Manager)

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: Evidence Preservation Intern

Number of interns requested: 1

Internship project/job description (please include a virtual/socially distanced option if possible): Imagine you have been wrongfully convicted for decades - but the one piece of evidence that could prove your innocence was destroyed, lost, or forgotten in a box somewhere. This is the reality for many of our clients in Georgia, where throughout 159 counties and 49 judicial circuits there are no uniform policies or standards for evidence preservation and storage. This inconsistency can make tracking down evidence very difficult, which can hinder our investigations and any progress made while reviewing a case. An intern in this position will conduct research and make direct calls to courts and agencies to gather relevant information to then assess and analyze the current state of evidence storage and preservation in Georgia. This project will include legal, factual, and policy research. By the end of the semester, the intern will use the collected information to 1) create a database or spreadsheet for GIP's continued use and future updates and 2) write a detailed report, which may include maps of the various agencies, best practices for navigating related processes, and suggestions for ways in which GIP can help reform evidence preservation in Georgia.

Qualifications: This position is designed for any student who would like to learn more and gain experience in the fields of criminal law, innocence work, and non-profit service. Students do not have to be experienced in these fields already, although we encourage individuals who are skilled in research, writing, and attention to detail to apply. As of now, this position will be conducted virtually, so the intern would also 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:

Will the internship require that the student have a car? No, but it could be beneficial if/once the pandemic is over.

Is placement site accessible by public transit or other transportation options? Yes, our office is located in downtown Atlanta convenient to MARTA. However, the internship is currently virtual/remote so no expected need for travel.