

THREE STRIKES, YOU'RE OUT

Illinois' punitive "three strikes" law gives prosecutors the authority to seek life sentences for people convicted of their third serious felony. Not surprisingly, prosecutors have used this power almost exclusively against Black and Brown people who exercised their constitutional right to trial.

IPP represents more than 120 clients serving life sentences under this racist law. Our clients have been sentenced to die in prison for gas station robberies, for possessing drugs in their own apartments and for muggings at knifepoint. To date, we've helped free more than 20 people.

NO WAY OUT

As part of a sweeping criminal legal overhaul passed in 2020, people must have committed their first serious felony after their 21st birthday to be eligible for a . But the law does not apply retroactively. That means more than 50 of our clients face death behind bars for sentences they would no longer be eligible to receive. Through direct representation and systemic advocacy, IPP works to extend justice to those overlooked and left behind.



CHRISTOPHER C.

Christopher C. struggled with addiction throughout adulthood. Hoping to finance an addiction to drugs, he robbed a series of convenience stores of cash ranging from \$55 to \$1,200. Though no one was ever injured, and despite the fact that Christopher was frequently under the influence during the robberies, the judge nonetheless handed down a life sentence.