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Project Description

This summer, I will be interning for the Korey Wise Innocence Project at the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder, Colorado.

The Korey Wise Innocence Project, formerly known as the Colorado Innocence Project, operates a safeguard to the American criminal justice system. The office became "The Korey Wise Innocence Project," after a \$190,000 donation was given to the office from Korey Wise, which made it possible to expand the office. Korey Wise is one of the "Central Park Five," who now call themselves the "Exonerated Five," a group of young men who were wrongfully convicted for an assault in Central Park. After spending 11.5 years in prison, Wise was exonerated after DNA evidence excluded him from the crime, as well as a confession from another man. Wise has since been an advocate for criminal justice reform--including his donation to the Innocence Project office in Colorado. This office receives applications from those who believe that they have been wrongfully convicted and evaluates the applications and cases in order to determine if there are grounds to take the case back to court. If the review reveals grounds for a new trial the Korey Wise Innocence Project lawyers, law students, and interns further evaluate the case and proceed with any action necessary. The service provided through this office is vital as it provides an avenue towards justice when all other avenues have failed.

The office mainly hires law students, but as an undergraduate intern, I will work in a variety of roles within the office. My day to day activities will range from managing the online database of applications, findings, and results, to assisting with the review of the applications as they come in. Moreover, I will assist in any role necessary during the research of cases which may include participating in interviews, researching previous state laws, and reviewing the case file. By working in a variety of roles, I will gain a better understanding of how applications are reviewed, accepted, and researched and I will therefore get to experience the valuable process conducted by the Innocence Project

I am incredibly thankful to the Korey Wise Innocence Project for the opportunity to contribute to such a vital aspect of the criminal justice system that provides an avenue for those wrongly convicted. I look forward to working hard and learning from the experienced lawyers and law students in order to help pursue justice for those wrongly convicted.