

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Program Name: Capital Case Litigation Initiative (CCLI) and the Wrongful Conviction Review Program

FY 2017 Request

Total Funding: \$2.0M
Vs. FY 2016 Enacted: -\$0.5M

FY 2014 Activities Chart



Program Description

Purpose: The Capital Case Litigation Initiative (CCLI) improves the quality and effectiveness of legal representation in death penalty cases through training for both the prosecutors who represent the public and the defense attorneys who represent indigent defendants in state capital cases.

The Wrongful Conviction Review Program provides high quality legal representation for defendants in post-conviction claims of innocence.

Authorizing Legislation: Innocence Protection Act of 2004 (part of the Justice for All Act of 2004) and current appropriations acts. 42 U.S.C. §§14163 and 14163a

Administering Agency: Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

DOJ Strategic Objective 3.1: Promote and strengthen relationships and strategies for the administration of justice with law enforcement agencies, organizations, prosecutors, and defenders through innovative leadership and programs

Who Can Apply for Funding and How Funds are Distributed:

Activity	Who Can Apply for Funding	Award Type	Amounts
Capital Case Litigation Improvement	Public or non-profit organizations, for-profit entities, and institutions of higher education with expertise in capital case defense and providing training on death penalty cases.	Competitive grants for up to 24 months.	\$250,000 - \$300,000
Wrongful Conviction Review Grants	Public and non-profit organizations dedicated to exonerating the innocent, institutions of higher learning, state or local public defender offices, and for-profit and non-profit organizations and for-profit entities with expertise in representing wrongfully convicted defendants.	Competitive grants for up to 24 months.	Up to \$250,000

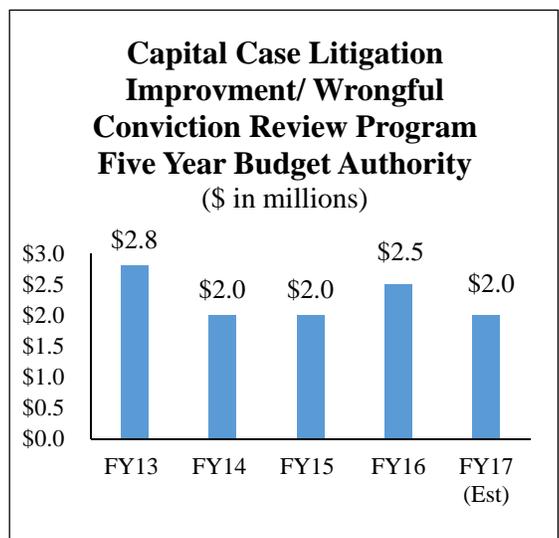
Program Goals:

The goals of Capital Case Litigation Improvement Program are to:

1. Increase the number of prosecutors and defense attorneys trained in capital case procedures and strategies;
2. Improve the quality of legal representation provided to indigent defendants in state capital cases through a state-based training program that serves to improve an “effective system;” and
3. Enhance the ability of prosecutors to effectively represent the public in state capital cases.

The goals of the Wrongful Conviction Review Grants Program are to:

1. Provide quality representation to those who may have been wrongfully convicted of a crime;



2. Alleviate burdens placed on the criminal justice system through costly and prolonged post-conviction litigation; and
3. Identify, whenever possible, the actual perpetrator of the crime to improve litigation representation and reliability of verdicts, and to provide high quality and efficient representation for defendants with post-conviction claims of innocence.

Accomplishments:

- Wrongful Conviction funds have led directly or indirectly to the exoneration of 25 innocent people who were wrongly convicted. More than 20 actual perpetrators have been identified.
- This funding has greatly increased grantees’ ability to screen and investigate claims of innocence more effectively and quickly, eliminating or reducing case backlogs, which were often significant.
- Increased staff support allowed grantees to recruit and supervise more law students and volunteer lawyers to assist in case screening, investigation and litigation, multiplying the impact of the grant funds.
- Grantees have been able to pursue potential cases of wrongful conviction in many remote and/or rural jurisdictions that have historically been underserved by innocence efforts.

FY 2017 Proposed Policy Changes to the Program: N/A

FY 2017 Proposed Funding Changes to the Program: N/A

Application and Award History

Capital Case Litigation Improvement (CCLI)

(\$ in millions)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Amount Appropriated	\$2.8	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.5	\$2.0 requested
Total Funding Awarded [^]	\$0.4	\$0.5	\$0.4	TBD	TBD
Number of Applications	6	3	2	TBD	TBD
Number of awards	2	2	1	TBD	TBD

Wrongful Conviction

(\$ in millions)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Amount Appropriated	Funded through the CCLI appropriation				
Total Funding Awarded [^]	\$2.0	\$1.2	\$1.4	TBD	TBD
Number of Applications	33	5*	30	TBD	TBD
Number of awards	8	5	6	TBD	TBD

*Top scoring applications that were not able to be funded in FY 2013 were funded in FY 2014.

[^]Total Funding Awarded does not include funds used for management and administration, peer review, or other authorized purposes.

For additional information, please visit: [Capital Case Litigation Initiative \(CCLI\) and the Wrongful Conviction Review Program.](#)