The Larry and Frances Hammond Fund for Justice

Founded by Osborn Maledon and Frances Hammond for the sustainability of the Arizona Justice Project, the only 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in Arizona dedicated to exonerating the innocent, correcting cases of manifest injustice, and supporting formerly incarcerated individuals re-entering society.
History of the Arizona Justice Project

In the 1990s, Larry Hammond, a nationally renowned Phoenix criminal defense attorney, believed individuals in prison needed an organization that they could contact as a last resort for proving their innocence or correcting a manifest injustice. This was a pivotal time in the criminal justice system as DNA testing technology and other forensic disciplines advanced. These technological advances provided, perhaps for the first time in the history of the criminal justice system, conclusive evidence that innocent people have been convicted of crimes they did not commit.

Hammond, along with the Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice, founded the Arizona Justice Project in 1998, making it the 5th Innocence organization in the United States. Since then, the Project has helped free dozens of individuals in cases of innocence, manifest injustice, and excessive sentencing. Year after year, Hammond’s leadership brought together lawyers, investigators, forensic experts, law students and others to dedicate their time and expertise in working to correct one injustice at a time. Hammond’s family, especially his wife Frances, poured love and support into the Project’s existence.

The Chief, as the Project staff affectionately referred to him, passed away on March 2, 2020. Before Larry's passing, he reflected on the Project's growing community of supporters, writing, "There was a time when this Project in its infancy sometimes seemed like a very lonely endeavor. If it ever was as lonely as we sometimes felt it was, it certainly is no longer."

Larry's Legacy

Larry Hammond’s colleagues at the law firm of Osborn Maledon launched an effort to honor Hammond’s legacy with the creation of the Larry and Frances Hammond Fund for Justice. This fund was established to support the Arizona Justice Project’s work now and into the future by raising donations for the Project’s general fund. Donations made to this fund honor the deep commitment that Larry and Frances shared for the life-saving work of the Arizona Justice Project.

To make a donation to this fund, please visit our donation page on our website by following this link: https://www.azjusticeproject.org/donate. In the “comments” field, write, “Hammond Fund for Justice.” You also have an option to make your donation recur monthly or annually.

You can also send a check to the Arizona Justice Project with “Hammond Fund for Justice” written in the memo line. Mail to:
Arizona Justice Project | 111 E. Taylor Street | Suite 365 | Phoenix, AZ 85004

If you are interested in making a planned gift, gift of stock, or endowment to further sustain the Arizona Justice Project, please contact Jasmine Young at jasmineyoung@azjusticeproject.org.