MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA TO JOIN
THE SECOND LOOK NETWORK

The Second Look Network is a coalition of attorneys and post-sentence advocates across the country working on behalf of incarcerated individuals seeking relief from lengthy or unfair sentences, beyond those due to wrongful conviction or innocence claims.

Second Look sentencing review laws provide people who are incarcerated the opportunity to have their sentences reconsidered by a judge or a board, to account for an individual’s rehabilitation and readiness for release. Our Network Members advocate for clients’ release from incarceration through these second look laws, where available, and through other legal mechanisms, such as compassionate release, clemency, habeas, and parole.

The purpose of the Network is to bring together second look litigators, advocates and support professionals for collaboration on effective litigation and mitigation strategies, training, and connections to experts and local policy efforts. The Network will also provide communications and media support to its members.

The Network is litigation/legal-advocacy focused and will include professionals who provide legal representation such as attorneys, but can also include those who support litigation efforts, such as: mitigation specialists, social workers, and others with specialized training who advocate for incarcerated persons.

Member participants in the Network must meet the following criteria:

☐ The Applicant must be associated with a Host Organization, such as: 1) tax-exempt nonprofit organizations; 2) projects, programs, or clinics housed within a nonprofit organization or educational institution; 3) unit of attorney or professionals housed within a governmental agency devoted to the representation of indigent persons, such as public defender organizations; 4) law firms that commit substantial pro bono litigation resources to the representation of incarcerated persons; and 5) other volunteer coalitions or projects whose primary function is providing representation or advocacy to incarcerated persons.
If an Applicant does not fit the “Host Organization” criteria above, but otherwise provides pro bono representation for second look litigation, please contact us for additional information to apply.

☐ The Host Organization and Applicant provides second look representation without charge.

☐ The Applicant must be an advocate for incarcerated persons. The applicant cannot be a prosecutor, public official, or other professional with conflicting or competing duties or interests.

☐ The Host Organization has resources and/or a commitment to ensure second look litigation and/or advocacy work can be sustained.

☐ The Host Organization and Applicant have not, and will not, take any public position disparaging any incarcerated person or group of incarcerated persons, based on type of crime, age, level of culpability, or any other factor.

☐ If the Host Organization or Applicant only represents a specific group of incarcerated individuals (examples: youth only or people convicted of non-violent offenses only), they have narrowed their focus as a result of resource allocation, as opposed to a philosophy against supporting others not contained within that specific group.

☐ The Applicant has reviewed the Network’s mission and vision statements and agrees not to take any actions or positions that are inconsistent with the Network’s mission and values.

The Network Director and Program Manager will review each application. The Network Director reserves the right to reject any application for any reason. If approved, the Applicant must review and sign the Membership Agreement to be part of the Network.

Version 1.0
March, 2023