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From Founder and Executive Director James Zeigler:

This year I will be stepping down as Executive Director of The Second Look Project, the organization I founded almost 5 years ago and which has been the high point of my career as a criminal defense lawyer. I am deeply proud of the work we have done in this time and the incredible staff we have developed, grateful to so many of you for your support of our work, and most of all to our clients for their incredible resolve and willingness to place their trust in me and our organization.

This announcement comes with a mix of sadness and excitement for me. I am so proud of what The Second Look Project has accomplished since its founding, but after nearly 10 years of indigent defense and postconviction practice, and as a father to two young kids, I am no longer able to give this job this all the emotional and mental energy that it demands. The time has come to move on, both so I can prioritize the things in my life that are most important to me, and so the organization can have the best and most committed leadership possible.

This is also an exciting time for SLP, as it looks towards the next phase of its development and continues its mission of bringing people home from extreme sentences. I will continue to serve as the organization's Executive Director as it searches for its next leader, and will do all I can to facilitate this transition. We have posted a listing for the Executive Director position on our website, and I encourage anyone who might be interested to reach out with any questions.

I also want to take this chance to extend some thanks to people who made this all possible. First, to my partner Betsy, who has served as my editor, sounding board, and champion since I got appointed in those very first IRAA cases, and without whose support I would have never had the focus or confidence to pursue something as ambitious as this.

To my first clients, David Bailey and Charles Fantroy, to whom I was appointed in 2017 when no one had any idea what to do in these cases. Your kindness, generosity and resolve convinced me immediately of the importance of this work, and I am lucky enough to now consider you both good friends.

To our board of directors and our incredible staff, whose hard work and vision have allowed SLP to become what it is, and to make such a profound difference in so many people's lives.

To David Menschel and Sophie Cull at Vital Projects Fund, without your early support and belief in what we were trying to do, SLP would probably not exist. To Kevin Ring, Mary Price, Dan Landsman, everyone else at FAMM, and to Carlton Miller and everyone at Arnold Ventures, thank you for your committed and vital support of SLP's work during these years.

And finally to so many of our peers and colleagues in this movement who have supported our work with money, time, energy, and goodwill. This support gave us the momentum we needed at crucial points throughout this journey, and the work you are all doing in your own jurisdictions has been a constant and valuable inspiration.

I am really proud of The Second Look Project and the work we've done, and am excited to watch continue on with its mission, and to see what it can accomplish in this next phase of leadership.

In gratitude,

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