

The Missouri legislature has established a Conviction Review Unit (“CRU”), which authorizes the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (“MOPS”) to investigate claims of actual innocence of any criminal defendant. The CRU will be staffed by two attorneys, an investigator, a paralegal, and other administrative staff. MOPS will create an application process for defendants to utilize in requesting review of their conviction. This law, however, does not go into effect until August 28, 2024, and additional legislation is necessary to fund the hiring of CRU staff. Accordingly, the CRU will not accept applications until after the law has gone into effect and additional legislation is passed to fund the hiring of CRU staff. The earliest we would be able to accept applications would be after the CRU funding is approved and operational which would be after July 1, 2025. After that occurs, we will provide additional information on how defendants can apply to have their conviction reviewed by the CRU.