

INNOCENCE  
NETWORK  
EXONERATIONS  
2010



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**COVER:** Tyrone Jones, shown with attorney Michele Nethercott, was exonerated on May 26, 2010. Read more about his case on page 7. (Kim Hairston/Reprinted with permission of the Baltimore Sun Media Group. All Rights Reserved.)

# THEIR STORIES

## CAN FIX A BROKEN SYSTEM

The 29 people profiled in this second annual Innocence Network Report served more than 426 combined years in prison before they were finally freed. Their pleas of innocence landed on deaf ears in many cases for decades before someone finally listened. They sat behind bars as their hopes and dreams for their futures slowly slipped away. Their families suffered too, spending sleepless nights worrying about their loved ones' health and safety, putting their lives on hold while doing their best to help their sons, daughters, brothers and sisters negotiate a broken criminal justice system.

Fortunately their stories shed light on the causes of wrongful convictions. Misidentification and unvalidated forensic sciences continue to contribute to many of the injustices reported here. This year there is an unsettling number of cases where government misconduct is to blame. All too often the very people charged with ensuring truth and justice – law enforcement officials and prosecutors – disregarded their obligations to find the truth in their zeal to secure convictions, regardless of the costs. In the report, you will read repeated instances where police used coercive interrogation practices to elicit false confessions and engaged in suggestive identification procedures that resulted in false identifications. You will learn of prosecutors who withheld critical evidence establishing innocence and presented witnesses they knew or should have known were unreliable.

In order to prevent the staggering number of wrongful convictions, reforms are needed to make identification procedures more reliable, to validate forensic science disciplines and

to put checks on the enormous power law enforcement and prosecutors wield over all of us. That's something Network organizations are doing more and more. Working with local, state and national advocates, we are using the heartbreaking stories of the wrongfully convicted to expose the enormous cracks in the system that must be fixed. And it's working. Last year we helped to pass important reforms in statehouses throughout the nation.

The Innocence Network is surviving and in some cases thriving in these tough economic times. In 2010, the Network grew to include 63 member organizations, with 54 in the United States and nine organizations in four other countries. While many of these organizations are still in their infancy and are just starting the difficult work of clearing the innocent, the expansion into all corners of the globe is especially exciting, making way for a worldwide innocence movement that could have a profound effect on the way that all people who are accused of a crime are treated in their respective countries.

I hope you will take a few minutes to read about the hard-fought exonerations that were secured during 2010. But keep in mind that these 29 represent only a tiny fraction of the wrongfully convicted who are locked away, hoping and praying for some lucky break that will prove their innocence.

— KEITH FINDLEY  
WISCONSIN INNOCENCE PROJECT CO-DIRECTOR,  
CLINICAL PROFESSOR UNIVERSITY  
OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL,  
INNOCENCE NETWORK BOARD PRESIDENT

# THE CASES

## **1** **Freddie Peacock** *Innocence Project*

Freddie Peacock was arrested and interrogated for two hours in suspicion of being involved in the 1976 rape of his neighbor in Rochester, New York. During the interrogation, Peacock explained that he had a history of mental illness and had been hospitalized several times. Police claimed that he confessed, although he could not tell officers where, when or how his neighbor had been raped. He was convicted and sentenced to up to 20 years in prison and released on parole in 1982.

Steadfastly maintaining his innocence, Peacock attempted to remain on parole because he thought he would never be able to clear his name if he was released from state supervision. In the 28 years since he left prison, Peacock continued to fight to prove his innocence even though he was no longer incarcerated. The Innocence Project, affiliated with the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, began working with Peacock in 2005, helping exonerate him of all charges on February 4, 2010. Peacock became the 250th person exonerated through DNA testing.

## **2** **Ted Bradford** *Innocence Project Northwest*

An assailant broke into the home of a Yakima, Washington, woman in 1995, handcuffed her in the basement and put a mask over her face. He covered the eyeholes of the mask with adhesive tape in order to prevent her from being able to identify him and left the mask at the scene. The victim provided police with a sketch of the man who raped her, and a neighbor testified that she had seen Ted Bradford driving by the victim's home near the time of the rape.

When police found Bradford, they interrogated him for approximately nine hours; he subsequently confessed and was convicted in 1996. Attorneys from the Innocence Project Northwest helped Bradford prove his innocence through DNA testing of the adhesive tape.

Bradford was acquitted by a jury on February 11, 2010, with overwhelming evidence pointing to another perpetrator. Bradford's case is the first post-conviction case in Washington State to win a new trial based exclusively on newly discovered DNA evidence. He spent nearly 10 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

## **3** **Greg Taylor** *North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence*

Greg Taylor walked out of a North Carolina courtroom a free man on February 17, 2010, for the first time in 17 years after a three-judge panel declared that he had been wrongfully convicted of murder. Taylor was convicted of murdering a woman in Raleigh in 1991. Among the evidence used to convict him was testimony that the victim's blood was found on the fender of his truck after the crime.

Experts testified at a post-conviction hearing that the substance found on Taylor's truck was not human blood. In fact, the 1991 tests had confirmed the substance was not human blood, but those test results were not included in pre-trial reports. Tests did not reveal what the substance was, but attorneys speculated that it might be insect blood.

Taylor is the first person cleared by the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission process, which offers an official route to review cases of prisoners who proclaim their innocence but may otherwise be procedurally barred from post-conviction relief.

## **4** **Jimmy Bass** *Innocence Project New Orleans*

Jimmy Bass was wrongfully convicted of the 1988 armed robbery of a convenience store in Cleveland, Mississippi. His conviction was undermined when Innocence Project New Orleans discovered that the only witness to implicate Bass at his trial had been paid for his testimony.

While the actual victim of the crime was not able to identify Bass in a lineup, a teenage witness testified that he saw Bass running from the crime scene. Bass was sentenced to 50 years in prison based largely on the testimony of the witness, a mentally ill 14 year old on juvenile parole at the time of the crime who was compensated in exchange for his testimony.

Soon after the trial, the witness recanted, admitting that he had lied on the stand. Attorneys also found at least 10 witnesses who could verify Bass' original alibi. In response, Bass' conviction was reversed in June 2006. The prosecution appealed to the Mississippi Supreme Court, which confirmed the reversal of Bass' conviction in March 2009. On March 18, 2010, the state dismissed the charges against him. Bass served 18 years in prison before his release.

## **5** **Dwayne Provienc** *Michigan Innocence Clinic*

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office dropped all charges against Dwayne Provienc for a 2000 killing after it was revealed that crucial evidence in the case had been withheld during trial. Provienc spent nine years in prison.

The prosecution's only evidence against Provienc was the testimony of a substance abuser facing burglary charges. The witness claimed that Provienc and his brother killed the victim in a drive-by shooting from Provienc's brother's beige Buick Regal. However, seven motorists, including an off-duty police officer, gave eyewitness accounts that the shooter was in a grey Chevy Caprice Classic. Provienc's attorney, who was disbarred shortly after the trial, never called any of these eyewitnesses who would have contradicted the

prosecution's theory. Provienc was convicted and sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison.

After taking the case, Provienc's attorneys at the Michigan Innocence Clinic at the University of Michigan Law School discovered that another witness to the killing had himself been murdered. A hit man confessed to a government agent that he had killed the witness to stop him from revealing the true identities of the perpetrators in the drive-by shooting. Provienc's attorneys subsequently discovered a trove of suppressed police documents showing that at least three witnesses had seen two men in the grey Chevy Caprice Classic, as well as documents proving one of those men owned such a car. Finally, the substance abuser who identified Provienc recanted his testimony. Provienc was released on bond in 2009 and officially exonerated on March 24, 2010.

## **6** **Frank Sterling** *Innocence Project*

Frank Sterling had just finished a 36-hour trucking shift when police approached him for questioning about the 1988 murder of an elderly woman in Rochester, New York.

Sterling's conviction was almost entirely based on a confession he gave after a 36-hour workday and 12-hour interrogation. Sterling recanted almost immediately. Police had focused on him because his brother was incarcerated for attempting to sexually assault the elderly victim three years before she was murdered. The jury deliberated for two days and convicted Sterling of murder in the second degree in 1992.

The Innocence Project and local counsel Donald Thompson found strong evidence implicating a different perpetrator. Mark Christie, a young Rochester man, was an early suspect in the murder because he was under investigation for an unrelated assault and also because he owned a BB gun similar to the one used in the attack. Attorneys secured post-conviction DNA testing that cleared Sterling and pointed to Christie who is currently incarcerated for an unrelated crime. Sterling was exonerated on April 28, 2010, after nearly 18 years in prison.

## **7** **Romeo Phillion** *Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted and Osgoode Hall Innocence Project*

Romeo Phillion falsely confessed to the 1967 murder of Leopold Roy in Ottawa, Canada, four and a half years after the crime occurred. Phillion recanted and maintained his innocence throughout his 31 years of wrongful incarceration.

At the time of his conviction in 1972, police were in possession of evidence that established that Phillion was nowhere near the crime scene at the time. This alibi evidence was never disclosed to the defense. In 2003, Phillion's attorneys at the Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted and the Osgoode Hall Innocence Project presented the alibi evidence to the Minister of Justice, and as a result, Phillion became the first person granted bail pending the ministerial review of his conviction. His case was ultimately referred to the Ontario Court of Appeal, which awarded Phillion a new trial in 2009.

On April 29, 2010, Phillion's 71st birthday, the Crown formally withdrew the charges against him at the Superior Court of Justice in Ottawa.

## **8** **Raymond Towler** *Ohio Innocence Project*

In 1981, an armed gunman raped an 11-year-old girl in a Cleveland park and forced her cousin to watch. A few weeks later, Raymond Towler was stopped for a traffic violation by a park ranger who believed that Towler resembled a drawing of the rape suspect and subsequently arrested him.

Several days later, both victims chose Towler from a photo array. Two other witnesses who saw the perpetrator in the park that day also chose his photo from the array. However, Towler testified at trial that he was at home when the crimes took place, which several witnesses corroborated. Despite an alibi and the lack of physical evidence tying him to the crime, Towler was convicted and sentenced to life.

The Ohio Innocence Project petitioned for post-conviction DNA testing in 2004, but the tests proved fruitless at that time. In 2008, they requested additional DNA testing of the same evidence using new technology. The results now proved Towler innocent and, after 29 years in prison, led to his exoneration on May 5, 2010.

## **9** **Shawn Massey** *Duke Law Center for Criminal Justice and Professional Responsibility*

Shawn Massey was released and exonerated on May 6, 2010, after spending 12 years in prison for a Charlotte, North Carolina, kidnapping and armed robbery. According to the victim's original description of her attacker, the perpetrator wore his hair in braids. However, when the victim was shown a photo lineup, she told the investigating officer that Massey looked most like her attacker even though he did not have braids.

During its investigation, the Duke Center discovered a number of photographs of Massey over the years before the crimes, all showing he had very close-cropped hair. One photo was from just 10 weeks before, demonstrating that it was impossible for Massey to have grown braids by the time of the crimes. The Center also learned that the victim expressed doubts minutes before trial, telling the prosecutor that Massey may not have been the perpetrator. Among other things, she thought Massey had too small of a build.

This new evidence, buttressed by the victim's confirmation that her attacker had braids, persuaded the Mecklenburg County District Attorney that Massey was wrongfully convicted and prompted him to file a motion to release Massey from prison and dismiss the charges against him.

## **10** **Tyrone Jones** *University of Baltimore Innocence Project and Maryland Office of the Public Defender*

While home from college on summer break, Tyrone Jones was misidentified as being one of two men involved in the shooting of a 15-year-old boy. He was arrested and police allegedly found gunshot residue on one of his hands. A

jury ultimately acquitted Jones of the murder but found him guilty of conspiring to commit murder. Jones always insisted that he knew nothing about the crime.

For seven years, his attorneys at the University of Baltimore Innocence Project and the Maryland Office of the Public Defender repeatedly challenged the gunshot residue evidence used to convict him. They argued that the one particle of gunshot residue found in Jones' hand was probably the result of contamination that occurred as a result of transfer from a police officer or police equipment. Attorneys also discovered that the witness who identified Jones in a photo array and in court had initially told the police that he did not see the shooting. This information was never disclosed to defense counsel or the jury.

After serving more than 10 years of a life sentence in a maximum security prison, a Baltimore City Circuit judge overturned Jones' conviction on January 29, 2010, and released him on bail. On May 26, 2010, all charges in the case were dismissed by the prosecution.

## **11** **Michael VonAllmen** *Kentucky Innocence Project*

Michael VonAllmen served 11 years after he was wrongfully convicted of rape, sodomy and robbery charges. He was sentenced to 35 years in prison, but he received parole in 1994.

The Kentucky Innocence Project's DNA unit, working under the Bloodsworth Actual Innocence Grant Program, tested several hairs that were collected following the rape in 1981. Unfortunately, the test results came back inconclusive.

During the reinvestigation, however, the Kentucky Innocence Project discovered new evidence supporting VonAllmen's innocence. Alibi witnesses confirmed that VonAllmen could not have been at the crime scene. Attorneys also identified an alternative suspect who was charged with a similar crime in 1978 but died five years later in a car chase from police. The two different rapes were committed at the same location, with a nearly duplicate modus operandi.

The alternative suspect, unlike VonAllmen, fit the description of having blue eyes. VonAllmen's eyes are brown.

A Jefferson County judge dismissed VonAllmen's conviction, stating that the evidence shows he did not commit the crimes. Nearly three decades passed between the day he was convicted and his exoneration on June 4, 2010.

## **12** **Jonathan Scott Pierpoint** *Duke Law Center for Criminal Justice and Professional Responsibility*

Jonathan Scott Pierpoint served nearly 18 years of a life sentence as a result of false testimony. Pierpoint was convicted in 1992 for the sexual assault of his former stepson. The stepson recanted his testimony a short time later, but efforts to appeal Pierpoint's conviction were unsuccessful.

The Duke Center uncovered significant new medical evidence that bolstered the stepson's recantation and presented the findings to the Madison County District Attorney who was persuaded by the evidence and supported the Center's Motion for Appropriate Relief. After a short, limited hearing, at which only the stepson testified, a Superior Court Judge granted the Motion, ruling that Pierpoint should be released and all charges against him should be dropped. Pierpoint was released the following day, on July 7, 2010.

## **13** **Larry Davis** *Innocence Project Northwest*

## **14** **Alan Northrop** *Innocence Project Northwest*

Larry Davis and Alan Northrop were wrongfully convicted of sexually assaulting a housekeeper in the La Center, Washington, home where she worked. DNA testing obtained by the Innocence Project Northwest proved their innocence. Davis spent almost 16 years behind bars for a crime he didn't commit; Northrop spent 17 years.

Although the victim was blindfolded during the rape, she identified Davis and Northrop as her

assailants. Investigating officers showed the victim photo lineups that included Davis and Northrop, but she was only able to tentatively identify Davis. Police then asked the victim to pick out her assailants from live lineups, but neither lineup included men from the photo arrays other than Davis and Northrop. Her misidentification was the central piece of evidence in the case since DNA testing for the size of the biological sample was not available at the time.

The Innocence Project Northwest filed a motion for a new trial in early 2010 after new post-conviction DNA testing finally proved that none of the samples taken at the crime scene matched Davis or Northrop. Although Davis had served his entire sentence, Northrop was released when a judge vacated both sentences on April 21. Both men were exonerated on July 14, 2010.

## **15** **Koua Fong Lee** *Innocence Project of Minnesota*

Koua Fong Lee was convicted of vehicular homicide in 2007 after his 1996 Toyota Camry accelerated uncontrollably at the end of a St. Paul freeway exit ramp and crashed into two vehicles, ultimately killing a man and two children and injuring two others.

Lee, who always maintained his innocence, was convicted and sentenced to eight years in prison. Two years later, Toyota revealed that some of its cars were experiencing acceleration issues. The Innocence Project of Minnesota, and attorneys Brent Schafer and Bob Hilliard uncovered strong evidence that—like other Toyota vehicles—Lee’s car malfunctioned, causing it to accelerate and crash.

Students working on the case through the Innocence Project Clinic at the University of Minnesota Law School also collected over 50 affidavits from other Toyota drivers with similar experiences to Lee’s. After serving almost three years, he was released and exonerated on August 5, 2010, when the prosecution decided not to retry the case and dropped the charges.

## **16** **Anthony Johnson** *Innocence Project New Orleans*

Using unvalidated forensic science, circumstantial evidence and alleged self-incriminating statements, prosecutors convicted Anthony Johnson in 1986 for the sexual assault and murder of his girlfriend. Prosecutors argued Johnson’s hairs were found in a shower cap at the crime scene. And a forensic expert testified at trial that there was a “90% probability that the hair [was] from Mr. Johnson.” Microscopic hair analysis has since been discredited as a means of singularly identifying the source of a hair. Police also claimed that Johnson exhibited guilty knowledge about the manner of his girlfriend’s death and the weapon used to kill her that was not public information.

Attorneys with the Innocence Project New Orleans pursued DNA testing on fingernail scrapings taken from the victim’s body. Results revealed that a serial killer known to police at the time of Johnson’s trial was the real perpetrator. The serial killer had not only bragged about committing the murder for which Johnson was convicted, but also killed two other women—one in the same building as Johnson’s girlfriend. Johnson was freed in 2007 and was exonerated on September 15, 2010. He had spent 22 years in prison.

## **17** **Phillip Bivens** *Innocence Project New Orleans*

## **18** **Bobby Ray Dixon** *Innocence Project New Orleans*

## **19** **Larry Ruffin** *Innocence Project New Orleans*

Phillip Bivens, Bobby Ray Dixon and Larry Ruffin were wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for the 1979 rape and murder of a woman in Forrest County, Mississippi. The only eyewitness at trial was the victim’s four-year-old son, who testified that a man assaulted and killed his mother.

All three men were charged because they had individually confessed to the crime under

threat of the death penalty. Each confession was inconsistent with the others. Bivens and Dixon pled guilty and testified at Ruffin’s trial. All three received life sentences.

With approval from the district attorney’s office, Innocence Project New Orleans and co-counsel Rob McDuff obtained DNA testing on samples recovered from the crime scene. The test results were processed through CODIS, the national DNA database, and implicated another man who had been convicted of rape in Forrest County the year after Bivens, Dixon and Ruffin were convicted.

On September 16, 2010, a judge threw out the convictions of Bivens and Dixons, ordering their immediate release and for evidence to be presented to a grand jury on the rapist found through the CODIS database. Dixon and Bivens had each served 30 years in prison.

Tragically, Ruffin died in prison in 2002; Dixon died November 7—less than two months after the court overturned his conviction—of lung cancer and a brain tumor. Bivens is currently living at the Resurrection After Exoneration transitional house in New Orleans.

**20** **Davonn Robinson**  
*Wisconsin Innocence Project*  
On September 23, 2010, Davonn Robinson was released with help from the Wisconsin Innocence Project. Robinson’s 2006 conviction for sexually assaulting a minor relied heavily on the testimony of two children that his attorneys later found had been coerced by their mother, who physically abused them until they identified and testified against Robinson. She has since been arrested and convicted of child abuse, which allowed both children to come forward and recant their testimony.

The Milwaukee County Circuit Court vacated Robinson’s conviction, and the prosecution followed suit by dismissing all charges. Robinson walked out of the courthouse a free man after four years of wrongful incarceration.

**21** **Glenn Davis**  
*Innocence Project New Orleans*

**22** **Larry Delmore**  
*Innocence Project New Orleans*

**23** **Terrence Meyers**  
*Innocence Project New Orleans*

An alleged witness to the second-degree murder of a Westwego, Louisiana, man testified that Glenn Davis, Larry Delmore and Terrence Meyers drove by the victim and shot him. The three men were convicted in 1993 and were all sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The Innocence Project New Orleans took up Davis’ case in 2002 and discovered that the state had hidden evidence during the original trial, including that police had credible information on a second suspect—a violent drug dealer who had been in a fight with an associate of the victim’s—and that the witness who testified against the three men may not have been in the vicinity of the crime. Attorneys also discovered that the three men’s trial lawyer was simultaneously representing the other suspect.

With all the key evidence refuted, Davis’ conviction was reversed in February 2007, and he was released two months later after serving 14 years. Delmore and Meyers’ soon followed; their convictions were reversed in August 2008, having served 15 years each. They were released one month later. On September 24, 2010, prosecutors announced that none of the men would be retried, exonerating them after their 17-year ordeal.

**24** **Matthew Norwood**  
*Mississippi Innocence Project*

Matthew Norwood served 15 years in prison before a Hinds County judge agreed that recently discovered evidence proved that Norwood did not commit a 1995 armed carjacking.

At the time of his arrest, Norwood was 15 and faced the prospect of a trial with a witness who

identified him as one of the two perpetrators. Faced with a life sentence if convicted, Norwood agreed to take a plea that would send him to a six-month boot camp program. However, he was expelled for minor infractions and was sentenced to 15 years as a result. Norwood finished serving his sentence in 2007.

In 2008, in the course of a separate criminal investigation, Jackson Police Department detectives discovered exculpatory evidence in Norwood's case. The car that Norwood allegedly stole used a manual transmission, but Norwood didn't know how to drive a stick shift. Also, a second suspect confessed under a grant of immunity that he was the carjacker and that he didn't know Norwood. Law enforcement officers informed the Hinds County District Attorney about the new evidence. With help from local attorneys and the Mississippi Innocence Project, and in cooperation with the Hinds County Mississippi District Attorney's office, Norwood's conviction was overturned on October 6, 2010.

## **25** **Maurice Patterson** *Center on Wrongful Convictions*

Weeks after the April 2002 stabbing murder of a Chicago man, police claimed to have found several witnesses who could identify Maurice Patterson as the culprit. Patterson always maintained his innocence, but he was convicted and sentenced to 30 years in prison. A bloody knife was recovered near the crime scene; Patterson's DNA was not on the knife. Instead, the DNA profile of a convicted offender who lived in the neighborhood was identified. The prosecutors claimed that this knife was not the murder weapon because, according to the prosecutors and a police officer who testified at trial, the victim's blood was not on the knife.

Years later, after Patterson filed his own Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for lab reports from his case, it was revealed that the victim's blood was indeed on the knife. Patterson was granted a new trial after this revelation, and for 11 more months he remained behind bars awaiting trial. During this time, the Center on Wrongful Convictions defense team developed

further evidence linking the convicted offender to the murder and undermining the original identifications of Patterson. Finally, the prosecutors dropped the charges on October 8, 2010, and Patterson was released after eight years of incarceration for a crime he didn't commit.

## **26** **Julie Baumer** *Michigan Innocence Clinic*

Julie Baumer served 4 years of a 10 to 15 year sentence for allegedly causing serious brain injury to her infant nephew. She was convicted of first-degree child abuse in September 2005 based on the prosecution's assertion that she had violently shaken the six year old, leaving him blind and impaired. At Baumer's trial, one doctor testified that the child had suffered blunt force trauma. Another doctor attributed the child's skull fracture to birth complications, but hypothesized that he had been violently shaken. Despite the lack of external signs of abuse, Baumer was found guilty. Her trial attorney never hired an expert who could read the scans of the baby's brain.

Baumer was granted a new trial and released from prison in 2009 after the scans were sent to outside radiologists who confirmed to a medical certainty that the baby suffered from venous sinus thrombosis, a form of childhood stroke, and not from child abuse. Six defense experts testified pro bono at Baumer's retrial. She was finally cleared on October 15, 2010, when a Michigan jury acquitted her of all charges. The Michigan Innocence Clinic successfully defended the trial judge's decision to grant a new trial on appeal to the Michigan appellate courts and served as co-counsel at the retrial.

## **27** **Jermaine Arrington** *University of Baltimore Innocence Project and Maryland Office of the Public Defender*

Jermaine Arrington was convicted in 1995 of allegedly stabbing and murdering a man during a street fight in Aspen Hill, Maryland. Fifteen years later, Arrington walked out of a Montgomery County courthouse a free man on

October 28, 2010, following a retrial of the case. Arrington was represented by the University of Baltimore Innocence Project and Maryland Office of the Public Defender.

Two witnesses told police that they saw Arrington stab the victim; three other witnesses claimed they heard Arrington say that he perpetrated the stabbing. In describing the attack, the witnesses told police that the killer wore his hair in braids, but Arrington did not. A forensic chemist also testified at trial that bloodstains found on Arrington's sweatpants were "consistent with the blood type of the victim." The jury convicted Arrington after having deliberated for only two hours. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Arrington's public defender, Suzanne Drouet, obtained a court order to conduct post-conviction DNA testing on the sweatpants. The results showed the blood didn't come from the victim, discrediting the prosecution's theory and the only scientific piece of evidence connecting Arrington to the crime. The Maryland Court of Appeals ordered a new trial in December 2009, and with the help of public defender Samantha Sandler, Jones was acquitted on all charges on October 28, 2010.

## **28** **Jack White** *Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted*

While working at an institution for the developmentally disabled, Jack White was accused by a co-worker of sexually harassing and assaulting a client and was subsequently convicted in 1995. As a result, White was fired from his job as a counselor. He was not sentenced to serve any prison time, but he spent over 15 years fighting to prove his innocence.

In 2010, the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted produced evidence that White's accuser had motivation to lie. White had assisted police in an earlier investigation into an assault case at the institution, and this engendered bad blood between White and some long-time employees of the institution.

White's case was reviewed by the Ontario Court of Appeal, which ordered a retrial after it ruled that the co-worker's accusation and testimony at trial was not credible and that White's trial attorney was ineffective in his defense. White was exonerated when prosecutors, after meeting with investigators and the co-worker who testified against him, decided to withdraw all charges on November 26, 2010.

## **29** **John Watkins** *Northern Arizona Justice Project*

John Watkins was wrongfully convicted of rape when he was 20 years old and sentenced to 14 years in prison. New DNA testing obtained last year by the Northern Arizona Justice Project at the Northern Arizona University proved that Watkins did not commit the rape.

The victim of the Gilbert, Arizona rape initially said that she couldn't make an identification because she hadn't gotten a good look at the perpetrator. The one detail she could remember was that the assailant wore a white shirt. However, when police showed the victim a photo array including Watkins (the only lineup member wearing a white shirt), the victim tentatively identified him. Officers neglected to verify Watkins' alibi that he was at home with his parents at the time of the crime.

After being subjected to police questioning for more than four hours, Watkins confessed to the crime. Prosecutors offered Watkins a plea, despite knowing that details from his confession were inconsistent with the crime scene investigation. Facing a lengthy prison sentence, Watkins decided to take the plea.

As DNA testing grew more advanced over the years, Watkins asked the courts for post-conviction testing twice, but he was denied both times. In 2009, the Arizona Justice Project was finally granted permission to test the rape kit and was able to confirm that Watkins was not the perpetrator. Sexual assault charges against Watkins were dismissed on December 14, 2010, and he was released after more than seven years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

# NETWORK MEMBERS

**Alaska Innocence Project**

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California Western School of Law Institute  
for Criminal Defense Advocacy

**Center on Wrongful Convictions**

Northwestern University School of Law

**Committee for Public Counsel Services  
Innocence Program**

**Connecticut Innocence Project**

McCarter & English

**Downstate Illinois Innocence Project**

Institute for Legal and Policy Studies  
at the University of Illinois at Springfield

**Duke Center for Criminal Justice and  
Professional Responsibility**

Duke University School of Law

**Exoneration Initiative**

Georgia Innocence Project

**Griffith University Innocence Project**

Griffith Law School (Australia)

**Hawaii Innocence Project**

William S. Richardson School of Law  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Idaho Innocence Project**

Boise State University

**Innocence Institute of Point Park University**

**Innocence Network UK**

**Innocence Project**

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

**Innocence Project Arkansas**

University of Arkansas

**Innocence Project at UVA School of Law**

**Innocence Project New Orleans**

**Innocence Project New Zealand**

School of Psychology, Victoria  
University of Wellington

**Innocence Project Northwest Clinic**

University of Washington School Law

**Innocence Project of Florida**

**Innocence Project of Iowa**

**Innocence Project of Minnesota**

**Innocence Project of South Dakota**

University of South Dakota School of Law

**Innocence Project of Texas**

**Irish Innocence Project at Griffith College**

Griffith College (Ireland)

**Justice Brandeis Innocence Project**

Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism  
at Brandeis University

**Justice Project, Inc.**

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

**Kentucky Innocence Project**

Department of Public Advocacy

**Life After Innocence Project**

Loyola University School of Law, Chicago

**Maryland Innocence Project**  
University of Baltimore Innocence Project Clinic

**Medill Innocence Project**  
Northwestern University School of Law

**Michigan Innocence Clinic**  
University of Michigan School of Law

**Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project**

**Midwestern Innocence Project**

**Mississippi Innocence Project**  
University of Mississippi

**Montana Innocence Project**

**Nebraska Innocence Project**

**New England Innocence Project**  
Goodwin Procter

**North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence**  
Duke University School of Law/University  
of North Carolina School of Law

**Northern Arizona Justice Project**  
Northern Arizona University Department  
of Criminal Justice

**Northern California Innocence Project**  
Santa Clara University Law School

**Office of the Public Defender,  
State of Delaware**

**Ohio Innocence Project**  
University of Cincinnati

**Office of the Ohio Public Defender, Wrongful  
Conviction Project**

**Osgoode Hall Innocence Project**  
Osgoode Hall Law School  
at York University (Canada)

**Pace Post-Conviction Project**  
Pace University Law School

**Palmetto Innocence Project**

**Pennsylvania Innocence Project**  
Temple University Beasley School of Law

**Reinvestigation Project**  
Office of the Appellate Defender

**Rocky Mountain Innocence Center**

**Sellenger Centre Criminal Justice Review Project**  
The School of Law and Justice,  
Edith Cowan University (Australia)

**Texas Center for Actual Innocence**  
University of Texas School of Law

**Texas Innocence Network**  
University of Houston Law School

**Thomas M. Cooley Law School  
Innocence Project**  
Thomas M. Cooley Law School

**Thurgood Marshall School of Law  
Innocence Project**  
Earl Carl Institute, Thurgood Marshall  
School of Law

**University of British Columbia Law  
Innocence Project**  
University of British Columbia  
Law School (Canada)

**University of Leeds Innocence Project**  
The University of Leeds School of Law (UK)

**Wake Forest University Law School Innocence  
and Justice Clinic**  
Wake Forest University Law School

**Wesleyan Innocence Project**

**Wisconsin Innocence Project**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Wrongful Conviction Clinic**  
Indiana University School of Law

# INNOCENCE NETWORK

**T**he Innocence Network is an affiliation of 63 member organizations dedicated to providing pro bono legal and investigative services to individuals seeking to prove innocence of crimes for which they have been convicted and working to redress the causes of wrongful convictions.

For more on the Innocence Network and for information on how to contact member organizations, please visit [www.innocencenetwork.org](http://www.innocencenetwork.org).

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