



A Monthly Summary of Registry Research

Nov 2019: 13 Exonerations Posted



In 2008, **Ruben Martinez Jr.** of Los Angeles, California was sentenced to more than 40 years in prison for multiple armed robberies. He was declared factually innocent and his conviction was vacated in 2019, after a reinvestigation uncovered new evidence supporting his alibis.

In 1994, [James Long](#) was sentenced to 20 years in prison after falsely confessing to sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl who was murdered along with her 14-year-old companion in Moody, Texas. Long and three co-defendants—Richard Kusssmaul, James Pitts, Jr., and Michael Shelton—were exonerated in 2019 after testing excluded all four defendants and revealed DNA from two unidentified males.

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In 1994, [Michael Shelton](#) was sentenced to 20 years in prison after falsely confessing to sexually assaulting a 17-year-old woman who was murdered along with her 14-year-old companion in Moody, Texas. Shelton and three co-defendants—Richard Kusssmaul, James Pitts, Jr., and James Long—were exonerated in 2019 after testing excluded all four defendants and revealed DNA from two unidentified males.

In 1994, [Richard Kusssmaul](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the murders of two teenagers in Moody, Texas. Kusssmaul and three co-defendants who pled guilty to sexual assault in the case—Michael Shelton, James Pitts, Jr., and James Long—were exonerated in 2019 after testing excluded all four defendants and revealed DNA from two unidentified males.

In 2016, [Kevin Warrior](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for murder in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was granted a new trial and the charges were dismissed after a gun recovered from another man who admitted the crime was linked to the murder.

[Quintin Alonzo](#) of Dallas, Texas was sentenced to life in prison for murder and assault in 2003. He was exonerated in 2019, four years after the real killer confessed to the crime the day before he was executed for a different murder.

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In 2018, [Adrienne August](#) was sentenced to 20 years in prison for a burglary in Brookshire, Texas. His conviction was vacated and the case dismissed after evidence showed he was elsewhere at the time of the crime.

In 2010, [Rhian Taylor](#) was sentenced to 20 years in prison for a shooting that killed one man and injured another in Queens, New York. He was granted a retrial and acquitted in 2017, after evidence was uncovered that called into question the eyewitnesses' credibility.

[Martina Jackson](#) pled guilty in 2018 to conspiracy to commit arson in Oxford, Connecticut. Her conviction was vacated in 2019 after retesting of evidence in preparation for a codefendant's trial failed to detect accelerants.

[Speciale Morris](#) pled guilty in 2018 to conspiracy to commit arson in Oxford, Connecticut. Her conviction was vacated in 2019 after retesting of evidence in preparation for a codefendant's trial failed to detect accelerants.

In 2002, [Ellen Mercer](#) was sentenced to probation after being convicted of defrauding customers through her kitchen and bath design business in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Granted a retrial, she was acquitted in 2006 after presenting new evidence she not did intend to defraud her customers.

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