

Telling Every Story

Last month, we published the cases of Kunta Gable, Leroy Nelson, and Bernell Juluke Jr. The three friends were wrongfully convicted of murder in 1996, based in part on the actions of a corrupt police officer in New Orleans, Louisiana. Their quest for freedom took more than 26 years and is a remarkable account of perseverance in the face of an appellate system that too often favors finality over justice. These exonerations rightly received widespread coverage in the media.



Kunta Gable, Leroy Nelson, and Bernell Juluke Jr. were exonerated more than 26 years after their wrongful convictions. (Photo courtesy of The Guardian)

But not every exoneration receives such attention. Consider the case of <u>Skylor Harmon</u>, who was convicted of murder in Worcester County, Maryland. While the local media covered his 2011 conviction, there was no reporting on his exoneration, which was based on forensic misconduct and ineffective assistance of counsel. We learned of this case through our ongoing examination of compensation records. It's fair to say that in an era where the local media lacks the resources to effectively cover all aspects of the criminal-justice system, the Registry plays an invaluable role in ensuring that these lesser-known examples of injustice are documented.

We <u>rely on your support</u> to fund this research and to tell these stories. We are grateful for your donations, large and small. With a month remaining in 2022, we have already published 370 exonerations. Our final tally, likely to exceed 400 cases, will be the most in

our history. That underscores the pervasiveness of wrongful convictions, the work that's been done to correct these injustices, and the work that remains as we go forward.

Exonerations Published in November

We published 23 other exonerations in November.

Mark Leckington, of Davenport, Iowa, was convicted of child neglect in 2004. He was exonerated through a certificate of innocence in 2008, after courts ruled Leckington didn't have custody of the child at the time of his injuries.

Kurt Foster, of Medina, Ohio, was convicted of two counts of rape in 2019. He was exonerated in 2022 after an appellate court said there was insufficient evidence to sustain the conviction and he received a certificate of innocence.

Kenneth Webb was sentenced in 1987 to life in prison for the murder of a pharmacist in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2022 based on evidence that he falsely confessed and the lead detectives had engaged in misconduct in other cases.

Joseph Pope, of Boston,
Massachusetts, was convicted of murder and armed robbery in 1986. He was released from prison in 2020 and exonerated in 2022, based on the failure of prosecutors to turn over files containing statements that contradicted the testimony of the main witness.

In 2019, Jonathan Aledda, a police officer in North Miami, Florida, was convicted of culpable negligence and sentenced to probation for shooting an autistic man's caretaker. The conviction was reversed, and the case was dismissed because the trial judge erroneously barred evidence of Aledda's training.

We also published 18 exonerations of defendants who were convicted of unlawful possession of a firearm in Illinois. After an appeals court declared the gun law unconstitutional, they applied for and received certificates of innocence in 2022. They are: Undra Bailey, Elizabeth Delgado, Joseph Jackson, Ron Adams, Michael Hill, Columbus Madkins, Jerome Green, Arkeith Mosby, Ali Nakleh, Anthony Maltbia, Reno Sauceda, Brian Luckie, Adrian Garcia, Dartagnan Burch, Anthony Manuel, Willie McWilliam, Alton McReynolds, and Alandis Craine.

With your support, the National Registry of Exonerations can protect the innocent by preventing false convictions.

We find the stories. We painstakingly search for every false conviction in the United States that is overturned and meets our criteria for exoneration. We gather the information, study the cases, and code the data, fueling the most comprehensive public database of exonerations that exists.

We tell the stories. One by one, we write and share the human stories behind each individual exoneration. We bear witness to these incredible injustices to ensure that they are remembered.

And we count the stories. Thousands of exonerees. Tens of thousands of years lost to wrongful incarceration. Untold costs paid by our communities. This independent collection of data allows us to understand how false convictions occur and prevent them from happening in the future.

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