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A Monthly Summary of Registry Postings

January 2020: 16 Exonerations



Termaine Hicks was exonerated on December 16, 2020 after 19 years of wrongful incarceration.

December can be a busy month for exonerations, as prosecutors and defense attorneys try to wrap up cases before the end of the year.

That makes for an active January for the Registry team, as we research these new cases, write narratives and enter information into our database.

We now have more than 2,720 defendants in our main Registry. While patterns emerge from these cases, we are reminded every day that each represents a single person who

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16 Exonerations Posted in January

Browse our [recently posted](#) exonerations, including:

[Termaine Hicks](#) of Philadelphia was convicted of sexual assault in 2002 and shot three times by police during his arrest. He was exonerated in 2020 after an investigation by his attorneys and the Philadelphia DA's Conviction Integrity Unit showed police officers had shot Hicks in the back and falsely testified about his involvement with the rape.

[Roderick Johnson](#) was sentenced to death in 1997 for a double murder in Reading, Pennsylvania. The following year, he was sentenced to life in prison without parole for a separate murder. He was exonerated of all three murders in 2020 because the prosecution had failed to disclose police reports showing that the star witness had lied about his criminal background.

[Leonard Cure](#) was sentenced to life in prison in 2004 for the armed robbery of a Walgreens in Dania Beach, Florida. He was exonerated in 2020 based on an exhaustive re-investigation by the prosecution that concluded that it was physically impossible for Cure to have committed the crime.

[Bernard Howard](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole in 1995 for a triple murder in Detroit, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2020 based on evidence that his confession to the crime was false.

In 2004, [Donald Outlaw](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for a murder in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was exonerated in December 2020 after witnesses identified the real killer and the prosecution admitted failing to disclose evidence of an alternate suspect.

[Quinn Poindexter](#) of Detroit, Michigan, was convicted in 2001 of assault for shooting his neighbor. He was granted a new trial in 2007 based on ineffective assistance of counsel, and then acquitted at retrial in 2009 after his new attorney presented alibi evidence not used at his first trial.

In 2002, [Melvin Thomas](#) was sentenced to 65 years in prison for the attempted murder of a man in Baltimore, Maryland. He was exonerated in 2020 after the victim said Thomas was not the gunman.

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Browse our [Groups Registry](#), including two new cases posted in January, which involve nearly 90 defendants in [Jackson County, Florida](#) and nearly 800 defendants in [Baltimore, Maryland](#), who had their convictions vacated because of misconduct by law-enforcement officers.

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