



51 Exonerations Posted in March



Albert Wilson was exonerated in December 2021 after his new attorneys showed that his defense attorney had overlooked important evidence at the 2019 trial. (Photo courtesy of KWCH)

Late last year, we heard from Jon Eldan, founder of [After Innocence](#), a nonprofit that advocates for and provides assistance to exonerees, about an intensive project he was undertaking to help Indiana exonerees file statutory compensation claims.

Indiana passed a compensation statute in 2019 that provides \$50,000 per year of wrongful incarceration. People exonerated prior to the passage of the statute were given two years to apply, but state officials provided no notice or assistance. The deadline was in October 2021.

Jon told us he used our database to compile a list of 39 Indiana exonerees, and then tracked down five exonerees who were eligible but had not yet applied. As he notes, this is "but for" work: without our database and without After Innocence's vigorous outreach, these exonerees' claims would undoubtedly have expired without them even knowing.

That is not the only "but for" in Indiana. Three of those five exonerees were added to the Registry in 2018 through a class on Miscarriages of Justice taught at the University of California, Irvine. In that class, students learn to search for previously unidentified exonerations by focusing on one particular state. If the Registry had not chosen to focus on Indiana that year, it's unlikely that these exonerees would have been added to the

database, would have been tracked down by After Innocence, and would have filed a claim for their well-deserved compensation.

Simon Cole, the Registry's director, and Senior Researcher Maurice Possley taught that class. Cole has been in touch with some of these former students, and they are excited by the continued impact of their work. One student wrote, "I'm so thankful to have been a part of this experience and that I was able to make a difference in someone's life."

We posted 51 exonerations in March:

[Lamaricus Turner](#) of Austin, Texas, received a 10-year sentence in 2015 after pleading guilty to drug possession. He was exonerated in 2022, after retesting of a baggie for Turner's DNA did not support the prosecution's claim that he contributed DNA to the sample.

In 2006, [Dennis Atkins](#) was sentenced to life in prison for murder in Detroit, Michigan. He was exonerated in February 2022 after the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office reinvestigated and concluded that he was not involved in the crime.

[Reynaldo Munoz](#) was sentenced in 1986 to 60 years in prison for murder in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2022 based on suppressed police reports and physical evidence suggesting he was not involved in the crime.

[Geneva France](#), of Mansfield, Ohio, was convicted in federal court in 2005 of drug distribution. She was exonerated in 2007 after the informant who named her recanted his testimony that placed her in the middle of the drug transaction.

In 1998, 18-year-old [Jermaine Dickerson](#) pled guilty to sexually assaulting a 15-year high school classmate in Contra Costa County, California. He was exonerated in 2021 when the classmate admitted her accusation was false.

In 1995, [Kuantau Reeder](#) of New Orleans, Louisiana, was sentenced to life

[Nancy Smith](#) and [Joseph Allen](#) were convicted in 1994 of rape and related crimes in a child sex abuse hysteria case in Lorain, Ohio. They were exonerated in 2022 after new evidence suggested one victim's mother orchestrated the allegations.

[Albert Wilson](#) was convicted of rape in Lawrence, Kansas, in 2019. He was exonerated in 2021, after his new attorneys showed that his trial attorney failed to review extensive text messages from the alleged victim that undermined her testimony and credibility.

In 2001, [David Faulkner](#) was convicted of burglary and murder in Talbot County, Maryland, and sentenced to life in prison. He was exonerated in 2022 based on evidence pointing to the real killers.

[Larry Barnes](#) and his daughter, [Larita Barnes](#), were convicted of federal drug crimes in 2008 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They were exonerated in 2009 after an investigation into the Tulsa Police Department found that two officers and a confidential informant gave false testimony at the Barnes's trial.

In 2016, [Ernest Green](#) was sentenced to 10 years in prison for supplying cocaine in Walworth County, Wisconsin. He was exonerated in 2022 based on cell phone evidence that pointed to another man as the cocaine source.

[Ignacio Dealba Jr.](#) was convicted in

without parole after being convicted of murder. He was exonerated in 2021 after a re-investigation of his case found evidence supporting Reeder's innocence that prosecutors had failed to disclose to his trial attorney.

In 2013, [Benjamin Hill](#) was sentenced to five years in prison for illegal possession of two handguns. He was exonerated in 2018 based on evidence that his DNA had been planted on the guns by a corrupt police officer.

2006 of robbery and attempted murder in Las Vegas, Nevada. His conviction was vacated in 2009. He received a certificate of innocence in 2022, after his co-defendant recanted his statements implicating Dealba in the crime.

[Carl Lee Jordan](#), of Gulfport, Mississippi, was convicted in 2014 of assault. Jordan had claimed self-defense and was acquitted at retrial in 2018 after being allowed to present evidence of the victim's past violent behavior.

We also published the cases of 20 persons in Illinois who were granted exonerations through certificates of innocence after a part of the state's law on weapon possession was found to be unconstitutional. They are: [Marlon Boyce](#), [Darius Brown](#), [Deonte Brown](#), [Ralph Holloway](#), [Charles Howard](#), [Demetrius Hymon](#), [Enoch Jackson](#), [James Jernigan](#), [Samuel McGee](#), [Calvin Mines](#), [Ideary Mooney](#), [Nicole Nathan](#), [Terrance Nevels](#), [Ishameal Parks](#), [Gregory Rounds](#), [Zachery Smith](#), [Lemuel Straughter](#), [Aaron Terrell](#), [Jermail Washington](#), and [Zackary Wright](#).

And we published 15 more exonerations of defendants wrongly convicted based on misconduct by Chicago Police Sgt. Ronald Watts, leader of a group of corrupt officers at the center of nearly 150 exonerations. They are: [Theodore Wilkins](#), [Rasaan Shannon](#), [Oliver Sims](#), [Walter Thomas](#), [Joseph Thompson](#), [Christopher Turner](#), [Bruce Walker](#), [David Walker](#), [Derek Walker](#), [Kimberly Watkins](#), [John Williams](#), [Leroy Williams](#), [Anthony Wright](#), [Joseph Wright](#), and [Gregory Young](#).

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