



*A Monthly Summary of Registry Postings*

## **July 2020: 15 Exonerations**



James Louis, right, embraces his attorney, Joseph Mazraani (Photo: NJ Advance Media)

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**The Registry continually expands and updates our cases to provide as detailed and accurate portrayals of wrongful convictions as is**

James Louis, Duquene Pierre, and Jean Dorval faced 60 years in prison after being convicted in 1996 of a shooting that killed one man and wounded another in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Courts eventually granted Pierre, then Dorval, new trials based on evidence that they were together in another state at the time of the crime. At Pierre's retrial in 2016, key witnesses recanted their identifications of Pierre and said they were never sure. We added Pierre to the Registry in July 2016, and Duval to the Registry in May 2018. At that time, the Registry remained unaware that any official misconduct contributed to these wrongful convictions.

Louis faced a higher challenge in establishing his innocence. He lacked the powerful alibi evidence available to Pierre and Dorval. The eyewitnesses had not identified Louis, so their recantations didn't apply to his case. Instead, the case against Louis depended largely on the testimony of Allison Johnson and her daughter who said that Louis came to stay with them immediately after the shooting and stayed for two weeks. Johnson and her daughter also said they saw Pierre and Dorval right after the crime—which was impossible because Pierre and Dorval were out of state.

When Louis was finally exonerated in June 2020, we learned details that cast the prosecution of all three men in a new light. In the weeks before Pierre went to trial for a second time, Pierre's lawyers discovered that the prosecution failed to disclose that Johnson was a paid police informant—information that could have been used to challenge her credibility.

This failure to disclose was an act of official misconduct—a factor previously unknown to the Registry. As a result, when we added Louis's case to the Registry, we also recoded Pierre's and Dorval's cases and updated their summaries to provide a more detailed account of the problems that led to these wrongful convictions.

No longer was this a just case of mistaken witness identification and the presentation of an inadequate legal defense. The evidence now revealed that this was a case marked by official misconduct and perjury. The Registry changes regularly as we expand and update our cases to meet our commitment to publish detailed, reliable evidence about wrongful convictions.

**[Read James Louis's story on the Registry.](#)**

## 15 Exonerations Posted in July

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

In 1996, [Lawrence Callanan](#) was sentenced to life in prison for a murder in St. Louis, Missouri. He was exonerated in 2020 because the trial prosecutor elicited false testimony and withheld evidence pointing to another suspect.

In 1996, [James Louis](#) and two others, Duquene Pierre and Jean Dorval, were sentenced to 60 years in prison for murder and aggravated assault in Union County, New Jersey. Pierre was acquitted at a retrial in 2016 based on evidence that he and Dorval were out of state at the time of the murder. In 2018, the prosecution dismissed the charges against Dorval. In 2020, Louis was exonerated after two witnesses admitted they lied to implicate him.

[Andrew Swainson](#) was sentenced in 1989 to life in prison without parole for murder in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was exonerated in 2020 after two witnesses admitted they falsely implicated him and the prosecution admitted failing to disclose evidence of Swainson's innocence.

In 2004, [Annie Kaunda](#) pled guilty to tampering with a government record by allegedly possessing a fake Social Security card in Williamson County, Texas. She was exonerated in 2020 based on evidence that she did not know the card was fraudulent.

[Ralph Birch](#) and [Shawn Henning](#) of New Milford, Connecticut, were convicted of murder in 1989. They were exonerated in 2020 because the forensic analyst and

In 1995, [Samuel Brownridge](#) was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for murder in Queens, New York. He was exonerated in 2020 after an investigation by his lawyers and the Queens County District Attorney's Conviction Integrity Unit. The investigation uncovered the real gunman's identity and undisclosed evidence undermining a witness's identification, and the only other witness recanted his testimony.

In 2013, [Rashon Martin](#) was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to a shooting in the Bronx, New York. He was exonerated in 2019 after the Bronx Conviction Integrity Unit concluded that another man—who later pled guilty to the shooting—was the real gunman.

In 2017, [David Mackley](#) was sentenced to seven years in prison for failing to register as a sex offender in McLennan County, Texas. He was exonerated in 2020 by evidence that he was not required to register in the first place.

[Desirae Glatfelter](#) was sentenced in 2017 to a year in jail in Kent County, Michigan for assaulting her live-in boyfriend. She was granted a new trial and the charges dismissed because she was not allowed to call a domestic abuse expert to explain she was acting in self-defense.

[Ali Sadr Hashemi Nejad](#) was convicted on March 17, 2020 of conspiracy to violate trade sanctions with

scene excluded them.

In 1998, [Jonathan Irons](#) was sentenced to 50 years in prison in St. Charles County, Missouri for an assault and burglary when he was 16 years old. With support from WNBA star Maya Moore, who took a year off from playing to advocate for him, Irons was exonerated in 2020 because the prosecution failed to disclose a report of an unidentified fingerprint on the door of the victim's home.

[Marlina Hamilton](#) was sentenced to life in prison in 2011 for fatally shooting her ex-husband in Albany, Georgia, despite her evidence of being a battered wife. She was exonerated in 2020 by evidence from witnesses not called at her trial who recounted Hamilton's history of abuse.

federal prosecutors moved to dismiss the charges due to their failure to turn over exculpatory evidence to his defense team.

[Raymond Champagne](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole in 1979 for the murder of a prison inmate in Massachusetts. Following an investigation by the Committee for Public Counsel Services Innocence Program, he was exonerated in 2020 based on evidence that one of the witnesses against him was the real killer.

In 2012, [Edward Khalil](#) was sentenced to life in prison for murder in Detroit, Michigan. He was granted a new trial and convicted again in 2014. In 2020, the Wayne County Conviction Integrity Unit concluded Khalil was innocent based on testimony of a witness and cell phone records.

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