



*A Monthly Summary of Registry Postings*

## **Giving Tuesday:**

**Help Us Keep Count**



*NRE Staff, Editors, and Friends, December 2019.*

The system makes mistakes. Our courts routinely wrongfully convict men and women because of police perjury, forensic fraud, or simply because witnesses were mistaken in what they saw.

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simply as anecdotes and outliers. No one kept count. No one connected the dots.

The National Registry of Exonerations filled that gap. We began in 2012 with the simple but profound goals of creating a living archive of wrongful convictions and telling the stories of the men and women who survived them.

This year, we published a groundbreaking report on government misconduct and its role in wrongful convictions. We also lifted the curtain on our Groups Registry, a new archive with the potential to expand our understanding of the corrosive impact of systemic misconduct as a contributor to wrongful convictions.

With criminal justice in its rightful place among our nation's most pressing issues, the Registry's trusted research is more important than ever. Our work is driving the conversations – nationally and locally – about the challenges and solutions on the road ahead.

**We need your support to continue this vital work.**

The Registry is a unique research project. Its editors are faculty members at the University of California, Irvine, the University of Michigan, and Michigan State University. We are grateful for the support we receive from these schools. **But most of our funding comes from the generous support of people like you.**

In these times, perhaps more than ever, research matters. Facts matter. The truth matters. That is why the Registry is so important.

**Won't you please help us? Your contributions make a difference.**

Wrongful convictions happen. How do we know? We know because the National Registry of Exonerations keeps count.

**Donate today to help us keep count.**

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## 12 Exonerations Posted in November

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

In 2009, [William "Tony" Campbell](#) was sentenced to 28 years—later reduced to 20 years—in prison for causing a crash that killed Tina Hayes in Hamilton County, Ohio. He was acquitted at a retrial in 2020

[James Watson](#) of Boston, Massachusetts was sentenced to life in prison for murder in 1984. He was exonerated in 2020 based on evidence that the state had altered and concealed

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and Hayes was the driver.

In 2017, [Alex Heineman](#) pled guilty as a juvenile to sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl in Hudson, Wisconsin. He was exonerated in 2019 after the girl admitted her accusation was false.

In 1989, [Gerard Domond](#) was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for a murder in Brooklyn, New York. He was exonerated in 2020 after the Brooklyn District Attorney's Conviction Review Unit found evidence never disclosed to the defense that the key witness had been hospitalized for mental illness and had an oral agreement for leniency on a robbery charge.

In 2018, [Rexina Linan-Juarez](#) was placed on probation for possession of methamphetamine in San Antonio, Texas. She was exonerated in 2020 after police discovered the drugs were planted by a corrupt informant.

In 2002, [Gary Bennett](#) was sentenced to life in prison for a murder in Horry County, South Carolina. He was acquitted at a retrial in 2020 based on evidence that his co-defendant was the real killer and had acted alone.

In 2006, [Joseph Webster](#) of Nashville, Tennessee, was sentenced to life in prison for a murder that occurred in 1998. He was exonerated in 2020 after the state's key witness recanted and other evidence suggested that Webster's brother had committed the crime.

In 2001, [Robert Majors](#) was sentenced to 62 years to life in prison for a 1997 attempted murder and armed robbery in Queens, New York. He was exonerated in 2020 based on the prosecution's failure to disclose evidence that pointed to another suspect.

[Robert Smith](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole in 1990 for a double murder in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2020 based on evidence that he falsely confessed after interrogating detectives beat him.

In 2002, [Michael Skakel](#) was convicted of murder in the 1975 death of Martha Moxley in Greenwich, Connecticut. His conviction was overturned and the charge dismissed because his attorney had failed to locate an important alibi witness.

[Antonio Martinez](#) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was convicted of murder and manslaughter in 1990. He was exonerated in 2020 after an investigation by the district attorney's conviction integrity unit found that substantial exculpatory evidence had not been given to Martinez's trial attorney.

In 1993, [Emmanuelle Cooper](#) was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for a murder in Brooklyn, New York. He was exonerated in 2020 after witnesses recanted their identifications and the prosecution admitted evidence was not disclosed to the defense prior to trial.

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