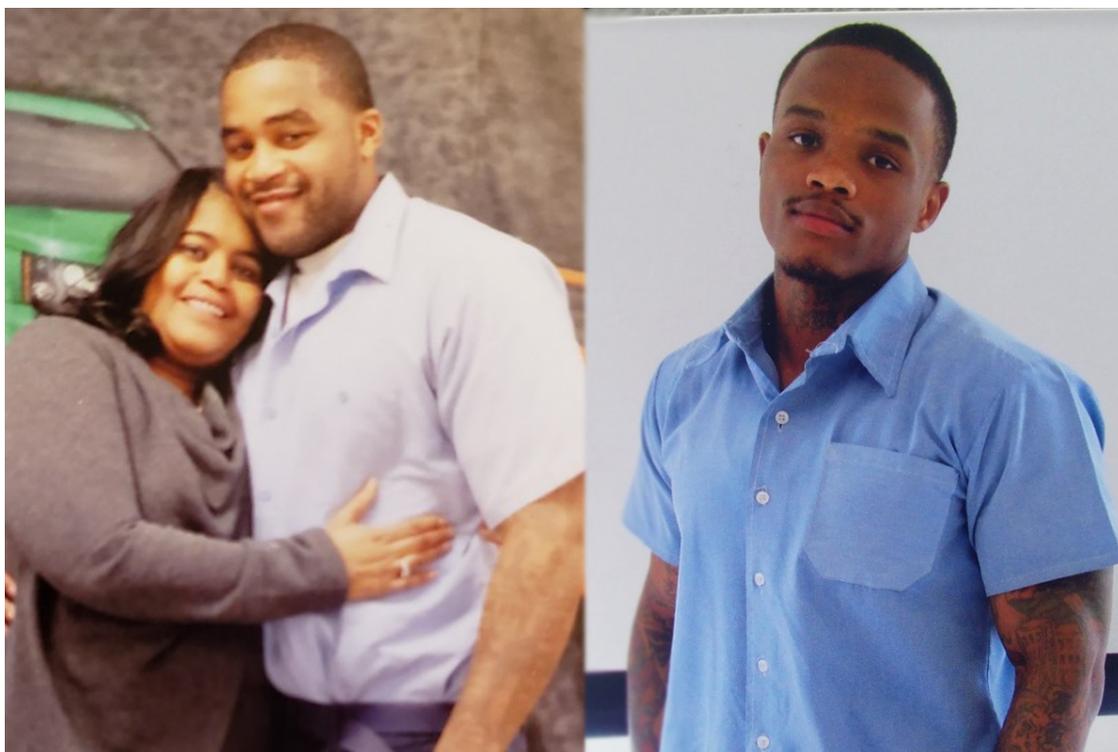


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THE NATIONAL REGISTRY
OF EXONERATIONS

National Registry's Report on Race cited in release of Michael Sutton and Kenny Phillips



Michael Sutton (left) and Kenny Phillips (right) are hoping to be exonerated soon. They were wrongly convicted after evidence pointing to their innocence was withheld from their attorneys. (Family photos/Cleveland Scene)

Ohio's Eighth District Court of Appeals recently ordered new trials for Michael Sutton and Kenny Phillips, who have spent 14 years in prison after being convicted for shooting two people and attempting to shoot a Cleveland police officer in 2006. There was scant forensic and physical evidence tying the two young men to the crime. Their convictions were based on the testimony of two police officers.

It turned out, two other police officers had also seen what happened, and their accounts said Sutton and Phillips were not involved. That evidence was not given to the men's

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questionable, physical evidence.”

Sutton and Phillips are Black, and the officers who arrested them and testified against them are white. Prosecutors argued at trial that this was a straightforward case, where race played no role.

The appellate court disagreed. Underpinning its opinion were statistics from our landmark 2017 report on Race and Wrongful Convictions, which showed the stark racial disparities among persons wrongfully convicted and the challenges defendants, particularly those of color, face in challenging the “practical presumption that police tell the truth in court.”

This acknowledgement in a court opinion—and others like it—provides a powerful validation of our work. At the Registry, we devote enormous time to ensuring that our numbers add up. This is why we are the trusted source for stories and data on wrongful convictions.

Read the Report

21 Exonerations Posted in April

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

[Jermaine Hudson](#) of New Orleans, Louisiana, was sentenced to 99 years in prison for armed robbery in 2000. He was exonerated in 2021 after the victim recanted his trial testimony and said he had lied about being robbed.

In 2013, [Jahmir Harris](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for a murder in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was exonerated in 2021 because the prosecution failed to disclose evidence pointing to the likely real killer.

In 1998, [John Klene](#) and [Edward Dumbrique](#) were sentenced to life in prison without parole for a murder in Hawthorne, California. Dumbrique was just 15 years old. They were exonerated in

After his trial ended in a hung jury, [Roberto Candido](#) pled guilty to possession of a weapon by a felon in 1998 and was sentenced to 2 years and 8 months in prison. He was exonerated in 2000 after evidence of corruption in the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart division undermined the credibility of the officers who arrested him and testified against him.

[Barry Williams](#) was sentenced to death in 1986 for murder in Los Angeles, California. After the conviction was overturned in 2016, the case was dismissed in 2021 because the prosecution allowed witnesses to testify falsely and failed to disclose evidence of favorable treatment for its witnesses.

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In 1989, [Vincent Ross](#) was sentenced to 15 years in prison in Newark, New Jersey for sexual assault. His conviction was reversed and the case dismissed in 1992 based on evidence challenging the credibility of the accuser.

[Yutico Briley](#) was sentenced to 60 years in prison for armed robbery in New Orleans, Louisiana in 2013. He was exonerated in 2021 after the victim recanted his initial statements about the certainty of his identification, and Briley's attorneys were able to show how his trial attorneys provided an inadequate legal defense.

In 2019, [Gloria Lewis](#) and her daughter, [Catherine Lewis](#), were convicted of obtaining drugs by fraud in Concord, Virginia. They were granted a new trial and the charges were dismissed in 2021 because evidence undermining the complaining witness's testimony was not disclosed prior to the trial.

In 2019, [Christopher Stevenson](#) was sentenced to 2 years in prison for a burglary in Brookshire, Texas. His conviction was vacated and the case dismissed after evidence showed he was elsewhere at the time of the crime.

In 2018, [Kirkdrick Austin](#) was sentenced to 4 years in prison for a burglary in Brookshire, Texas. His conviction was vacated and the case dismissed after evidence showed he was elsewhere at the time of the crime.

[Edgar Escobar](#) was convicted of possession of a weapon by a felon in 1997 and sentenced to five years in prison. He was exonerated in 2000 after evidence of corruption in the Los Angeles

to punching a man and ultimately served 54 days in jail in San Antonio, Texas. He was exonerated in 2021 after the man said the crime never occurred.

[Terry Talley](#) was sentenced to life in prison in 1981 for four rapes in Troup County, Georgia. The convictions were vacated and dismissed in 2021 based on DNA evidence pointing to another suspect.

[Marcia Hintz](#), of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was sentenced to 5-10 years on drug charges in 2009. She was exonerated in 2014 after the indictments of several officers involved in her arrest and conviction undermined their credibility as witnesses at her trial.

[Gerald Peters](#) pled guilty to drug possession in 1996 and was sentenced to two years in prison. He was exonerated in 2000 after an officer involved in his arrest recanted and evidence of corruption in the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart division undermined the credibility of the conviction.

[Alfredo Gomez](#) and [Enrique Mena](#) were convicted of weapons possession in 1997. They were exonerated in 2000 after evidence of corruption in the Los Angeles Police Department Rampart division undermined the credibility of their convictions.

In 1992, [William Garland](#) was sentenced to two years in prison for federal fraud in Columbus, Ohio. He was exonerated in 1993 by evidence showing that in fact he was defrauded.

In 2014, [Luke Wirkkala](#) was sentenced to life in prison a murder in Deschutes County, Oregon. He was acquitted at a

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who testified against him.

defense.

Cases Added to the Groups Registry

Beginning in 2018, approximately [40 defendants](#) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania had their convictions vacated and charges dismissed after the disclosure that a police officer had failed a polygraph test and then been placed on a list of officers whom prosecutors didn't want to use as witnesses.

Judges in Glynn County, Georgia, vacated convictions and dismissed charges in 2019 against [nine defendants](#) after a sheriff's deputy was found to have engaged in inappropriate relationships with two confidential informants.

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