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*The National
Registry of*
EXONERATIONS

A Monthly Summary of Registry Postings

February 2021: 15 Exonerations



DNA testing at the Connecticut Forensic Laboratory led to Luis Figueroa's exoneration after nearly two decades of wrongful incarceration. (Photo: Tecton Architects)

At its core, the Registry is a university research project, and we collaborate with numerous other academic researchers about criminal-justice issues. These relationships are vital to our mission. We share our data, and other researchers share their findings, giving us insight and information that might have escaped our attention.

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he also tracks policy changes nationwide.

His research helps us in several ways. First, he alerts us to compensation awards for exonerees that we might have missed through other checks. Entering this information into our database allows the public to understand one of the many costs of wrongful convictions.

But Jeff's research has other benefits. Last month, digging through public compensation records in Connecticut, he unearthed an exoneration from 2014 that had gone unnoticed. Luis Figueroa, of New Haven, was convicted of rape in 1996 based on a mistaken witness identification. He was exonerated in 2014, after DNA testing excluded him as the rapist. His story and struggle for freedom is a remarkable one, and we are proud to include his case in the Registry.

[Read Luis Figueroa's story in the Registry.](#)

15 Exonerations Posted in February

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

In 1990, [Waleed "Tony" Isho](#) was sentenced to 8 to 20 years in prison for bombing a gas station in Detroit, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2020 based on evidence that witnesses falsely identified him.

[Alex Umana](#) was convicted of possession of cocaine in 1997 and sentenced to five years in prison. He was exonerated in 2000 after an investigation revealed widespread corruption among officers in the Rampart Division of the Los Angeles Police Department.

In 1998, [Wayne Antusas](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for murder in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2021 after three witnesses admitted they falsely implicated him in the

In 2016, [Codie Lynn Stevens](#) and [Dane Krukowski](#) were convicted of child abuse based on Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) in Saginaw, Michigan. They were exonerated in 2020 based on evidence that SBS has been discredited and that no abuse occurred.

In 1997, [Nicholas Morfin](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for murder in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2021 after three witnesses admitted they falsely implicated him in the crime.

Convicted in 1980 of aiding and abetting his wife in committing a forgery in Westchester County, New York, [Robert Johnson's](#) conviction was reversed and the charges against him dismissed in

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[Austin Babb](#) was sentenced to 48 years in prison in 2014 for a murder in the Bronx, New York. He was exonerated in 2021 by DNA evidence showing that another man was the killer.

In 1992, [Christopher Williams](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for a murder in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was exonerated in 2021 based on the prosecution's failure to disclose evidence that undermined the credibility of its key witness.

[Eddie Lee Howard Jr.](#) was sentenced to death in 1994 for the murder of an 84-year-old woman in Columbus, Mississippi. He was exonerated in 2021 after the bite mark evidence linking him to the crime was discredited and DNA testing on the murder weapon excluded him.

In 2015, [Oneal Watts](#) pled guilty and was sentenced to six years in prison for a robbery in the Bronx, New York. He was exonerated in 2020 when the real criminal said Watts was not involved.

Johnson's subsequent claim for unjust conviction and imprisonment resulted in an award from the New York Court of Claims in 1992.

In 2018, [Marcus Ealy](#) was sentenced to 48 to 82 years in prison for a carjacking in Detroit, Michigan. He was exonerated in July 2020 because a surveillance video in a related robbery case showed that he was not the carjacker.

In 2004, [Gregory Berry](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for taking part in a murder in Detroit, Michigan. He was exonerated after the gunman said police physically abused him until he falsely implicated Berry in the crime.

[Willie Shaw](#) pled guilty in 2016 to patient abuse and neglect in the death of an elderly woman at the North Carolina nursing home where he worked. He was exonerated in 2021 after a new review of the forensic evidence and video footage at the nursing home found the woman's death was more likely the result of natural causes.

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