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THE NATIONAL REGISTRY
OF EXONERATIONS

2020 Annual Report



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OF EXONERATIONS

2020 REPORT
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INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE
EXONERATED IN 2020 LOST
A TOTAL OF **1,737 YEARS** TO
WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT.

EVERY STORY COUNTS.

First things first. We encourage you to read our [annual report](#) which was released earlier this week. It details our work during the past year and highlights several important trends—such as the role of official misconduct—driving wrongful convictions in the United States. It's also an opportunity to show off our new look. Here's the story behind that.

Early last June, as our nation grieved for and protested over the death of George Floyd, we received an email from Joshua Best, the creative director of a small advertising agency in western Michigan that wanted to help the fight against injustice by donating its time and talent to helping the Registry with branding and advertising.

David and Brook is based in the small city of Zeeland. The firm's name and tagline, "Finding bold ideas that take down giants," give you a sense of its values. We did some due diligence, liked what we heard, and then began talking with Josh and his team about the Registry's goals, and how we wanted to better communicate the importance of what we do with the public. They listened well and then got to work.

You can see the results on our website. First is our new logo, a striking visual feature. The

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and easier-to-read fonts. All of these are designed to reinforce the Registry's core attributes: transparency, thoroughness, and independence.

And finally, is our new tagline: **Every Story Counts**. This is the heart of the Registry. We believe that every wrongful conviction is important, and that the combination of authoritative narratives and careful data analysis we provide makes the Registry a required tool for understanding criminal-justice issues.

Read the 2020 Annual Report

18 Exonerations Posted in March

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

In 2007, [Tyrone Herron](#) was sentenced to one year in prison for possession of heroin in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2021 after the police officer in charge of his case was convicted of framing suspected drug dealers and forcing people to pay bribes to avoid false arrest.

[Diego Barrios](#) pled guilty to a weapons charge in Los Angeles in 1996. He was exonerated in 2000 after an investigation into the Rampart Division of the LAPD revealed a pattern of misconduct that undermined Barrios's conviction.

In 2003, [Clifford Roberts](#) was sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to possession of heroin in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2021 after the police officer in charge of the case was convicted of framing suspected drug dealers and forcing people to pay bribes to avoid false arrest.

In 2006, [Lloyd Newman](#) was sentenced to two years of probation after pleading guilty to possession of heroin in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2021 after the police officer in charge of the case was convicted of framing suspected drug dealers and forcing people to pay bribes to avoid false arrest.

In 1994, [Larry Smith](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for a murder in Detroit, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2021 after a jailhouse informant admitted he falsely testified that Smith had admitted to the crime.

[Robert Fenenbock](#) was convicted in 1994 of murder in the death of a man in Hawkins Bar, California, who had been accused of abusing a young girl. He was exonerated in 2020 based on his codefendant's confession that did not mention Fenenbock participating in the crime.

In 2005, [Bryant Patrick](#) was

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heroin in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2021 after the police officer in charge of his case was convicted of framing suspected drug dealers and forcing people to pay bribes to avoid false arrest.

In 2005, 19-year old [Kenneth Nixon](#) was sentenced to life in prison for setting a fire that killed two children in Detroit, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2021 after a jailhouse informant admitted his testimony that Nixon confessed to the crime was false.

[Esaw Booker](#) was convicted of possession of a controlled substance in 1992 and spent five years in prison. He was exonerated in 2000 after evidence of corruption in the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart division undermined the credibility of an officer whose testimony had been central to Booker's conviction.

[Wildon Rodriguez](#), of Brooklyn, New York, was sentenced to 25 years to life for second-degree murder in 1999. He was exonerated in 2021, after courts ruled that prosecutors failed to disclose favorable treatment received by the state's sole eyewitness.

[Robert Foxworth](#) of Boston, Massachusetts, was convicted of second-degree murder in 1992. He was exonerated in 2021 after a witness recanted and his attorneys discovered exculpatory evidence implicating someone else that was not given to his trial attorney.

In 2008, [Trinere Johnson](#) was sentenced to probation after pleading guilty to possession of narcotics. She was exonerated in 2020 after the police officer

Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2021 after the police officer in charge of the case was convicted of framing suspected drug dealers and forcing people to pay bribes to avoid false arrest.

After [Javier Ovando](#) was shot by two members of the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart division in 1996, he was convicted in 1997 of assaulting the officers and sentenced to 23 years in prison. He was exonerated in 1999 after one of the officers said he and his partner had shot Ovando and then planted a weapon on him.

[Teresa Odom](#), of Alford, Florida, pled guilty to drug possession in 2018. She was exonerated that same year after a videotape appeared to show a sheriff's deputy planting evidence during the traffic stop that led to her arrest.

[Catrina Bonners](#) was sentenced to probation in 2007 after pleading guilty to possession of heroin in Chicago, Illinois. She was exonerated in 2021 after the police officer in charge of her case was convicted of framing suspected drug dealers and forcing people to pay bribes to avoid false arrest.

In 2007, [Eveless Harris](#) was sentenced to one year in prison for possession of heroin in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2021 after the police officer in charge of his case was convicted of framing suspected drug dealers and forcing people to pay bribes to avoid false arrest.

In 2006, [Jermaine Morris](#) was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to possession of heroin in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2021 after the police officer in charge of

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forcing people to pay bribes to avoid false arrest.

people to pay bribes to avoid false arrest.

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