



## A Jury in Houston Speaks

This week, a jury in Houston, Texas, sentenced Gerald Goines, a former undercover officer with the city's police department, to 60 years in prison after convicting him earlier of two counts of murder in the deaths of Dennis Tuttle and Rhogena Nicholas, who were killed during the execution of a “no-knock” search warrant at their home in January 2019.

The investigation into the deaths revealed a long history of misconduct by Goines. He had lied on the search-warrant application, and when the Harris County District Attorney's Office reviewed thousands of cases worked by Goines and his partner, they found other systemic problems. Confidential informants said Goines paid them for work that didn't occur and that Goines falsified records on controlled buys.

By early 2020, the district attorney's office found approximately 70 defendants whose convictions might have been tainted by Goines's involvement.

We published [Otis Mallet Jr.](#)'s exoneration, the first from this group, in August 2020. Since then, we've added 27 additional cases tied to Goines's actions. We've also published an [entry](#) in our Groups Registry about these cases.

The ripple effect of Goines's misconduct is deep and wide. Among the people Goines arrested during his career was George Floyd, who was killed in 2020 by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Goines arrested Floyd in 2004 for possession of cocaine, and Floyd pled guilty to the charge and received a sentence of 10 months in jail. Floyd received a letter from the district attorney's office on March 8, 2019, advising Floyd that Goines was under investigation and had been relieved of duty. It's not clear whether Floyd received that letter, but a year later he was dead. His family and others petitioned state officials in Texas to posthumously pardon Floyd for that conviction. They were unsuccessful.



*Gerald Goines*  
*(Photo: Houston Chronicle)*

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We published nine exonerations in September.

In 1999, [Garland “Butch” Martin](#) was convicted of murder in the fire deaths of his wife and two children in Midland, Texas. He was exonerated in 2024, after a re-investigation said there was no evidence that the fire was intentionally set.

In 1999, [Oscar Soto](#) pled guilty to attempted murder and was sentenced to six years in prison in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2024 based on evidence that Detective Reynaldo Guevara, the lead detective, had coerced false identifications in other cases.

In 2019, [Keshawn Duffy](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for sexually assaulting his girlfriend's 11-year-old son in Hampton, Virginia. He was exonerated in 2024 after the boy admitted that his accusation was false.

In 2010, [Anthony Bedolla](#) was convicted of murder in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was exonerated in 2024, based on the failure of police and prosecutors to disclose evidence pointing to alternate suspects.

In 2018, [Vincent Marez](#) pled guilty in Scottsdale, Arizona, to driving while impaired. He was exonerated in 2019, after learning that prosecutors failed to disclose lab results that failed to detect the presence of controlled substances in his blood.

In 2015, [Antonio Herrera](#) pled guilty in Scottsdale, Arizona, to driving while impaired. He was exonerated in 2020, after learning that prosecutors failed to disclose lab results that failed to detect the presence of controlled substances in his blood.

In 2014, [Roderick Phippen](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for a murder in Detroit, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2024 based on evidence that the only witness to implicate him had falsely accused Phippen of the crime.

[Jason Sanchez](#) was convicted in 2020 of stalking and violating a restraining order in Eddy County, New Mexico. He was exonerated in 2023, after an appellate court ruled that there was insufficient evidence to support his conviction and Sanchez presented evidence that his trial attorney was ineffective.

In 2020, [Ricky Weaver](#) was convicted of solicitation to commit murder in Elmore County, Idaho. He was exonerated in 2024, based on the state's failure to disclose exculpatory evidence impeaching a witness and supporting Weaver's defense.

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