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Registry Year in Review

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

The Registry's research and our team are widely quoted in the local and national media, with more than 170 mentions in 2020. Our work provides critical context on criminal-justice issues, illuminating problems in the system and also pointing to potential solutions. As occurred in the case of our groundbreaking [report on government misconduct](#), released in September, sometimes the Registry's research is the news itself. See key news coverage [here](#).

The Registry's data has been a frequent and powerful catalyst for action. During 2020, it was cited by the LA County District Attorney's Office, the Philadelphia Attorney's Office, the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. The Registry has been featured by the Innocence Project, the Equal Justice Initiative, the Marshall Project, and the Death Penalty Information Center. More than 80 scholarly publications cited the National Registry of Exonerations during 2020.

This year, 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.

Most of our funding comes from the generous support of people like you. We need your support to continue this vital work.

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We know because the National Registry of Exonerations keeps count.

Donate today to help us keep count.

10 Exonerations Posted in December

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

In 1983, [Walter Forbes](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for setting a fire that killed a man in Jackson, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2020, after the sole witness who implicated Forbes recanted her testimony and evidence showed the building's owner was the likely perpetrator.

[Delbert Carrillo](#) pled guilty to drug possession and was sentenced to 2 years in 1998 in Los Angeles, CA. He was exonerated in 2000 after an investigation into the Rampart Division of the LAPD revealed that officers had framed him.

[Roy Montes](#) pled guilty to drug offenses and sentenced to 360 days in 1996 in Los Angeles, CA. He was exonerated in 1999 after an investigation into the Rampart Division of the LAPD revealed that officers had framed him.

In 1995, [Luis Batista](#) was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for an assault and robbery in a motel in Troy, New York. He was exonerated in 2018 after the state's primary witness admitted she had falsely accused Batista under pressure from a prosecutor.

In 2009, [Olin "Pete" Coones](#) was sentenced to 50 years to life in prison for murdering his late father's caretaker in

[Lorenzo Nava](#) was sentenced to 54 years for weapons and drug offenses in 1997 in Los Angeles, CA. He was exonerated in 2000 after an investigation revealed widespread corruption among officers in the Rampart Division of the LAPD.

[Samuel Bailey](#) pled guilty to a weapons offense and was sentenced to 32 months in 1996 in Los Angeles, CA. He was exonerated in 1999 after an investigation into the Rampart Division of the LAPD revealed that officers had framed him.

[Roberto Andrade](#) was sentenced to 10 years for drug possession in 1997 in Los Angeles, CA. He was exonerated in 2000 after an investigation revealed widespread corruption among officers in the Rampart Division of the LAPD.

In 1995, [Jaythan Kendrick](#) was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for the robbery and murder of a woman in Queens, New York. He was exonerated in 2020 after an eyewitness recanted and the prosecution admitted failing to disclose evidence impeaching another witness.

In 2014, [Keith Matsumoto](#), a wrestling coach, was convicted of improperly

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jailhouse informant had lied and the prosecution withheld evidence that the victim died by suicide.

was reversed and the case was dismissed in 2020 after the Hawaii Supreme Court held that his confession was coerced.

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