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## A Monthly Summary of Registry Research

## Feb 2020: 16 Exonerations Posted



In 1996, <u>Kevin Baker</u> and <u>Sean Washington</u> were sentenced to 60 years to life in prison for a double homicide in Camden, New Jersey. They were exonerated in 2020 after forensic evidence showed that the sole eyewitness's account was wrong. (From left: Miss Hank, Sean Washington, Kevin Baker, and Michael & Lesley Risinger from The Last Resort Exoneration Project at Seton Hall Law School)

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In 1993, Theophalis Wilson was sentenced to life in prison for three murders in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was exonerated in January 2020 by physical evidence that undermined the sole eyewitness's account of the crime

In 1993, Christopher Williams was sentenced to death for three murders in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was exonerated in December 2019 by physical evidence that undermined the sole eyewitness's account of the crime.

In 2002, Kerry Robinson was sentenced to 20 years in prison for a rape in Moultrie, Georgia. He was exonerated by evidence showing that a co-defendant falsely accused him of taking part in the crime and that the forensic analysis presented at trial that tied him to the crime was wrong.

In 2017, <u>Jonathan Marden</u> was convicted of raping his 16-year-old former girlfriend. He was granted a new trial before sentencing and the case was dismissed based on evidence that the sex was consensual.

In 2014, John "Jack" McDowell was sentenced to 30 years in prison for a murder in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. In 2019, after the New Mexico Supreme Court reversed his conviction due to the prosecutor's improper argument, a jury acquitted him at a retrial based on evidence pointing to his son as the true perpetrator.

Victor Safforld of Chicago, Illinois was convicted of murder in 1992. His conviction was vacated in 2009 based on evidence that his confession was the product of an abusive interrogation, and in 2010 the charge was dismissed.

In 1985, <u>Rafael Ruiz</u> was sentenced to 8 1/3 to 25 years in prison for a rape in Manhattan, New York. He was exonerated by DNA testing in 2020 after having served 25 years in prison.

In 2017, <u>David Carlson</u> was sentenced to five years in prison for manslaughter in Orange County, New York. He was granted a new trial and acquitted in 2020 based on evidence he acted in self-defense.

In 2015, <u>Diallo Corley</u> was sentenced to 22 to 32 years in prison for a shooting in Detroit, Michigan. He was acquitted at a retrial in January 2020 after a witness came forward to contradict the victim's account of the shooting.

In 2005, <u>James Fletcher Jr.</u> was sentenced to life in prison without parole for a murder in Chicago in 1990. He was exonerated in January 2020 after a witness recanted her identification and evidence showed detectives manipulated witnesses to lie.

In 1996, <u>Christian Pacheco</u> was sentenced to 25 years to life for slitting a man's throat during a nightclub brawl in Brooklyn, New York. His conviction was vacated and he was released in 2020 after another man admitted he had committed the crime.

Anthony Dyer of Detroit, Michigan, pled guilty to rape in 2001. He was exonerated in 2017 after the DNA evidence from the rape kit was analyzed and excluded him as a contributor to the sample.

In 2006, Anthony Mays was sentenced to 2 and a half years in prison for possession of heroin and cocaine in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2020 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.

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