



A Fresh Start at the Registry's Foundation

In 2021, we launched the National Registry of Exonerations Foundation, a non-profit whose goal is to raise money for the Registry and place us on firm financial footing.

Meghan Barrett Cousino recently took on the role of Executive Director of the NRE Foundation. Meghan joined the Registry in 2016, launching our [pre-1989 database](#), which contains nearly 460 exonerations, some dating back to the 1800s.

She's a great writer and tireless researcher, who's also helped on a wide range of other projects. Meghan has both her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Michigan and previously worked as a corporate attorney in Chicago.

“The significance of the Registry’s research and data can’t be overstated, and I feel fortunate to be an ambassador for this team and its important work,” she said.

We all know the importance of the Registry's work in finding patterns of injustice that can be used by attorneys and policy makers in undoing or preventing wrongful convictions. Meghan's job is to make sure that we have the resources to continue this mission for years to come.



Meghan Barrett Cousino

We published 20 exonerations in September.

[Michael Griffin](#) was convicted in 2010 of the murder of his infant daughter in Flint, Michigan, and sentenced to life in prison. He was exonerated in 2023, after a new review of the child's medical records said there was no clear evidence that her death was caused by abusive head trauma.

[Gregory Hobbs](#), of Roswell, New Mexico, was convicted of manslaughter in 2013. He was exonerated in 2023 after DNA testing suggested the victim had touched Hobbs's gun, supporting his claim of self-defense during a violent struggle.

In 2008, [Terrell Champagne](#) was sentenced to 30 days in a juvenile facility after pleading guilty to possession of narcotics. He was exonerated in 2021 based on evidence that he had been framed by corrupt police officers.

In 2005, 14-year-old [Charles Johnson](#) was adjudicated delinquent for possession of cocaine and placed on probation in Chicago, Illinois. In 2022, he was exonerated based on evidence that corrupt police officers had framed him.

[Joseph LaCroix](#) pled guilty in 2017 to failure to register as a sex offender in Bonneville County, Idaho. He was exonerated in 2023 after a judge ruled that his previous juvenile offense in another state didn't require him to register in Idaho.

[Verle Mangum](#), formerly of Grand Junction, Colorado, was convicted of two counts of murder in 2003. He was exonerated in 2023 after the courts ruled that his trial attorneys were ineffective in failing to secure witness testimony that supported his alibi.

In 2022, [David Vaz](#) was convicted of kidnapping, unlawful restraint, and assault in Orleans County, Vermont. His conviction was vacated, and the charges were dismissed in 2023 because the prosecution had failed to disclose police reports showing that the witness against Vaz had lied to police in an unrelated shooting case.

In 2019, [Jesse Jaggar](#) was convicted of kidnapping and other charges for assaulting a woman in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. He was granted a new trial and acquitted based on photographic evidence that contradicted the victim's account.

In 1976, [Leonard Mack](#) was convicted of the rape of a 17-year-old girl in Westchester County, New York. He was released from prison in 1982 and exonerated in 2023, after DNA testing of evidence identified the real assailant. The 47 years between Mack's conviction and his exoneration is the most for any DNA-based exoneration in the Registry.

In 2006, 16-year-old [Dionte Evans](#) was sentenced to probation after admitting he possessed cocaine in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2022 based on evidence that he had been framed by corrupt police officers.

[Mahlik Washington](#) pled guilty in 2008 to possession of heroin and was sentenced to probation in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2022 based on evidence that he had been framed by corrupt police officers.

In 2004, [Ervin Wright](#) was sentenced to 18 months in prison after pleading guilty to possession of heroin in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2023 based on evidence that corrupt police had framed him.

In 1996, [Reginald Cameron](#) was sentenced to three years and nine months to 11 years in prison

after pleading guilty to robbery in Queens, New York. He was exonerated in 2023 based on evidence that his confession to the crime was false.

In 1996, [Armond McCloud Jr.](#) was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison after confessing to a murder in Queens, New York. He was exonerated in 2023 based on evidence that the confession was false.

[Evaristo Salas](#) had just turned 16 years old when he was sentenced in 1996 to 33 years in prison for murder. He was exonerated in 2023, after a witness recanted and an investigation of his case uncovered evidence that impeached the state's witnesses.

[Lisa Brown](#), of Houston, Texas, pled guilty to a drug offense in 2011. She was exonerated in 2023 after the officer involved in her arrest was tied to misconduct in other cases.

In 1993, [Grant Jones](#) was convicted in Salisbury, Maryland, of an attempted sexual assault and related crimes. He was exonerated in 2023, after an investigation into his case and a related wrongful conviction of another man showed that the purported victim likely lied about the attack.

[Michael McDermott](#) was convicted in 2019 of second-degree murder in Sandpoint, Idaho. After receiving a new trial, McDermott was acquitted at retrial in 2023 after his new attorney was able to introduce evidence supporting a self-defense claim.

In 2012, [Donta Regustors](#) was sentenced to life in prison for a shooting in Philadelphia that left one man dead and two men injured. He was exonerated in 2023 based on evidence that Detective Phillip Nordo coerced false statements from the two surviving witnesses and then lied about it at trial.

In 1994, [Earl Walters](#) was sentenced to 17 ½ to 40 years in prison after falsely confessing to two carjackings in Queens, New York in 1992. He was exonerated in 2023 when the real perpetrators were identified through fingerprint evidence.

With your support, the National Registry of Exonerations can protect the innocent by preventing false convictions.

We find the stories. We painstakingly search for every false conviction in the United States that is overturned and meets our criteria for exoneration. We gather the information, study the cases, and code the data, fueling the most comprehensive public database of exonerations that exists.

We tell the stories. One by one, we write and share the human stories behind each individual

exoneration. We bear witness to these incredible injustices to ensure that they are remembered.

And we count the stories. Thousands of exonerees. Tens of thousands of years lost to wrongful incarceration. Untold costs paid by our communities. This independent collection of data allows us to understand how false convictions occur and prevent them from happening in the future.

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