



Building a Living Archive

We often refer to the Registry as a living archive of injustice. We're proud of what we've built and of the role the Registry plays in researching wrongful convictions.

Many people have played a key role in our success.

CATHERINE GROSSO

One of those is Catherine Grosso, a law professor at Michigan State University, who served as our associate editor for six years. Among her many contributions was supervising the launch of our [Groups Registry](#). Earlier this year, Catherine decided to step back and devote more of her time to her longstanding interest in the intersection of race and jury selection, and her research on capital punishment.

PATRICIA CUMMINGS

We are sorry to report that Patricia Cummings has left the Registry. She joined the Registry as our executive director earlier this year, after managing conviction integrity units in Texas and Pennsylvania. We appreciate the passion, legal expertise, and insight she brought to the Registry.

With these departures, our team is looking at ways to build new partnerships that will help us continue to research wrongful convictions. We'll tell you about updates when they happen. For now, we are focused on the work, on adding to our database, and on telling the profoundly important stories of men and women who were wrongfully convicted.

NEW DONATION PORTAL

Our new and improved [donation portal](#) is up and running. It can be found at the top of our [home page](#), by clicking "Donate Now." We think it will provide a smoother and more transparent experience for donors. As always, we are grateful for your support.

Exonerations Published in October

We published 26 exonerations in October. These include well-publicized cases, such as the exoneration of [Adnan Syed](#), who was sentenced to life in prison in 2000 for the murder of Hae Min Lee in Baltimore, Maryland. But we also track and research

exonerations that received little, if any, notice, such as the case of [Jeremiah Spruill](#), who was convicted of two drug crimes in New York City and exonerated after the undercover officer involved in his arrest was found to have fabricated evidence in other cases.



Adnan Syed was exonerated in October 2022 after more than two decades of wrongful incarceration. (Photo courtesy of CNN)

Our other exonerations published in October:

[Terrance Washington](#), of Tallahassee, Florida, was convicted of murder in 1997 in the death of his girlfriend's young son. An appellate court granted him a new trial, saying the trial judge erred in disallowing witness testimony suggesting the girlfriend might have committed the crime, and Washington was acquitted at retrial in 2001.

[Jeffrey Brown](#) pled guilty twice to failure to comply with Indiana's sex-offender registration law. His convictions were vacated in 2016 after it was determined Brown wasn't required to register. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute declared Brown innocent in 2022.

In 1971, [Richard Phillips](#) was convicted of an armed robbery in Ferndale, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2022 based on testimony from a co-defendant who said Phillips was not involved and who identified the true perpetrator. Phillips had already been

[Thelonious Searcy](#), of Detroit, Michigan, was convicted of murder in 2005 and sentenced to life without parole. He was exonerated in 2022 after another man, a contract killer in prison for 11 murders, confessed to the crime.

[Kelly Daws](#) was sentenced to 12 years in prison for conspiring to have her estranged husband murdered in Port Arthur, Texas. She was granted a new trial, and the case was dismissed after the prosecution revealed for the first time evidence that impeached the lead police investigator and the man who committed the attack.

[Donna Conley](#) was sentenced to 13 years in prison in 2003 after she was convicted of involuntary manslaughter for the death of her 4-year-old stepdaughter in Perry County, Ohio. She was granted a new trial and acquitted in 2007 after the defense presented evidence the girl died after a fall.

[exonerated in 2018](#) after serving more than 45 years in prison for a murder in 1972.

[Marcellous Pittman](#), of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced to 80 years in prison in 2005 for attempted murder. He was exonerated in 2022, after a judge found that police had tortured him into giving a false confession.

[Jennifer Del Prete](#) was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2005 for shaking an infant and causing fatal injuries in Romeoville, Illinois. Del Prete was exonerated in 2022 based on medical evidence that the infant died of unrelated causes.

[Dowaun Andrew](#), [Kevell Chester](#), [Kenyatta Brown](#), [Peter Campbell](#), and [Stephen Crump](#) were all convicted of illegal possession of a weapon in Illinois. Each was exonerated after an appeals court declared the state's gun law unconstitutional and they received certificates of innocence.

We also published the exonerations of seven men whose convictions were based on the corrupt actions of former Sgt. Ronald Watts of the Chicago Police Department. They are: [Joshua King](#), [Dexter Willis](#), [Melvin Irving](#), [Brian Gaines](#), [Damian Culverson](#), [Joseph Perry](#), [Christopher Jones](#), and [Charles Slaughter](#). We now have 194 exonerations tied to this officer's misconduct.

In 1997, [Anthony Kyles](#) was sentenced to life in prison for setting a fire that killed three children and their father in Pontiac, Michigan. Kyles was exonerated in 2022 based on evidence that the fire was an accident and the recantation of the witness who had falsely accused him of setting the blaze.

[Michael Sutton](#) and [Kenny Phillips](#), of Cleveland, Ohio, were convicted in 1997 of attempted murder and other charges. They were acquitted at a retrial in 2022, after introducing evidence that discredited the testimony of the two police officers who were the state's key witnesses.

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.

Your donations power the Registry. Please donate today.



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