

Justice:Denied - Issue 31, Winter 2006

Table of Contents

Shaky Testimony Puts Man in Jail for Life – The Paul Ford Jr. Story.....	3
Arthur Mumphrey Freed After 18 Years Wrongful Imprisonment For Sexual Assault.....	4
John Spirko Update.....	5
Wisconsin Innocence Project Needs To Show Backbone In Steven Avery’s Case.....	5
Four Men Framed By Chicago PD Informant Exonerated Of Murder.....	6
\$6.74 Million Awarded To Three Men Framed For 1997 Chicago Gang Murder.....	6
DNA Tests, Word On The Street Agree - The Alan Crotzer Story.....	7
“After Innocence” - A Review of the Documentary.....	9
LaFonso Rollins Awarded \$9 Million For Wrongful Rape Conviction.....	9
\$3 Million Wenatchee “Sex Ring” Award Tossed By WA Supreme Court.....	10
Canadian Supreme Court Tosses “Bawdy House” Convictions.....	11
Wrongful Conviction Lawyer Cleared After Criticizing Judges.....	11
Eric Sarsfield’s Rape Exoneration Leads to \$2.5 Million Compensation.....	12
Rodney Addison Freed From Nine Years Of Wrongful Imprisonment.....	13
Boston Agrees To Pay \$3.2 Million To Neil Miller For False Rape Conviction.....	13
Exculpatory Surveillance Video Not Analyzed Prior to Trial - The Kenneth Krause Story.....	14
Tony Ford Update.....	15
Norfolk Four Update.....	15
Andrew Mallard Released After 12 Years Wrongful Imprisonment.....	16
Magistrate Awarded \$348,000 And New Job After “Threat” Conviction Tossed.....	17
‘Aussie Battler’ Pauline Hanson Exonerated Of Fraud Conviction.....	18
Man Innocent Of Rape Sues His Accuser For Defamation.....	20
Malaysia Offers Compensation For Wrongful Immigration Conviction.....	20
“Tulia Travesty” Prosecutor Terry McEachern’s Conduct Swept Under The Rug By Texas State Bar.....	21
Steven Avery Settles Wrongful Imprisonment Suit For \$400k.....	22
Louisiana Makes First Wrongful Conviction Award of \$150k To Gene Bibbins.....	22
In Justice - A Review Of The Television Program.....	23
The Anatomy Of A Sex Conviction Frame-Up - The Alleged “Victim” Exposes The Lie.....	24
Florida Supreme Court Acquits John Robert Ballard From Death Row.....	26
Commitment To Justice Requires All Appellate Opinions Must Be Published and Precedential.....	29
Non-published and Non-precedential Opinions Stealthily Harm The Innocent.....	29
California Justices Carve Exception To No-Cite Rule.....	32
Invisible Executions: Non-published Opinions In Capital Cases.....	33
Has Anyone Noticed the Judiciary’s Abandonment of Stare Decisis?.....	35
Publicity Spurred Crotzer’s Release By Reluctant Officials.....	40
State Court Rules On Citation Of Unpublished Opinions.....	41
“A Long Time Coming!” - Two Men Exonerated Of Murdering Man Scotland Yard Knew Was Alive.....	43
British P.M. Tony Blair Apologizes To Guildford Four and Maguire Seven.....	45
Article Submission Guidelines.....	46

Message From The Publisher

It is a damning indictment of this country’s state and federal legal process that the names of only 41 people are listed on the cover of this issue. Do the math. That is less than one per state. One reason is the reluctance of prosecutors and judges to disturb a conviction, since no matter how you cut it, that constitutes on some level an admission that the system didn’t work. While the efforts of investigators, lawyers and support personnel are critical, they all too often aren’t enough to overcome the protective shield of darkness provided by containment of a case within the confines of the courtroom.

Defendant favorable publicity throws a monkey-wrench in the “containment” process. At its most effective it moves the issues outside the courtroom and the tight control of the legal players involved, and into the court of public opinion. Alan Crotzer’s story on page 7 is confirmation of the power of publicity to light a fire under a prosecutor and judge reluctant to act when faced with overwhelming proof a new trial or dismissal of charges is warranted. Clarence Elkins, reported on in *JD* Issue 30, likewise owes the timing of his release to a crescendo of publicity supporting his release due to his provable innocence. Similarly, in *Freeing The Innocent*, Michael and Becky Pardue credit positive publicity as a strategy critical to winning Michael’s release from 28 years of wrongful imprisonment. An enterprising public relations person might be able to create a niche business by devising publicity strategies for the wrongly convicted.

Kudos to Jackie McMurtrie and the Innocence Project Northwest for the fabulous job they did in hosting the 2006 National Innocence Network Conference at the University of Washington Law School in March. The food was great, the conversation stimulating, and the programs informative.

Hans Sherrer, Publisher

Justice:Denied - the magazine for the wrongly convicted

Justice: Denied’s logo represents the snake of evil and injustice climbing up on the scales of justice.



JUSTICE DENIED: THE MAGAZINE FOR THE WRONGLY CONVICTED

Information About *Justice:Denied*

Six issues of *Justice:Denied* magazine costs \$10 for prisoners and \$20 for all other people and organizations. Prisoners can pay with stamps and pre-stamped envelopes. A sample issue costs \$3. See order form on page 47. An information packet will be sent with requests that include a 37¢ stamp or a pre-stamped envelope. Write: Justice Denied, PO Box 68911, Seattle, WA 98168.

DO NOT SEND JUSTICE:DENIED ANY LEGAL WORK!

Justice:Denied does not and cannot give legal advice.

If you have an account of a wrongful conviction that you want to share, please read and follow the Submission Guidelines on page 46. If page 46 is missing, send a SASE or a 37¢ stamp with a request for an information packet to, Justice Denied, PO Box 68911, Seattle, WA 98168. Cases of wrongful conviction submitted in accordance with *Justice:Denied’s* guidelines will be reviewed for their suitability to be published. *Justice:Denied* reserves the right to edit all submitted accounts for any reason.

Justice:Denied is published at least four times yearly. *Justice:Denied* is a trade name of The Justice Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. If you want to financially support the important work of publicizing wrongful convictions, tax deductible contributions can be made to:

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Justice:Denied volunteers directly contributing to this issue:

Karyse Phillips, Editor; Terri Smith, Mailing; Katha McDonald, Mailing; Trudie Dvorak, Typing; and, Hans Sherrer, Publisher.