In This Issue

Oregon Appeals Court Acquits Man Of Committing Non-existent Jail Break!

Two Men Exonerated Of Selling Substandard Toast At A Bakery In India!

Virginia Sup. Ct. Acquits Tyler Smith Of Abuse For Texting Former Partner!

“Compulsive Liar” Jailed In Northern Ireland For Fabricating Rape Accusation!

Man Exonerated Of Convictions For His Dog Biting Police Officer In England!

Sara Ylen Convicted Of Filing False Rape Report In Michigan!

Issue 57
Spring 2014
Table of Contents

Convicted Of A Murder That Didn’t Happened – The Claude F. Garrett Story ................................................................. 3
Love Trumps Law As Italy’s Supreme Court Annuls Sexual Abuse Conviction ................................................................. 5
Jonathan Fleming Released After 25 Years For NY Murder Committed When He Was At Disney World ............................... 6
Gyronne Buckley Awarded $460,000 For 11-1/2 Years Imprisonment For Drug Frame-Up .................................................. 7
Man Freed After 10 Years Imprisonment When Wife Tracks Down Actual Killer ................................................................. 8
Appeals Court Clears Two Men Of Selling Substandard Toast At A Bakery ................................................................. 8
Vermont Supreme Court Acquits Tyler Smith Waters For Texting His Former Partner ......................................................... 9
Compensation Ordered For Man Wrongly Convicted Of Attempted Culpable Homicide ..................................................... 10
"Compulsive Liar" Jailed For Falsely Accusing Ex-Boyfriend Of Rape ............................................................................... 10
Derrick Hamilton Entitled To Actual Innocence Hearing Rules NY Appeals Court .............................................................. 11
Aaron Frank Cadger Acquitted By Oregon Court Of Appeals Of Non-existent Jail Escape ..................................................... 12
Judge Complains To Jury Paul Cleary’s Acquittal Will Distress Prosecution Witnesses ..................................................... 13
“An Unreal Dream: The Michael Morton Story” Documentary .................................................................................. 14
Innocents Database Webpage Now Includes Detailed Statistical Information ................................................................. 14
Sara Ylen Convicted Of Filing False Rape Report And Tampering With Evidence ............................................................ 15
Oregon Court Of Appeals Acquits Teen Of Negligent Homicide In Traffic Death .............................................................. 16
Symeon Robinson-Pierre Exonerated Of Convictions For His Dog Biting Police Officers ..................................................... 17
Who Is Responsible For Annie Borjesson’s Death? ............................................................................................................ 18
Freedom March For The Wrongfully Convicted Held In Washington, Pennsylvania On March 14, 2014 .............................. 19

Message From The Publisher

Derek Hamilton’s two decades of trying to get a court to consider his alibi evidence he was in New Haven, Connecticut at the time a murder occurred in Brooklyn in 1991 finally paid off in January 2014. The N.Y. Ct. Of Appeals issued its precedent setting ruling he is entitled to a hearing after which his conviction can be overturned and the charges dismissed if the judge determines his actual innocence is proven by clear and convincing new evidence. See p. 11.

False rape accusations have sent innumerable innocent men to prison in the U.S. and other countries. Perjury by an accuser can be difficult to prove, but two successful prosecutions were of Natasha Foster in Northern Ireland (See p. 10), and Sara Ylen in Michigan. See p. 15.

New evidence proving a convicted person’s innocence can be discovered by a variety of people that includes friends, family members, investigators, and interested strangers. The evidence proving Nguyen Thanh Chan’s innocence of murder in Vietnam was discovered by his wife after years of effort. See p. 8.

Among the most egregious wrongful convictions are those when no crime was committed. The Oregon Ct. Of Appeal acquitted Aaron Frank Cadger of his conviction of a jail escape that didn’t happen. See P. 12.

Countries can have different standards of what conduct is criminal. An example is Italy’s Supreme Court acquitted a 64-year-old man of sexually abusing an 11-year-old girl in ruling no crime occurred because the two were in love and her mother approved. See. P. 5.

Hans Sherrer, Editor and Publisher

www.justicedenied.org  – email: hsherrer@justicedenied.org

Information About Justice:Denied

Justice:Denied promotes awareness of wrongful convictions and their causes. It provides information about convicted people claiming innocence, exonerated people, and compensation awards, and provides book and movie reviews, and reports about court decisions, and law review and journal articles related to wrongful convictions.

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, send a first-class stamp or a pre-stamped envelope with a request for an information packet to, Justice Denied, PO Box 66291, Seattle, WA 98166. 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 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:

The Justice Institute
PO Box 66291
Seattle, WA 98166

Credit card contributions can be made on Justice:Denied’s website, www.justicedenied.org/donate.htm

Please note: Justice Denied protects the privacy of its donors. Justice Denied will not disclose its donors to any third party without presentation of a valid legal process.

Justice:Denied’s logo represents the snake of evil and injustice climbing up on the scales of justice.
My name is Claude Francis Garrett. On February 24, 1992 in a small suburb of Nashville, Tennessee, an accidental house fire tragically claimed the life of my fiancée Lorie Lee Lance.

I was charged with deliberately starting the fire, and I was convicted of first-degree felony murder by a jury in 1993 and sentenced to life in prison. After my conviction was affirmed on direct appeal, my post-conviction petition was granted by the Tennessee Court of Appeals in 2001 based on the prosecution’s withholding of exculpatory evidence.

I was retried in 2003, and again convicted of first-degree felony murder by a jury and sentenced to life in prison. After my conviction was affirmed on direct appeal, my post-conviction petition was denied by the Court of Appeals in 2012 in spite of new scientific evidence the testimony of the State’s fire investigator was based on what is now known to be “junk science.” In 2013 the Tennessee Supreme Court Court declined to review that ruling, and I filed a federal habeas corpus petition that is currently pending.

The Fire

The evening of February 23, 1992 Lorie and I went to a small bar called Daisy Mae’s that was a couple miles from the rental house we lived in. While there we drank and played pool with Lorie’s step-father Sammy Jones and his son Rodney Jones. We stayed there until closing time and went straight home.

We sat around with the television on and both of us dozed off. We got up and went to bed. I still do not know what it was that woke me, but I woke up and saw light flickering on the living room wall. Our bedroom is directly beside the living room. I got out of bed and went to the door and saw fire to the left side of the living room. I immediately yelled for Lorie to get up and she got up and came up behind me. I took her hand and started toward the front door which was straight down the hall from our bedroom door.

I turned around when I got through the door and started screaming for Lorie and jumping up and down waving my arms but she wouldn’t come through the door. It looked like she was turning toward the rear of the house, so I ran around to the side of the house where our bedroom window is and picked up a lawn chair and broke the window and started screaming for her. I got no response so I ran to the next window which is to the spare bedroom, and I broke this window and screamed for her again, but I got no response. Around that time a neighbor from across the street and his son were on the scene following me around the house. I then went to the bathroom window. The window had been covered with plywood for about a year prior to the fire because it was broken when the house was rented. I picked up a nearby ax and started chopping on the plywood, which I gave to a neighbor kid when I took off toward the water faucet.

Around this time, I heard the fire trucks coming and I took off and jumped onto the running board of the first truck. I yelled at the fireman that my girlfriend was in the house.

After finding Lorie they carried her out and laid her on the front porch where the medics attempted to revive her. It wasn’t long until they carried her to the ambulance in front of the house.

A neighbor saw that I was burned and offered me a ride to the hospital. After I arrived at the hospital emergency room, Dr. Robert Roth came into the waiting room and told Lorie’s family and me that she didn’t make it. It was later determined she died from smoke inhalation. Dr. Roth took me to a room for treatment. Dr. Roth removed a large portion of the burned skin from the back of my left hand and it was wrapped heavily with bandages. While I was there a detective asked if I would provide a blood sample and I told him yes.

The Investigation

After being treated I went outside to the hospital parking lot where a detective came up to me and said I needed to go downtown to give my statement. I asked the detective if I was under arrest and he said no. While at the police station I gave a statement even though I told the detectives I had been drinking, smoking pot and had been given a pain pill in the emergency room. I gave the detectives the pants and shirt I had on. I also consented to a hand swab which wasn’t done, yet Detective David Miller testified falsely during both of my trials that I refused.

Lorie and I heated with a kerosene heater in the kitchen where we had a 5-gallon can of kerosene. When kerosene was smelled by the firemen they assumed it was used to start the fire. The fire marshal was called to investigate. He collected samples for testing. He even went under the house and collected a soil sample from directly under the living room. Every sample was tested by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab, and they were all found to be negative for the presence of any accelerant.

The labs’ tests of my clothes were negative for the presence of accelerant. My blood alcohol level was found to be .11, and Lorie’s was .06, which supported my statement and that of other witnesses we had been drinking that night.

Twelve hours after the fire marshal had the living room cleaned out and the floor washed down with a booster hose, an ATF agent arrived at the house to help determine the cause and origin of the fire. The ATF agent was James F. Cooper.

After Cooper opined the fire was caused by arson, the police began a homicide investigation with me as the sole suspect.

Lorie and I had set May 7, 1992 as our wedding date, and everyone questioned who saw us on the day and evening before the fire told police investigators we were not arguing or fighting. Other than her fire related injuries Lorie had no marks or wounds on her.

My Prosecution

I was indicted by the Davidson County Grand Jury on May 19, 1992 for the first degree murder of Lorie during the perpetration of or attempt to perpetrate arson. The prosecution’s theory during both trials without offering a motive of any kind, was that I somehow placed and locked Lorie inside the small utility room, poured kerosene around the living room, started the fire, and then left the house, with Lorie dying from smoke inhalation. My defense during both trials was the fire was accidental in origin.

Agent Cooper was the prosecution’s star witness. He testified in both trials that he saw burn patterns on the living room floor which he considered could only occur from an accelerated fire, yet he testified he didn’t take a single sample from the so-called pour pattern area for testing by the lab. Instead,

Convicted Of A Murder That Didn’t Happened -- The Claude F. Garrett Story

By Claude Francis Garrett

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE WRONGLY CONVICTED

Garrett cont. on page 4
Garrett cont. from page 3

he only collected one sample of burned debris from the scene -- which was a sample of the living room board that he said tested positive for kerosene. During a hearing prior to my second trial concerning Cooper’s qualifications to testify as an expert, he testified he did not consider himself an expert in the field of fire science, which he defined as “the study of fire behavior.” The trial judge nevertheless ruled he was qualified to testify as an expert fire investigator.

The fireman who allegedly opened the utility room door and found Lorie testified in the first trial that he had to do something to get the door to open, which suggested it was locked. After my 1993 felony murder conviction was affirmed on direct appeal, I obtained an 11-page police report with this fireman’s statement wherein he said the door was not locked. The Court of Appeals granted me a new trial based on the prosecution’s failure to disclose that favorable evidence to my lawyer.

During my retrial in 2003 fire investigator Stuart W. Bayne was retained as a defense expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert. Bayne has investigated more than 800 fires and has been expert prosecution or expert.

During his hearing internationally known fire scientist John J. Lentini testified as a defense witness that he is a member of the National Fire and Protection Association (“NFPA”) Technical Committee, which is responsible for the maintenance of NFPA 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations. Lentini testified NFPA 921 is based on the “scientific method” and it represents the standard for conducting a fire investigation. Based on his knowledge, experience and the guidelines set forth in NFPA 921 Lentini testified “it was pretty clear that the fire originated in the living room, [and] it was pretty clear that it went to flashover” Lentini explained:

“When fires achieve flashover, they light the floor on fire. A lot of time — in fact, early in my career that was considered to be a suspicious thing because fires burn up and the floor shouldn’t burn, but it is now pretty well accepted that when a room becomes fully involved [in flames] one of the things that is going to burn is the floor and you, typically, get irregular burns on the floor.”

Lentini discussed “mythologies” of arson investigation that many arson investigators previously embraced but which have been discredited by the scientific community. When he was asked whether he had identified any “mythology” in my case Lentini responded:

“The only mythology is the belief on the part of the investigator that he can, by looking at the floor, determine the difference between charring done by radiation and charring caused by a flammable liquid.”

Consequently, Cooper’s testimony that he could tell an accelerant had been used to start the fire solely by looking at the floor, was one of the “mythologies” of arson investigation that have been discredited by the scientific community.

Bayne testified that my trial lawyer failed to follow his recommendations on cross-examining Cooper -- including asking him about NFPA 921 and advancements in fire investigation techniques -- and to ask questions of Bayne and other witnesses with first-hand knowledge of issues that would lay the foundation necessary for Bayne to be questioned about those issues.

The judge effectively disregarded the substance of Lentini and Bayne’s testimony in denying my petition. That enabled the judge to rule Lentini’s new scientific testimony was not relevant specifically to my case, and my trial lawyer wasn’t ineffective because Bayne provided some testimony about the defense’s theory the fire was accidental, so the jury was...
Garrett cont. from page 4

aware of that in finding me guilty.

My appeal of the judge’s ruling to the Court of Appeals was denied on September 5, 2012, and on February 25, 2013 the Tennessee Supreme Court declined to review that ruling.

Federal Habeas Corpus Petition

With my state court appeals exhausted, I filed my pro se federal habeas corpus petition on March 5, 2013 -- less than two weeks after the Tennessee Supreme Court’s ruling. At the same time I made a motion for appointment of counsel, which was granted. On June 5, 2013 my appointed federal public defender filed an amended petition detailing seven grounds for relief, and which states in part:

“Mr. Garrett respectfully moves the Court to declare unconstitutional and invalid his conviction for first degree felony murder following a jury trial in Davidson County. Scientific evidence demonstrates that Mr. Garrett is actually innocent and has been wrongfully imprisoned for 20 years... The State’s “expert” witness told the jury that he could tell the difference between arson and accidental fire by identifying a “pour pattern.” As a matter of scientific fact, however, nobody can tell that difference, and, accordingly, the testimony of ATF Agent James Cooper amounted to “junk science” that has since been discredited.

Because of errors by the court, the state, and defense counsel, the jury heard a “battle of the experts.” One expert used only intuition and junk science, the other used actual science. The jury believed the junk science and convicted an innocent man.”

Claude F. Garrett v. Colson, No. 3:13-cv-00190 (USDC MD Tenn.) (Amended habeas petition filed 6-5-2013.)

On June 20, 2014 -- more than a year after my amended petition was filed -- Chief U.S. District Court Judge William J. Haynes, Jr. issued an Order for the filing of a response to its claims.

Conclusion

My case can be summarized as a zealous prosecutor who relied on the “junk science” testimony of an equally zealous so-called expert, and who was inadvertently aided by the ineffectiveness of my trial lawyer. I did not intentionally start the fire at our home causing Lorie’s death, and there is no credible evidence I did. I have been imprisoned for 21 years for a crime that didn’t even happen -- because Lorie’s death was the tragic consequence of the fire that was accidental.

I can be written at:
Claude F. Garrett 225779
Riverbend Max. SI
7475 Cockrill Bend Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37209

Endnotes:
3. Id.
4. Id.

Justice Denied notes:
Claude Garrett’s amended federal habeas petition can be read on Justice Denied’s website at, www.justicedenied.org/cases/claudegarrettamendedpetition06052013.pdf
John Lenti’s company is Scientific Fire Analysis, and his website is, www.firescientist.com
Stuart W. Bayne’s company is The Fire P.I., and his website is, www.thefirepi.com
The public censure of Davidson County Assistant District Attorney John C. Zimmermann on May 28, 2002 by the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility for intentionally violating Claude Garrett’s constitutional rights by intentionally concealing exculpatory evidence can be read at, www.tbpr.org/NewsAndPublications/Releases/Pdfs/009723-20020529.pdf
Jonathan Fleming Released After 25 Years For NY Murder Committed When He Was At Disney World

Jonathan Fleming has been released after almost 25 years of imprisonment for a New York murder committed when he was 1,100 miles away in Florida.

On August 15, 1989 Fleming was vacationing with his family at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Fleming was 1,100 miles from his home in Brooklyn, where an acquaintance was shot to death on the street on August 15.

The investigation of the shooting found that Fleming’s car was used by the shooter, and after the 27-year-old Fleming returned to Brooklyn he was arrested and charged with the murder.

During his trial in July 1990 Fleming introduced plane tickets, photos, videos, postcards, and the testimony of family members to support his alibi defense that on the day of the murder he was at Disney World to celebrate his son’s 9th birthday. Fleming’s uncle testified he picked him up at the airport on August 16 -- the day after the shooting. His lawyer argued to the jury the prosecution didn’t introduce any evidence he knew his car was going to be used in the shooting.

The prosecution key evidence was the testimony of their star witness, Jacqueline Belardo, that she saw Fleming shoot the victim. To overcome Fleming’s alibi the prosecution argued to the jury his family members couldn’t be believed about when he was in Orlando because they would say anything to help him, and he could have created a false alibi by possibly flying from Orlando to New York, committing the murder, and then flying back to Orlando. Inexplicably and contrary to Fleming’s alibi defense, his lawyer stipulated it was possible Fleming could have been in Brooklyn at the time of the shooting.

After the jury found Fleming guilty Belardo recanted. She claimed she perjured herself in a deal with the prosecution to drop the charges against her in an unrelated arrest. Fleming filed a motion for a new trial, which his trial judge denied in ruling Belardo’s recantation wasn’t credible because the prosecution denied she had any pending charges before she testified.

Four months after Fleming’s trial the judge sentenced him to 25 years to life in prison.

In 1993 Fleming’s conviction was affirmed on direct appeal. The appeals court’s ruling stated:

Prior to trial, the defendant moved to dismiss the indictment arguing that he had been denied the effective assistance of counsel on the ground that counsel ignored his express desire to testify before the Grand Jury and waived the defendant’s right to so testify without consulting him.

...The defendant’s remaining contentions, including those raised in his supplemental pro se brief, are either unpreserved for appellate review or without merit.

In 2001 New York’s appeals court affirmed the trial court’s denial of Fleming’s post-conviction petition with a one-sentence order: “The appellant has failed to establish that he was denied the effective assistance of appellate counsel.”

Fleming had languished in prison for more than two decades when with money from a civil suit, one of his sons hired two private investigators. The investigators obtained affidavits from several prosecution witnesses, including the key witness who reaffirmed she falsely identified Fleming during his trial in exchange for the dropping of charges against her. Based on the new evidence two attorneys took Fleming’s case pro bono: Anthony Mayol, and Taylor Koss, who was a former assistant Brooklyn DA.

In response to public outcry about a number of embarrassing exonerations in recent years, the Brooklyn DA’s Office set up the Conviction Integrity Unit in 2011 to investigate cases of possible wrongful conviction. Fleming’s lawyers submitted a request to the CIU detailing the new evidence supporting that his case be reinvestigated.

The CIU reopened Fleming’s case in June 2013, and two exculpatory documents supporting his alibi defense were discovered in the DA’s files that had not been disclosed to Fleming’s trial lawyer. The first document was a receipt proving that just hours before the murder took place Fleming paid a phone bill at the Orlando Quality Inn where he was staying. The phone receipt hadn’t been disclosed to Fleming’s lawyer even though he specifically requested it before trial. The second document was an Orlando police report that several hotel employees remem- bered Fleming was there on the day of the murder. A third document that wasn’t disclosed by the DA’s office supported the claim by Belardo she lied in exchange for having charges dropped: A command log from the 90th Police Precinct showed she had been arrested prior to Fleming’s trial.

In November 2013 Fleming’s investigators and a member of the CIU flew to South Carolina and interviewed the man suspected of driving Fleming’s car at the time of the shooting. The man not only provided an affidavit that Fleming wasn’t involved, but he identified who actually shot the victim.

Longtime Brooklyn DA Charles Hynes was defeated in the Nov. 2013 election by Ken Thompson, who criticized the DA Office’s handling of possibly tainted criminal cases.

The evidence that wasn’t disclosed to Fleming prior to his trial constituted serious Brady violations warranting the granting of a new trial that could only reasonably expect to result in his acquittal and release. Under those circumstances the Brooklyn DA’s Office filed a motion on April 9, 2014 to dismiss Fleming’s murder indictment. After the motion was granted Fleming was released later that day after almost 25 years of incarceration.

Fleming told reporters after his release, “I have no faith in the system because it shouldn’t have taken this long for me to get out. The evidence was there all along that could have freed me 24 and a half years ago. If the documents were turned over 24 years ago, I would’ve gotten released then.” He said in prison he met other apparently innocent men who were trying to get out, and “I learned that the system is—I don’t have no trust in it whatsoever.”

Fleming’s mother, Patricia Fleming, 71, testified at his trial that she was with him in Orlando at the time of the murder in Brooklyn. After his release she told reporters, “I knew he didn’t do it, because I was there. When they gave my son 25 to life, I thought I would die in that courtroom. I never did give up, because I knew he was innocent.”

Sources:
People v. Fleming 196 AD 2d 551 (NY Appellate Div., 2nd Dept. 1993)
People v. Fleming 280 AD 2d 682 (NY Appellate Div., 2nd Dept. 2001)
Brooklyn DA Moves to Free Man after Long-Buried Evidence Surfaces, ProPublica, April 7, 2014
Wrongfully Convicted, Jonathan Fleming Is Freed After 24 Years, Newsweek, April 11, 2014
Wrongly convicted Brooklyn man released after 24 years in prison opens up about ordeal as he celebrates freedom, New York Daily News, April 13, 2014.
Gyronne Buckley Awarded $460,000 For 11-1/2 Years Imprisonment For Drug Frame-Up

Gyronne Buckley has been awarded $460,000 by the Arkansas State Claims Commission for 11-1/2 years of imprisonment for a drug conviction that was the result of a frame-up by Arkansas’ South Central Drug Task Force.

Buckley was convicted on May 27, 1999 in Clark County, Arkansas of two counts of delivery of a controlled substance -- crack cocaine. Key evidence against him was provided by police informant Corey Livsey, who testified he bought $40 worth of crack cocaine from Buckley on January 12 and 13, 1999. In exchange for his testimony shoplifting charges were dropped against Livsey. Another key witness was Keith Ray, an agent with the South Central Arkansas Drug Task Force, testified he provided the money to Livsey and inventoried the cocaine he bought from Buckley.

Buckley testified in his defense, denying he sold crack to Livsey, and that on January 13 he never even saw Livsey.

The jury convicted Buckley after a two day trial. The judge sentenced him to two terms of life in prison, and ordered they be served consecutively -- even though Buckley had no prior arrest or drug offense conviction.

In 2000 the Arkansas Supreme Court affirmed Buckley’s convictions, but vacated his sentences and remanded him for resentencing. Buckley’s trial judge then rescheduled him to 56 years in prison (two consecutive 28-year prison terms).

Buckley filed post-conviction petitions and the existence of a videotaped pre-trial interview of Livsey was disclosed by a police officer’s testimony during an evidentiary hearing in August 2005. The Clark County DA and the Arkansas Attorney General refused to turn over the videotape to Buckley’s attorney, who was unsuccessful in getting either the Clark County Circuit Court or the Arkansas Supreme Court to order disclosure of the videotape. In 2008 Buckley filed a federal writ of habeas corpus, and filed a “Motion for Production of Physical Evidence.” In February 2009 -- almost four years after Buckley learned of the videotape’s existence -- the federal judge ordered Arkansas’ Attorney General to provide Buckley with a copy of Livsey’s videotaped interview.

Buckley’s lawyers learned from viewing the tape that Livsey did not know many of the details he subsequently testified about during Buckley’s trial, and that Agent Ray extensively coached ‘got wrong.’ The videotape not only impeached the credibility of Livsey’s testimony, but it supported that his “handler” -- Agent Ray -- had not only coached Livsey to commit perjury, but he also committed perjury during his testimony.

Based on the new videotape evidence Buckley’s lawyers sought to add to his federal habeas claims, which was opposed by Arkansas’ AG on the ground Buckley needed to first exhaust his new claims in state court. In February 2010 the federal judge ordered abeyance of Buckley’s federal habeas so the Arkansas Supreme Court could consider his new claims. In his order the federal judge “found that Buckley had identified some thirty-eight specific points during the taped interview which would have afforded trial counsel additional opportunities to impeach Livsey on cross-examination at trial.”

After Buckley returned to state court a special prosecutor was appointed to replace the Attorney General’s Office as the state’s lawyer. The special prosecutor conceded Buckley’s factual claim was accurate that the prosecution had violated his right to due process by failing to disclose the exculpatory videotape to his trial lawyer. On November 1, 2010 the charges were dismissed and Buckley was released after 11-1/2 years of wrongful imprisonment.

Prior to his release he had been denied executive clemency first by Arkansas Governor Huckabee and then by Governor Beebe, even though he had three favorable recommendations by the Arkansas Post Prison Transfer Board.

Buckley filed a claim for compensation with the Arkansas State Claims Commission. The Commission heard a hearing on December 13, 2013 during which the State Attorney General’s Office opposed Buckley’s claim on the basis the violations of his constitutional rights didn’t justify compensation. The AG’s argument ignored that in August 2006 the Claims Commission unanimously found the State liable to pay Rod-}

ney Bragg $200,000 for five years of incarceration. Bragg was exonerated in 2000 after being convicted of delivery of a controlled substance in 1996 and sentenced to 40 years in prison, based on his frame-up by Agent Keith Ray. Ray used the same tactics to frame Bragg that he used several years later to frame Buckley.

On December 17 the Claims Commission announced its unanimous 5-0 decision awarding Buckley $460,000. The Claims Commission’s ruled: “In the current claim there was irrefutable evidence that a videotaped interview with an informant was never disclosed to (Buckley)’s legal counsel before (his) trial and conviction occurred. The existence of the tape was, likewise, never disclosed to the prosecuting attorney.”

Brenda Wade, Administrative Analyst with the Arkansas State Claims Commission, told Justice Denied on December 20 the Commission’s five members unanimously voted to grant Gyronne Buckley’s claim because it was “pretty cut and dried” his wrongful conviction qualified him for compensation from the State of Arkansas. Wade said the Commission’s ruling will be publicly available on its website about the middle of January 2014.

Before his exoneration the Arkansas Supreme Court made six separate rulings in his case from 2000 to 2010. Buckley’s path to exoneration was so tortuous that University of Arkansas Professor of Law J. Thomas Sullivan wrote an article for the Arkansas Law Review describing it in detail that is titled, “Brady-Based Prosecutorial Misconduct Claims, Buckley, and the Arkansas Coram Nobis Remedy,” (561 Arkansas Law Review 64). Professor Sullivan intimately knows the details of Buckley’s case because he began working pro bono on his case in 2005, and he was instrumental in his exoneration and the Claims Commission’s compensation award.


Source:
Man awarded $460,000 in wrongful conviction claim, Arkansas News, December 17, 2013
Man wants $400,000 from the state after wrongful drug conviction, KTHV Television (Little Rock, AR), Dec. 13, 2013
Arkansas State Claims Commission website
Man Freed After 10 Years Imprisonment When Wife Tracks Down Actual Killer

Nguyen Thanh Chan’s 2004 murder and robbery convictions have been voided by Vietnam’s Supreme People's Court after his wife tracked down the man who actually committed the crimes.

Chan was 42 when arrested on September 28, 2003 for the murder of a 31-year-old woman on August 15 in the village of Nghia Trung in Vietnam’s Bac Giang district. Her assailant stole jewelry and money from her home.

Chan was convicted on March 26, 2004 based on that his “left foot nearly fit the footprints left at the scene,” he “showed dubious signs on the day of the incident,” and his confession, which he retracted as coerced by police beating him and threatening him with a knife.

Chan was sentenced to death, but his sentence was commuted to life in prison because of his father’s contributions in the revolution that united North and South Vietnam.

After Chan’s conviction his wife, Thi Chien, campaigned for his innocence and investigated his case on her own. In addition to trying to help her husband Chien had to deal with supporting and raising the couple’s four children, and the social stigma of Chan’s convicted crimes.

On July 5, 2013 she filed a petition with the authorities that included information identifying the actual murderer was 25-year-old Ly Nguyen Chung who lived in the same village as Chan and the victim. The police investigated Chien’s information and questioned Chung’s step-mother and brother, who both provided a statement he had blood on his shirt the day of the crime and they believed he was the actual killer. After Chung eluded police for almost four months, he was arrested on October 25, 2013. Chung confessed to the crime during his police interrogation, saying his motive was to rob the victim. On October 29, 2013 Chung was charged with murder and robbery. Because Chung was 14 at the time of the crimes he was to be prosecuted as a juvenile.

Based on the new evidence of his innocence Chan was released from prison on November 4, 2013, pending his retrial. Now 52, he returned that same day to his village and was greeted by a large crowd.

Appeals Court Clears Two Men Of Selling Substandard Toast At A Bakery

Shaikh Alimoddin and Shaikh Jalaloodin have been acquitted by an appeals court in India of selling substandard toast.

On January 6, 1995 a health inspector bought toast at the bakery owned by Alimoddin in Jalgaon, India. Jalgaon is a city of almost 400,000 people about 250 miles northwest of Mumbai.

The health inspector sent the toast to a laboratory, which issued a report that the toast was “substandard.” After the health inspector received the report on February 14, 1995, Alimoddin and Jalaloodin -- his employee who sold the toast -- were arrested and charged with a criminal health code violation.

Eleven years later, Alimoddin and Jalaloodin were tried in 2006. They were convicted based on the laboratory report the toast was of substandard quality. They were each sentenced to six months of rigorous imprisonment.

Alimoddin and Jalaloodin appealed, but their convictions were affirmed in 2011 by the Sessions Court. They appealed that ruling. In early March 2014 the High Court of Bombay set aside Alimoddin and Jalaloodin’s convictions, and acquitted them. The Court’s ruling was primarily based on their determination the prosecution presented insufficient reliable evidence of Alimoddin and Jalaloodin’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The Court found that the laboratory report relied on by the prosecution was not sufficient evidence because the lab’s test of the “toast” was unreliable. The Court noted that the toast should have been stored in an air tight jar or container for transport to the lab, when it was kept in a plastic bag that subjected it to contamination. The High Court also noted the prejudicial procedural irregularity that the two defendants were not provided a copy of the lab report at the time the law required its disclosure to them.

Sources:
Bombay High Court acquits a bakery owner and employee 14-years after being charged of selling substandard toast, Daily News & Analysis (Mumbai, India), March 9, 2014
High Court of Bombay, Official website
Tyler Smith Waters has been acquitted by the Vermont Supreme Court of his conviction of violating an abuse-prevention order. The Court ruled sending text messages to his partner was not harassment. In 2007 Waters had a child with a woman he had lived with for several years in Brattleboro, Vermont. When they split-up she obtained an abuse-prevention order in October 2009 that barred Waters from having unauthorized contact with her, but it specifically allowed that he may have telephone contact only. The order placed no limit on the frequency, timing or subject matter of his contact with the woman by telephone. She made no allegation Waters abused their two-year-old child, and the order authorized him to have telephone contact with his child on Friday evenings, and provided for weekly contact between Waters and his child.

Waters abided by the order. He only contacted his former partner by telephone and she did not seek to have the order modified.

In December 2009 the woman complained to police that during the previous month Waters called her about once a day, and she sent him about one text message a day.

Waters was charged with violating the protection order based on the prosecutor’s contention his telephone calls and text messages constituted harassment that violated the order. During Waters’ trial in 2011 the prosecution introduced evidence that during a 37-day period of time Waters called his child’s mother about 30 times and he sent her 37 text messages. Typical of Waters’ texts were: “Hi. Getting in. It’s after work. Call me. Not sure what phone you got. I love you too. Wish to end no-contact soon. Let’s be more normal. No more courts and such. What you think?”; and, “Have not any better friend than u. All alone all the time. Wish wuz with u 2. Call me if you need. Till Fri.”

Waters’ former partner testified the texts were unwelcome and she did not think he was supposed to communicate with her. She also described his calls and texts “as irritating rather than annoying.”

After the prosecution rested its case Waters’ lawyer made a motion for a judgment of acquittal arguing that no evidence had been introduced Waters violated the protection order. His lawyer argued the order specifically allowed telephone contact without limit, and Waters “did not threaten harm to any person or property in any of the texts, and none of the texts contained language that was profane, threatening, intimidating, or violent.” In denying the motion Windham County Superior Court Judge David Suntag ruled a reasonable person could be “tormented” by Waters’ behavior.

Waters did not testify and his lawyer rested without presenting a defense.

The judge instructed the jury that to harass a person “means to intentionally engage in a course of conduct directed at that person which would cause a reasonable person to be annoyed, irritated, tormented, or alarmed.” Waters’ lawyer did not object to the judge’s instruction. The jury submitted a question to the judge during its deliberations requesting the legal definition of “tormented” and “annoyed.” The judge replied the jury was to apply “common definitions.”

The jury convicted Waters, and the judge sentenced him to two years in prison.

Waters appealed, arguing the judge’s jury instruction on harassment was overly broad, and the evidence of harassment was insufficient to convict Waters of violating the abuse-prevention order.

On November 15, 2013 the Vermont Supreme Court ruled in a majority opinion the trial judge prejudicially erred denying Waters’ motion for acquittal because his conduct wasn’t “harassment” in violation of the abuse-prevention order.

The Court observed that if the protection order had barred all contact of any kind between Waters and his former partner and their child “this would have been an open-and-shut case.” Since it didn’t, the case hinged on what constitutes “harassment” in violation of the law. The Court determined that the applicable definition under Vermont law is:

¶ 34. But we cannot say that the communications amounted to threats. The State relies primarily on the frequency of defendant’s communications to support its charge. In the face of an order permitting telephone contact without restriction as to frequency, timing, or subject matter, the frequency of defendant’s texts by itself cannot support an inference that the conduct was threatening. In this day and age, one text per day, on average, is not a shocking number, especially given the lack of clear evidence that complainant asked defendant to stop texting her before he sent many of those texts. As of spring 2011, 18-29 year-old cell-phone owners send and receive text messages at an average rate of 87.7 messages a day, and 95% of this age group use the text messaging feature on their phones. Aaron Smith, Pew Inst., Americans and Text Messaging 3 (2011).

¶ 35. Given that we conclude that a jury instructed about the definition of “harassment” in the RFA order in a way that is consistent with this opinion could not convict defendant of violating the abuse-prevention order on the basis of the evidence presented below, convicting defendant of a felony on the basis of an overly broad instruction would undermine the fairness of the judicial process.

Defendant’s conviction is reversed and the matter is remanded for entry of a judgment of acquittal.

Click here to read the ruling in State of Vermont v. Tyler Smith Waters, 2013 VT 109 (VT Sup Ct., 11-15-2013). Waters completed serving his sentence be-
“Compulsive Liar” Jailed For Falsely Accusing Ex-Boyfriend Of Rape

Natasha Foster, a 23-year-old “compulsive liar” who falsely accused a former boyfriend of rape after he ended their on-off relationship by text, was sentenced in Antrim, Northern Ireland to three months in jail.

Foster, who admitted a charge of perverting the course of public justice, is the third woman in Northern Ireland to be sentenced for making similar claims. In 2010 Newtownabbey woman Lindsay Gorman was jailed for nine months, while in January 2013 a Dromore woman, Belinda Poots Sneddon, was given a two-year suspended jail term plus a £1,000 fine.

Antrim Crown Court Judge Desmond Marrinan told Foster that when people like her “act in this wicked way and cry rape falsely” it not only increased the plight of women who have been victims of this distasteful crime, it may also create doubt in the minds of the public and may also affect the minds of a jury whose job it is to decide on such cases. He added that such false claims also posed significant and potential issues as they might also be seen as an attack on, and damage the criminal justice system itself.

Judge Marrinan said it was a difficult case when it came to deciding what was a fair, just and proportionate sentence. However, while a sentence of six months, if not longer, would be justified, given the mitigating factors, such as her genuine remorse, and the fact she was now a young mother, he would reduce the sentence to three months.

Judge Marrinan said that in November 2011, Foster, who had a new boyfriend, still harbored the hope of a reconciliation with her former lover, “Mr X.” He had called at her home to collect some belongings, during which ‘something happened’, but a short time later Mr X sent a text message indicating he was not going to resume the relationship.

While the judge said while this may well be described as a “somewhat ungalant act,” it did not warrant or justify what Foster did next, which was to inform her new boyfriend, and later the police, that Mr X had raped her.

Judge Marrinan said defence lawyer Michael Smith had described Foster as a “woman scorned”, he saw her behavior as a mixture of impulsivity, anger and hurt and a sense of rejection, which resulted in Mr X being arrested and spending nearly 12 hours in custody. However, two days later Foster went to police and confessed that any sex was consensual.

Foster began serving her sentence after the sentencing hearing on November 25, 2013. She will serve half of her three month term in custody, after which she will serve the same period on supervised parole.

Source: ‘Wicked’ Natasha Foster to spend Christmas in jail for ‘crying rape’, Belfast Telegraph, Nov. 25, 2013

Compensation Ordered For Man Wrongly Convicted Of Attempted culpable Homicide

India’s High Court in Kerala has ordered that Muraleedharan R U be provided with compensation for his wrongful conviction of attempted culpable homicide.

In 2004 Muraleedharan was an employee of the Changaramkari temple in Mararikulam, on India’s southwest coast. On September 27, 2004 he got into a fight with a neighbor who used Muraleedharan’s motorcycle registration number to file a false motor accident claim. Police arrested both men, charging Muraleedharan with an attempt to commit culpable homicide, and his neighbor with voluntarily causing hurt by a dangerous weapon.

Although the charges were dropped against the neighbor, Muraleedharan was tried and convicted of his charge after a bench trial. He was sentenced to three years imprisonment and a fine of Rs10,000 ($160 in 2013) by the trial court. Muraleedharan appealed on the basis the evidence didn’t support he had attempted to commit culpable homicide, and he was charged because he was “targeted by the police for opposing the insurance racket” his neighbor was involved in. The appeals court ordered the Inspector General’s Office to investigate Muraleedharan’s claims.

The Inspector General’s post-conviction report detailed that Muraleedharan’s neighbor filed two false accident cases with different police offices to claim insurance for an injury he allegedly suffered after his motorcycle hit a bicycle on February 17, 2003. He submitted different medical certificates issued by doctors with the Alappuzha medical college hospital to support his insurance claims. One of those claims involved using the registration number of Muraleedharan’s motorcycle. The IG’s report identified several police officers involved in the insurance scam and recommended action against them. When police officials were notified they responded that the three officers involved directly in the inquiry had retired. The IG’s report also detailed that no action was taken on Muraleedharan’s insurance fraud claims by the trial court, the medical superintendent at the Cherthala hospital where the men were treated, the district police chief, the DSP, and the director-general of police. The IG’s report further documented that Muraleedharan shouldn’t have been charged with an attempt to commit culpable homicide because his neighbor’s injury from their altercation was not life-threatening.

Based on the IG’s report Muraleedharan’s conviction was quashed in July 2011.

Muraleedharan then filed a claim for compensation for his wrongful imprisonment. After it was denied by the lower court, in November 2013 the High Court in Kerala ordered the chief secretary and director general of police in Charamangalam, Alappuzha to file affidavits on the compensation to be paid Muraleedharan.

Sources: HC orders compensation for man wrongly convicted, Times of India, November 15, 2013

Smith cont. from page 9

fore the Court issued its ruling and his appeal lawyer, Vermont Defender General Matthew Valerio, told the Brattleboro Reformer, “we don’t know where he is now.”

Sources:
Texts, harassment at issue in local case, Brattleboro Reformer, November 19, 2013

Kerala High Court building in Kochi, Kerala, India

Natasha Foster (Belfast Telegraph)
**Derrick Hamilton Entitled To Actual Innocence Hearing Rules New York Appeals Court**

New York’s Appeals Court ruled on January 15, 2014 that Derrick Hamilton is entitled to a hearing to determine if his new evidence proves his actual innocence of a 1991 murder in Brooklyn. The state court ruling establishes the precedent that an imprisoned or paroled person in New York claiming actual innocence can have their new evidence reviewed to determine if it proves their innocence by clear and convincing evidence.

Hamilton was convicted in 1993 of the shooting death of Nathaniel Cash on a Brooklyn sidewalk at 11 a.m. on January 4, 1991. As a crowd gathered around Cash’s body a man who was later identified as one of the shooters came out of hiding and started spreading the rumor that Derrick Hamilton shot Cash. Hamilton was charged with the murder based on Jewel Smith — one of Cash’s woman friends — believing the rumor was true, and lying to the police that she witnessed Hamilton shooting Cash.

During Hamilton’s trial Smith was the only witness who testified to seeing him shoot Cash.

Hamilton’s alibi defense was that at the time of the shooting in Brooklyn he was more than 80 miles away in New Haven, Connecticut. Although Hamilton had several credible alibi witnesses, his lawyer didn’t subpoena them to testify during his trial.

The jury convicted Hamilton of second-degree murder, and he was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

After Hamilton’s conviction was affirmed by the court of appeals, he filed numerous post-conviction motions for a new trial based on new evidence and ineffective assistance of counsel.

Hamilton’s most important new evidence was a 1995 affidavit by New Haven police officer Kelly Turner. Her affidavit details that in 1991 she owned a talent booking agency in New Haven, and that she was with Hamilton in New Haven from about 11 am until about noon on January 4, 1991 to discuss booking musical talent in New York City. Davette Mahan worked at the talent agency, and she provided an Affidavit that she saw Hamilton at the talent agency office in New Haven the morning of January 4, 1991.

Hamilton’s efforts to be granted a new trial based on his new evidence were thwarted by the rulings of New York courts that the new evidence couldn’t be considered because his trial lawyer didn’t list either of them on Hamilton’s alibi witness list.

In late 2007 Hamilton contacted Justice Denied. In the course of investigating his case Justice Denied contacted New Haven Police Officer Kelly Turner and she verified the accuracy of the information in her Affidavit. She also told Justice Denied that if subpoenaed for a hearing she would testify under oath to her Affidavit’s contents.

Justice Denied published a feature article about Hamilton’s case in its Summer 2008 issue: *In Connecticut At Time Of Brooklyn Murder – The Derrick Hamilton Story.*

Justice Denied’s Editor and Publisher Hans Sherrer provided an Affidavit to Hamilton in June 2009 that stated in part:

9. The affiant believes that Jewel Smith’s post-trial recantation of her trial “eyewitness” testimony upon which the jury relied to convict Derrick Hamilton, is 100% consistent with other evidence Derrick Hamilton has accumulated post-conviction that she did not witness the crime.

10. The affiant believes the evidence Derrick Hamilton has accumulated post-trial credibly establishes that he was in New Haven, Connecticut at the time Nathaniel Cash was murdered in New York. Most compelling is the affidavit of current New Haven Police Officer Kelly Turner that she was meeting with Derrick Hamilton in New Haven at the time the murder occurred in New York. The affidavit establishes the accumulated evidence the jury did not have available to assess Derrick Hamilton’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt supports that he is actually innocent of Nathaniel Cash’s murder.

Hamilton filed a state habeas corpus petition in July 7, 2009, that claimed his new alibi evidence established his actual innocence and his trial lawyer provided ineffective assistance of counsel.

Justice Denied published a follow-up article about Hamilton’s case in its Summer 2011 issue: “Derrick Hamilton’s Alibi By Police Officer He Was 82 Miles From 1991 Murder Ignored By The Courts”.

Hamilton’s petition was denied by the trial court in July 2011, and he appealed.

On December 7, 2011 Hamilton was released on parole after more than 20 years of incarceration from the date of his arrest. He was 46. During his parole hearing Commissioner Christina Hernandez said to Hamilton, “If, in fact, you’re incarcerated for something that you did not commit, I hope that you’re successful in your appeal.”

Hamilton told the New York Daily News after his release: “It’s just the most remarkable feeling ever and I’m overwhelmed with joy. It’s like 1,000 pounds got off your back and you can breathe again.” He added, “The fight goes on.”

After almost two decades of having his arguments rejected by every court that heard them, on January 15, 2013 the appellate division of the Supreme Court of New York issued its precedent setting ruling in People v. Hamilton, 115 A.D.3d 12, 979 N.Y.S.2d 97. The Court’s ruling stated in part:

“A freestanding claim of actual innocence is rooted in several different concepts, including the constitutional rights to substantive and procedural due process, and the constitutional right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment.” [Op. Cit. 4]....

“...we hold that a “freestanding” claim of actual innocence is cognizable in New York, and that a defendant who establishes his or her actual innocence by clear and convincing evidence is entitled to relief under the statute.” [Op. Cit. 1] and,

“Here, the defendant has made a prima facie showing based upon evidence of a credible alibi and manipulation of the witnesses, and the fact that the witness against him has recanted. Accordingly, there should be a hearing on his claim of actual innocence.

At the hearing, all reliable evidence ... should be admitted. If the defendant establishes his actual innocence by clear and convincing evidence, the indictment should be dismissed...” [Op. Cit. 7-8]
Aaron Frank Cadger Acquitted By Oregon Court Of Appeals Of Non-existent Jail Escape

Aaron Frank Cadger was acquitted by the Oregon Court of Appeals of escaping from a correctional facility the appeals court ruled didn’t happen.

In September 2010 Cadger, 20, was serving a 60-day sentence at the Douglas County Jail in Roseburg, Oregon for a probation violation. Cadger was assigned to an “outside inmate worker program,” and one day he and several other inmates were picked up at the jail by a civilian supervisor who transported them to the Douglas County fairgrounds. Cadger was given the job of shoveling manure from a parking lot in an area that was outside the fence surrounding the fairgrounds. That morning Cadger’s girlfriend arrived at the fairgrounds and they talked for a while where he was working.

During Cadger’s lunch break he went to the restroom and rendezvoused with his girlfriend and they left in her car.

A warrant was issued for Cadger’s arrest and he was apprehended in California. After his extradition to Douglas County he was charged with escaping “from a correctional facility” (ORS 162.155) which is a second degree felony.

The prosecution countered with the argument that Cadger was “constructively confined” in the Douglas County jail at the time he physically left the fairgrounds. After the judge denied Cadger’s motion, Cadger rested his defense without presenting any witnesses. The jury convicted Cadger and he appealed.

On October 16, 2013 the Oregon Court of Appeals issued their unanimous ruling, in State of Oregon v. Aaron Frank Cadger, No. A147651 (OR Ct of Appeals, 10-16-2013) reversing Cadger’s conviction on the basis the judge erred denying his motion for a judgment of acquittal. Judge Lynn R. Nakamoto wrote in the Court’s opinion:

We agree with defendant and resolve this case in conformance with Gruver. In that case, we held that the defendant -- a county jail inmate who was transported and left to work at the local animal shelter under the supervision of a civilian manager -- could not be constructively confined in the county jail by a civilian supervisor. Defendant was not constructively confined in a county jail. The Oregon Court of Appeals ruling in Hamilton’s case was based on facts substantially similar to those in the present case. [Op. Cit., 3]

Like the defendant in Gruver, defendant was not constructively confined in the county jail, but was instead on a “form of temporary release” at the time of his departure. Accordingly, the trial court erred when it denied defendant’s motion for judgment of acquittal, ... [Op. Cit., 5]

Cadger’s case is an example that the devil is in the details and his lawyer had a better understanding of what constitutes a correctional facility than the prosecution did when it charged him with a crime he didn’t commit.

The Oregon Court of Appeals ruling in State of Oregon v. Aaron Frank Cadger, No. A147651 (OR Ct of Appeals, 10-16-2013) can be read by clicking here.

Source:
State of Oregon v. Aaron Frank Cadger, No. A147651 (OR Ct of Appeals, 10-16-2013)
Court overturns Roseburg inmate's escape conviction, KPIC (Roseburg, OR), October 17, 2013

Hamilton cont. from p. 11

The Court also reversed the lower court’s denial of Hamilton’s ineffective assistance of counsel claim, ruling:

“The failure of the defendant’s trial counsel to name all the alibi witnesses in the notice of alibi could constitute ineffective assistance of counsel. Accordingly, at the hearing, the defendant should also be afforded an opportunity to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that trial counsel’s representation was ineffective. Although the remedy for ineffective assistance of counsel generally is to grant a new trial, if the defendant prevails on his claim of actual innocence, a new trial would not be necessary.” [Op. Cit. 8]

The date of Hamilton’s hearing hasn’t been set. The hearing should be interesting since the State no longer has any evidence he committed Cash’s murder in Brooklyn which occurred at a time his unrebuted new alibi evidence establishes he was 82 miles away in New Haven. Consequently, if the trial court judge conscientiously applies the appeals court’s directive it can be expected the hearing will result in the overturning of Hamilton’s conviction and the dismissal of his indictment.

The appeals court’s ruling in Hamilton’s case paves the way for all imprisoned or paroled persons in New York to have their claim of actual innocence considered on its merits, without them having to endure his arduous 20 year quest for justice.

Click here to read People v. Hamilton, 115 A.D.3d 12, 979 N.Y.S.2d 97 (1-15-14).


Click here to read “Derrick Hamilton’s Alibi By Police Officer He Was 82 Miles From 1991 Murder Ignored By The Courts,” By Hans Sherrer, Justice Denied magazine, Summer 2011, p. 16.

Click here to read People v. Hamilton, 115 A.D.3d 12, 979 N.Y.S.2d 97 (1-15-14).

Target site (Google cache)

Derrick Hamilton's Alibi By Police Officer He Was 82 Miles From 1991 Murder Ignored By The Courts, By Hans Sherrer, Justice Denied magazine, Summer 2011, p. 16.

Brooklyn Appellate Court makes unprecedented ruling, Brooklyn Daily Eagle, January 16, 2014

Man released from prison after 20 years can prove innocence in landmark ruling, New York Daily News, January 16, 2014

Brooklyn man is freed from prison after 20 years, New York Daily News, December 14, 2011

Derrick Hamilton #93AS5631, New York Department of Corrections, Inmate information page
Judge Complains To Jury Paul Cleary’s Acquittal Will Distress Prosecution Witnesses

The lack of objectivity and pro-prosecution bias of judges is common in countries around the world. There are times when a judge simply cannot resist the temptation to overtly express their sympathy with the prosecution. One of those times occurred on December 10, 2013 after a jury in Liverpool, England acquitted Paul Cleary of allegedly abusing two children more than 30 years ago.

Paul Cleary emigrated to Canada in 1989 from Liverpool, England. He settled in Toronto where he had a family with two children and worked as an electrician.

Two women reported to police in 2010 that in 1978 when they were children, Cleary -- then 26 -- asked them to do handstands and invited them to guess what color his underwear was before making them put their hands inside his trousers. The women did not allege he sexually touched them.

Cleary, 61, was charged in England with indecent assault and indecency with a child. Cleary publicly declared the accusations the women had waited more than 30 years to make were complete fabrications. He was extradited to England from Canada in July 2013 to stand trial, after he refused to voluntarily return. He was released on bail to live in the Liverpool area pending his trial.

During Cleary’s trial that began on December 2, 2013, the prosecution’s case was based on the testimony of the two women -- now in their 40s -- who didn’t deny waiting more than 30 years after the alleged incidents occurred to contact the police. The mother of one of the women testified her daughter told her when she was seven that she had been abused, but the mother didn’t deny she never contacted the police or told anyone about the alleged abuse. The mother knew Cleary when he lived near Liverpool and before he was married, and during her cross-examination Cleary’s lawyer suggested her testimony was the result of her jealousy of Cleary’s marriage and his wife.

Cleary testified in his defense “that he had never been alone with the girls when the offences were said to have taken place and that for many of those occasions he would actually have been at work at the time, though he could not prove this because his paperwork was thrown away when he emigrated.”

Cleary also testified he had seen the girls and their families after the time of the alleged abuse and he wasn’t aware of a problem, and that he saw one of the girls in 2005 when she in her mid-30s, and she said nothing.

Cleary’s lawyer Eric Lamb asked him: “Did you ever assault them sexually?” Cleary replied: “Absolutely not.”

When cross-examined Cleary testified he had never seen the girls doing handstands and that “It’s a total fabrication” he asked them to do so. He also unwaveringly stated “Absolutely,” when asked “Each and every allegation they have made is a complete and utter fabrication?”

On December 10 the jury deliberated less than three hours before acquitting Cleary of all twenty-two counts against him. After the jury’s verdict was announced Judge David Aubrey told the jurors:

“It’s quite apparent there are a number of members of the public gallery who are members of the family left distressed as a result of the verdicts of the jury.

“Of course this court respects and anticipates if they are distressed the two prosecution witnesses in this case will be extremely distressed when they are made aware of the verdicts in this case. It is absolutely essential that both of them are informed of the decision with sensitivity and any help either of them require or need is given to them.”

Judge Aubrey’s comments sympathizing with the two women not only ignored the jury found their testimony wasn’t credible, but his comments ignored that Cleary’s life had been decimated by the women’s unproven accusations that resulted in his arrest, public humiliation, forcible removal to England thousands of miles from his home in Canada, and the enormous financial and emotional burden placed on his family.

Commentator Raymond Peyton was so appalled at Judge Aubrey’s comments that he wrote on theopinionsite.org:

Perhaps it would have been better if the judge had turned to the defendant and said something along the lines of: “You leave the court an innocent man and questions should be asked as to why this case was brought in the first place..oh, and we are really sorry that it has completely ruined your life in Canada, possibly cost you your job and may have destroyed your family by us allowing this case to proceed.”

Neither the police nor the prosecutors made any public comment about Cleary’s acquittal after the government had spent an enormous amount of money and resources on his prosecution that hinged on what the juror’s determined was the unreliable testimony of the two complainants.

It is not known if the women will be investigated for filing false abuse reports against Cleary and committing perjury during his trial.

Source:
Dad-of-two extradited from Canada cleared of historic child abuse charges, Liverpool Echo, December 10, 2013
Merseyside man goes on trial for allegedly abusing girls more than 30 years ago, Liverpool Echo, December 2, 2013
Child abuse suspect Paul Cleary flown from Canada to face charges, Liverpool Echo, July 12, 2013
Alleged paedophile Paul Cleary denies any wrongdoing, Liverpool Echo, December 9, 2013

Visit Justice Denied’s Website
www.justicedenied.org

Back issues of Justice: Denied can be read, there are links to wrongful conviction websites, and other information related to wrongful convictions is available. JD’s online Bookshop includes more than 70 wrongful conviction books, and JD’s Videoshop includes many dozens of wrongful conviction movies and documentaries.

Visit Justice Denied’s Facebook Page
Justice Denied’s Facebook page is regularly updated with information related to wrongful convictions. Justice Denied’s homepage has a link to the Facebook page. www.justicedenied.org
Michael Morton’s story demonstrates systemic flaws in the legal system and the serious consequences of when the wrong person is prosecuted. Christine Morton’s killer went on to kill again—a crime that remained unsolved until the DNA evidence in Morton’s case was tested, linking the real killer to both cases.

Since his release Michael has reunited with his now-adult son Eric—who grew up believing his father had killed his mother.

One fact readily apparent from the information now available on the Innocents Database webpage is the United States is less efficient at exonerating a person than are other countries. Overall countries other than the U.S. incarcerate a person for a shorter period of time before their exoneration. The Innocents Database includes, but isn’t limited to, court decisions; newspaper and magazine articles; books; convictions overturned by the Court of Appeals after the case was referred to the Court by the Criminal Case Review Commission for England, Wales and Northern Ireland; convictions overturned by Scotland’s Court of Appeals after the case was referred to the Court by the Scottish Criminal Case Review Commission; convictions overturned after the case was referred by the Norwegian Criminal Case Review Commission for post-conviction court review; and cases in the National Registry of Exonerations.

Visit the Innocents Database
Includes details about more than 4,700 wrongly convicted people from the U.S. and other countries.
www.forejustice.org/search_idb.htm

Visit the Wrongly Convicted Bibliography
Database of hundreds of books, law review articles, movies and documentaries related to wrongful convictions.
www.forejustice.org/biblio/bibliography.htm
Ylen gained national notoriety in September 2012 when evidence of her history of making repeated unsubstantiated sexual assault accusations resulted in the overturning of James Grissom’s 2003 conviction for raping her in broad daylight in the parking lot of a grocery store in Port Huron, Michigan. Grissom was released on November 19, 2012 after almost ten years of incarceration. In retrospect the strange circumstances of Grissom’s prosecution should have raised alarm bells. Ylen didn’t report the alleged rape to the police, her doctor, or her husband until more than a year after she said it occurred in May 2001; she told police she believed that in June 2002 her assailant was driving a black Jeep Cherokee that pulled up behind her at a stoplight (Grissom didn’t own or drive a black Jeep Cherokee); in October 2002 she identified Grissom as her assailant from his police mug shot, but when he participated in a live view-up she selected another man as her rapist; she told police she discarded the clothing she was wearing at the time of the assault; there was no physical or medical evidence she was raped; and during Grissom’s trial her testimony was the only evidence a rape occurred and that he was the perpetrator.

Grissom was convicted in Port Huron on August 27, 2003 of sexual assaulting Ylen and he was sentenced to 15 to 35 years in prison. Grissom’s conviction was affirmed on his direct appeal. Grissom filed a petition seeking a new trial based on evidence he discovered in 2006 impeaching the credibility of Ylen’s trial testimony. The trial court denied Grissom’s petition which the Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed. In July 2012 the Michigan Supreme Court issued its precedent setting ruling in People v. Grissom, No. 140147 (Mich: Supreme Court 2012):

“We hold that impeachment evidence may be grounds for a new trial if it satisfies the four-part test set forth in People v. Cress. We further hold that a material, exculpatory connection must exist between the newly discovered evidence and significantly important evidence presented at trial. It may be of a general character and need not contra-
Oregon Court Of Appeals Acquits Teen Of Negligent Homicide In Traffic Death

Sierra Nicole Rigel has been acquitted of negligent homicide and third-degree assault by the Oregon Court of Appeals. Rigel’s convictions were related to a traffic accident that resulted in the death of a motorcyclist in 2010.

In the fall of 2010 Rigel was 17 and a senior with a 4.0 GPA at Brookings-Harbor High School in Brookings, Oregon. Brookings is a town of about 6,000 people on the Oregon coast about five miles north of the California border, and 320 miles southwest of Portland. The only vehicle access to Brookings is Highway 101, which is a two lane coastal highway with limited vehicle turnouts that runs parallel with the Pacific Ocean.

After school on the afternoon of September 15, 2010 Rigel drove a friend to Gold Beach, which is 28 miles north of Brookings. At about 5:30 p.m. on her way back to Brookings, the 2003 Ford Excursion Rigel was driving crossed the center line and struck a motorcyclist traveling in the opposite direction operated by Danny Michael Nudo. Nudo was thrown from his motorcycle and killed when he struck a roadside sign post. After the collision near Milepost 341 on Highway 101, Rigel’s vehicle ran off the road and struck a tree. Rigel was transported to Curry General Hospital in an ambulance. Milepost 341 is about 9 miles south of Gold Beach.

Police officers at the scene found skid marks from Rigel’s vehicle. At the time of the accident the weather was dry and clear, and she was wearing her seat belt and driving the speed limit of 55 m.p.h.

Rigel told an officer at the scene and again at the hospital where she was taken, that while driving she suddenly became very drowsy and knew she needed to pull off the highway as soon as possible. There was no vehicle turnout and no emergency lane on the two-lane highway where the accident occurred. She also told the officer that other times when she was driving she had gotten drowsy and was able to pull off the highway to take a short nap.

Rigel was charged as a minor in juvenile court with negligent homicide and third-degree assault. She pled not guilty.

During her bench (judge only) trial before Curry County Circuit Court Judge Cynthia L. Beaman, the prosecution’s case was Rigel acted recklessly and was criminally negligent for failing to pull off the highway prior to hitting the motorcyclist. The prosecution stipulated Rigel had not been drinking, had not taken any drugs, and was not using a cell phone at the time of the accident. There was evidence she had slept about six hours during the 24 hours prior to the accident.

Rigel’s defense was that by looking for a vehicle turnout upon becoming drowsy a minute or so before the accident, she did not act recklessly and exercised the care a reasonable person would take in that situation. Her defense was supported by the unrebutted testimony of human factors expert, Dennis Wylie. Wylie is an internationally recognized human factors expert concerning driver error; inattention and improper lookout; driver fatigue; sleep debt; and other driver related issues. Wylie, whose office is in Santa Barbara, California, directed the largest study of driver fatigue and alertness conducted in North America. During Rigel’s trial:

“Wylie testified that people are not good at recognizing when they are fatigued and that a driver can go from not being aware of tiredness, to being aware of tiredness, to a light state of sleep where the driver is not responding to stimuli, all within 60 seconds. Wylie testified that driver drowsiness is not uncommon and that “the driver is not always aware that the driver is being overcome by fatigue, and by the time they realize it, it could be too late.” Wylie also testified that it is very common for people to drive after only five or six hours of sleep.” State of Oregon v. S.N.R., No. A148495 (Ore. Ct. of Appeals, 1-29-2014), Op.Cit. 5.

Judge Beaman found Rigel guilty of both charges, and in announcing her reasons she wholly sided with the prosecution’s arguments: Rigel acted recklessly because she did not to pull off the highway before the collision occurred, and so she was criminally negligent.

Since Rigel was prosecuted as a juvenile she couldn’t be sentenced to adult prison. During Rigel’s sentencing hearing on May 2, 2011 her lawyer Chris Keusink told Judge Beaman: “What has happened, has happened. It can’t be brought back.” To mitigate her sentence Keusink explained Rigel was a member of the National Honor Society, president of Brookings’ student branch of Rotary, on a committee for fundraising for a children’s hospital, a member of a group which raises funds to feed the less fortunate, a 4.0-plus student, and she was taking advanced placement classes for college. He also said Rigel had performed more than 300 hours of community service.

Judge Beaman placed little to no weight on Rigel’s exemplary background, volunteer activities, and character, in sentencing her to 5 years probation as a ward of the court (not to exceed her 23rd birthday), banning her from driving for life, ordering her to perform 100 hours of community service, fining her $214, and ordering her to pay restitution.

The month after her conviction Rigel graduated on June 11 from Brookings-Harbor High School as a Valedictorian of her senior class. During her speech “Rigel talked about remembering her school experience since kindergarten and how far she has gotten in life. She concluded that “we will all remember this last day together as one.””

In October 2011 Brookings’ paper, the Curry Coastal Pilot, ran an article -- “Two similar fatal accidents, two very different outcomes. Why?” -- that detailed Rigel had been prosecuted by Curry County District Attorney Everett Dial when in a similar case a 76-year-old man wasn’t prosecuted after he fell asleep on Highway 101 and his car’s collision with an oncoming car killed the driver. In declining to prosecute that elderly man DA Dial described the driver’s death as the result of “an unfortunate and tragic accident.”

Rigel appealed to the Oregon Court of Appeals arguing the prosecution introduced insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt she committed either of her convicted offenses.

On January 29, 2014 the Oregon Court of Appeal reversed Rigel’s convictions. In State of Oregon v. S.N.R., No. A148495 (Ore. Ct. of App., 1-29-2014) the court ruled Rigel “did not act recklessly” or with “criminal negligence,” because as soon as
Symieon Robinson-Pierre Exonerated Of Convictions For His Dog Biting Police Officers

Symieon Robinson-Pierre’s 2012 convictions of owning a dog that bit four police officers in London have been overturned by the UK’s Court of Appeal.

On March 22, 2012 a warrant was served on Robinson-Pierre at his row house in east London. The police didn’t knock before breaking down the front door and entering the house. After the officers entered Robinson-Pierre’s pit bull terrier named “Poison” attacked one of the officers. As the officers fled the house the dog followed them outside and over a period of minutes attacked four officers. Poison was killed when he was shot four times with a shotgun. The five officers bitten by Poison suffered varying degrees of injuries on their hands and legs. The most seriously injured officer required surgery and he was off work for 85 days.

The later part of the incident was recorded by a local resident on his mobile phone video camera. The video was uploaded to the Internet and can be viewed on YouTube.

During Robinson-Pierre’s trial in August 2012 the prosecution played the video of Poison’s attack to buttress the testimony of the police officers who were bitten.

At the close of the prosecution’s case Robinson-Pierre submitted there was no case for him to answer on two grounds: The first count involved an officer bitten in his yard so it didn’t occur in a “public place”; and, the police, not he, allowed Poison outside, so he wasn’t responsible for the injuries to the officers. The judge agreed the first count involved an officer bitten on Robinson Pierre’s property and directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty on that count. However, the judge ruled the offense Robinson-Pierre was charged with was a “strict

Pierre cont. on p. 18

Rigel cont. from page 16

she felt drowsy she knew she needed to pull off the highway at the first opportunity to rest. In arriving at its decision the appeals court found the trial judge erroneously relied on the false transcription of Rigel’s statement at the hospital as -- “I knew I should have pulled off” -- that was in the past tense and implied she knew she erred not pulling off the highway. When in fact the audio of Rigel’s statement showed she actually said “I knew I shouldn’t put it off,” which was in the present tense and indicated she immediately began looking for the next turn-off after she was hit with drowsiness. [Op.Cit. at 7] The Court referred to Rigel as “youth” in stating:

“The only reasonable inference that can be drawn from youth’s uncontroverted statements, as correctly transcribed, and from the evidence concerning the highway, is that she did not feel tired until after she had passed the last pull out on the southbound side of highway 101 before milepost 341. [Id. at 13]

... it appears that the juvenile court did not find the testimony of youth’s expert to be pertinent to its ruling; the court did not mention it when ruling. We note that the expert’s testimony confirms that a driver can go from a state of not feeling tired to a state of sleep in as little as one minute and that drivers are not always aware that they are being overcome by fatigue. [Id. at 13]

... As discussed above, only two minutes passed between the time youth became aware of her tiredness and the accident. The expert’s testimony confirms that drivers who fail to pull over immediately upon realizing they are tired are not for that reason alone deviating from a widely shared, reasonable norm. ... and, youth did not disregard the risk of falling asleep because she immediately began looking for an appropriate place to pull over once she started to feel tired ...

... [Id. at 14]

... Therefore, youth did not act recklessly, and the juvenile court erred in taking jurisdiction of youth based on its conclusion that youth’s acts, if committed by an adult, would have constituted criminally negligent homicide and assault in the third degree.

Reversed. [Id. at 15]

The Court’s ruling bars Rigel’s retrial.

Rigel’s appeal lawyer, George Kelly, commented after the appeals court’s ruling, “I’m pleased with the decision, and I happen to think it was the right one.” When contacted by Justice Denied, Kelly declined to comment on specifics of the case because he hadn’t been given permission to do so by the Rigel family.

Click here to read the appeals court’s ruling in State of Oregon v. S.N.R., No. A148495 (Ore. Ct. of Appeals, 1-29-2014), that includes an extended discussion of what constitutes criminal negligence and third-degree assault under Oregon law.


Source:

Court says sleep-driving strikes quickly: Teen driver who killed motorcyclist gets case overturned, The Oregonian (Portland, OR), January 29, 2014

Two similar fatal accidents, two very different outcomes. Why?, Curry Coastal Pilot (Brookings, Ore.), October 28, 2011 10

Judge: No license for teen driver who hit, killed motorcyclist, Curry Coastal Pilot, May 4, 2011

BHHS graduation 2011: Students receive diplomas Saturday, Curry Coastal Pilot, June 15, 2011

Brookings-Harbor High School, Brookings, Oregon
Who Is Responsible For Annie Borjesson’s Death?

By Hans Sherrer

The repeated failure of Scottish police to thoroughly investigate suspicious deaths has resulted in the circulation of a petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce the right to a mandatory public inquiry with full disclosure of evidence in deaths determined to be self-inflicted or accidental, following suspicious death investigations. 

Sign the petition by clicking here.

Annie Borjesson’s death is one of the cases that inspired the petition. Annie was a 30-year-old Swedish citizen whose body was found on the morning of December 4, 2005 lying on the salt water beach near the seawall in Prestwick, Scotland. She was last seen on the afternoon of December 3 at the Prestwick airport. Annie was lying on her back with her coat and two bags close to her body. The bay is shallow enough that a person can walk out hundreds of yards during low tide before reaching the water line. The police considered Annie’s death a suicide by drowning without conducting a meaningful investigation of the suspicious circumstances under which her body was found and her known movements in the 24-hours before her body’s discovery. The pathologists who conducted Annie’s autopsy determined “death here was due to drowning.” However, the pathologists didn’t estimate her time of death or make a determination her death was a homicide, accidental, or suicide. Neither did they collect any of the water they found in her stomach for testing to determine if was fresh or salt water. Lab tests of Annie’s blood and urine found she had an alcohol level of less than .02 and no other drugs were in her system.

The website about Annie’s case, www.annirockstar.com details the evidence about Annie’s death and her known movements in Edinburgh and Prestwick in the last 24 hours she was alive.

After more than three years of effort to try and convince the Scottish police to investigate Annie’s death, her mother Guje and her friend Maria Jansson who live in Sweden, contacted Justice Denied in 2009. Although normally Justice Denied deals with cases of possible wrongful conviction, it was glaringly apparent the snap judgment by the Scottish police that Annie committed suicide by drowning was based on the same disregard of the evidence that results in the prosecution of innocent persons in Scotland, the U.S. and countries around the world.

Justice Denied contacted forensic pathologist Dr. Glenn Larkin, who in June 2010 told them that if they were sure the dog was dangerously out of control in a public place any act or omission of the appellant was irrelevant to the question whether he was guilty of the offence. In these circumstances the appellant elected not to give evidence. ... We cannot in these circumstances be sure that the verdicts of the jury were safe.

For these reasons we allow the appeal against conviction.” [¶46-47]

Robinson-Pierre was out of custody at the time of the Court’s ruling. He was continuously in custody from his arrest on March 22, 2012 to his sentencing in January 2013, so he was released on parole in February 2013 after 11 months of incarceration.

Source:
Robinson-Pierre v R [2013] EWCA Crim 2396 (20 December 2013)

Pit bull owner has conviction overturned after blaming police for his dog’s attack, London Evening Standard, December 20, 2013

Pit bull owner whose dog savaged five police officers leaving scene ‘like the Battle of Trafalgar’ jailed for nearly two years, Daily Mail (London), January 17, 2013

Graphic Footage of Pit Bull dog attacking Policemen, Youtube.com
Borjesson cont. on p. 18

Agreed to review Annie’s autopsy report and toxicology test results, documents, funeral home photographs, and photos of where Annie’s body was found. Dr. Larkin reported the autopsy report was inadequate and not performed to recognized professional standards in the U.S. To proceed further Dr. Larkin needed the autopsy photos to try and fill in holes in the autopsy report, but the Scottish authorities refused to turn them over to Guje Borjesson, so the case hit a dead end for his involvement. However, he noted a specie of diatom associated with fresh water was recovered from Annie’s bone marrow – when she was found on a salt water beach, and a drowned person is face down – when Annie was found face-up.

It is absurd for the police to have closed Annie’s case by declaring she committed suicide by drowning when there was a lack of credible evidence she drowned in the shallow bay and washed ashore to where she was found on her back with her coat and two bags conveniently near her. Annie may have been drowned, but the available evidence is it

Annie Borjesson’s body was found just over the sea wall from where Guje Borjesson is standing. (Maria Janssen)

and “pale depression” reasonably could only have been caused if she died elsewhere.

Click here to sign the petition to the Scottish Parliament in support of a mandatory public inquiry with the release of all evidence in deaths determined to be self-inflicted or accidental under suspicious circumstances.

Kenneth Roy’s six-part article about the unsolved case of Annie Borgesson’s death is in the December 4, 2013 issue of Scottish Review. Click here to read “The Mysterious Life and Death of Annie Borjesson.”


The complete petition to Scotland’s Parliament can be read by clicking here.


Freedom March For The Wrongfully Convicted In Washington, Pennsylvania On March 14, 2014

A Freedom March For The Wrongfully Convicted was held in Washington, Pennsylvania on Friday, March 14, 2014. It began at noon at the Washington County Courthouse, 1 South Main St., in Washington, about 25 miles south of Pittsburgh. The website, www.freedommarchusa.org, had information about the march and a map of its location.

Among the persons at the march and who spoke at the rally was Jeffrey Deskovic, who was wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for 16 years for a rape and murder in New York that he didn’t commit.

The Freedom March’s organizer was MaryAnn Lubas, and her email is m lubas2@yahoo.com. She became involved in publicizing the problem of wrongful convictions after her son Michael DeLoe was convicted of a crime that never happened. His website is justiceformike.net.

A flyer with information about the march that can be printed out can be read by clicking here.

Click here to order a 10-20 year prison sentence. Celeste agreed to testify against Celeste in exchange for a 10-20 year prison sentence. Tarlton pled guilty and later. Tarlton and Celeste were charged with murder. Steven recovered and was discharged from the hospital on January 18, 2000. The next day he was readmitted with a yeast infection the way the killer’s psychotic bragging was used by the prosecution against Karlyn. The way exculpatory and witness impeachment evidence was hidden from the defense. The way erroneous assertions by the prosecution were used by the media, judges reviewing the case, and even by her own lawyers to avoid looking at the record that reveals her innocence.

Paperback, 370 pages, $10 Order with a credit card from Justice Denied’s Bookshop, www.justicedenied.org

Visit the Innocents Database Includes details about more than 4,700 wrongly convicted people from the U.S. and other countries. www.forejustice.org/search_idb.htm

Improper Submissions: Records of a Wrongful Conviction

By Erma Armstrong

This is the story of Karlyn Ekloff, a young woman delivered into the hands of a psychotic killer. She witnessed him commit a murder and she is currently serving two life sentences in Oregon for that crime. Improper Submissions documents:

- The way the killer’s psychotic bragging was used by the prosecution against Karlyn.
- The way exculpatory and witness impeachment evidence was hidden from the defense.
- The way erroneous assertions by the prosecution were used by the media, judges reviewing the case, and even by her own lawyers to avoid looking at the record that reveals her innocence.

Paperback, 370 pages, $10 Order with a credit card from Justice Denied’s Bookshop, www.justicedenied.org

Trial by Perjury: Millionaire, Mania & Misinformation

by Nancy Hall

This $3.99 Amazon Kindle e-book is about how Celeste Beard Johnson was convicted in 2003 of capital murder in the death of her then husband Steven F. Beard, who died of natural causes in 2000. She was sentenced to life in prison.

While in bed at home in Oct. 1999, Steven was shot in his stomach with a shotgun. Tracey Tarlton, a woman who became infatuated with Celeste after they met in February 1999, admitted the shooting and she was charged with Injury to an Elderly Person. Steven recovered and was discharged from the hospital on January 18, 2000. The next day he was readmitted with a yeast infection and he complained of chest pains. Exams showed he had severe heart disease and other medical problems. He died four days later. Tarlton and Celeste were charged with murdering Steven. Tarlton pled guilty and agreed to testify against Celeste in exchange for a 10-20 year prison sentence. Celeste was convicted even though medical evidence showed Steven died of natural causes – not murder. Order for the Amazon Kindle for only $3.99 from Amazon.com. (252 pgs)
From The Big House To Your House has two hundred easy to prepare recipes for meals, snacks and desserts. Written by six women imprisoned in Texas, the recipes can be made from basic items a prisoner can purchase from their commissary, or people on the outside can purchase from a convenience or grocery store. From The Big House To Your House is the result of the cooking experiences of six women while confined at the Mountain View Unit, a woman’s prison in Gatesville, Texas. They met and bonded in the G-3 dorm housing only prisoners with a sentence in excess of 50 years. While there isn’t much freedom to be found when incarcerated, using the commissary to cook what YOU want offers a wonderful avenue for creativity and enjoyment! They hope these recipes will ignite your taste buds as well as spark your imagination to explore unlimited creations of your own! They encourage you to make substitutions to your individual tastes and/or availability of ingredients. They are confident you will enjoy the liberty found in creating a home-felt comfort whether you are in the Big House, or Your House!

$14.95 (postage paid to U.S. mailing address) (Canadian orders add $4 per book) 132 pages, softcover

Use the order form on pages 21 to order with a check or money order. Or order with a credit card from Justice Denied’s website: http://justicedenied.org/fromthebighouse.htm

Or order From The Big House To Your House in hardcopy, from Amazon.com.


Published By Justice Denied II

Phantom Spies, Phantom Justice by Miriam Moskowitz is published by Justice Denied/The Justice Institute. The book is Ms. Moskowitz’ autobiography that explains how it came to be that in 1950 she was falsely accused, indicted and convicted of obstruction of justice in a grand jury that was investigating Soviet espionage. The book’s subtitle is How I Survived McCarthyism And My Prosecution That Was the Rehearsal For The Rosenberg Trial. The Afterword written by Justice Denied’s editor and publisher Hans Sherrer states in part:

Miriam Moskowitz is an innocent person who was caught up in the whirlwind of anti-communist hysteria that prevailed in this country at the time of her trial in 1950. We know that because of FBI documents she obtained through the Freedom of Information Act decades after her conviction for conspiring to obstruct justice during a grand jury investigation.

The prosecution’s case depended on the trial testimony of FBI informant Harry Gold. He testified that in 1947 she observed a conversation during which he and her business partner, Abraham Brothman, allegedly discussed providing false testimony to a grand jury investigating possible Soviet espionage. She did not testify before that grand jury.

The FBI documents Ms. Moskowitz obtained are proof that prior to her trial Mr. Gold told the FBI she was not present during that alleged conversation. Furthermore, Mr. Gold told the FBI he didn’t speak candidly in front of Ms. Moskowitz because of her possible negative reaction if he said something incriminating in her presence, and he didn’t like her.

Although Ms. Moskowitz’s case had nothing directly to do with the Rosenberg trial that took place four months after her trial, they were tied together because Mr. Gold was a key witness against the Rosenbergs and the same prosecutors and judge were involved in both trials.

 Phantom Spies, Phantom Justice is a compelling story of how an innocent 34-year-old woman found herself being publicly branded as an enemy of the United States. Ms. Moskowitz is now 96 and still seeking the justice of having her conviction overturned, although she can’t get back the time she spent incarcerated because of her two-year prison sentence.

$19.95 (postage paid to U.S. mailing address) (Canadian orders add $5 per book) 302 pages, softcover

Use the order form on pages 21 to order with a check or money order. Or order with a credit card from Justice Denied’s website: http://justicedenied.org/phantomspies.html

Or order Phantom Spies, Phantom Justice in hardcopy, from Amazon.com.


Published By Justice Denied II

Phantom Spies, Phantom Justice

Now Available for Kindle!

Phantom Spies, Phantom Justice is available for Kindle!
Send a check or money order with order form on pages 21.

From The Big House To Your House

$14.95

Order Form

Phantom Spies, Phantom Justice

$19.95

Kirstin Baise Lobato’s Unreasonable Conviction

$13

Improper Submissions: Records of Karlyn Ekel’s wrongful conviction

$10

Dehumanization Is Not An Option

$12

Edwin M. Borchard — Convicting The Innocent and State Indemnity

$16.95

(Postage paid to U.S. mailing address. Add $4 per book to Canada.)

Total

Mail check, money order, or stamps for each book to: Justice Denied PO Box 66291 Seattle, WA 98166

Mail to:
Name: ____________________________________________

ID No. __________________________________________________________________________

Suite/Cell ___________________________________

Agency/Inst __________________________________________

Address :____________________________________

State/Zip____________________________________

Or order books with a credit card from Justice Denied’s online bookstore at www.justicedenied.org

This is the story of Kirstin Lobato, who was 18 when charged in 2001 with the murder of a homeless man in Las Vegas. She was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and other charges in 2006 and she is currently serving a sentence of 13-35 years in Nevada. Kirstin Baise Lobato’s Unreasonable Conviction documents:

- She had never met the homeless man and had never been to where he was killed.
- No physical forensic, eyewitness or confession evidence ties her to his death.
- At the time of his death she was 170 miles north of Las Vegas in the small rural town of Panaca, Nevada where she lived with her parents.

Paperback, 176 pages, $13

Order from: www.Amazon.com, or order with check or money order with order form on page 21.
NY Ct of Appeals Rules Convictions Can Be Challenged Based On New Evidence Of Actual Innocence

In January 2014 the NY Court of Appeals issued its precedent setting ruling that after more than 20 years of imprisonment Derek Hamilton can present his new alibi evidence that he was in New Haven, Connecticut at the time of a 1991 murder in Brooklyn.

See p. 11.

Justice Denied
P.O. Box 66291
Seattle, WA 98166

The Magazine for the Wrongly Convicted

The scales of justice are tipped against innocent people all across the country - from Maine to Hawaii and from Alaska to Florida.

Justice Denied provides a public voice for innocent people victimized by that tragic reality.