

Jordan Johnson Awarded \$245,000 By Montana For Botched Rape Investigation

Jordan Johnson was the quarterback of the University of Montana Grizzlies when he was accused of raping a female university student on February 4, 2012.

The woman reported to the police in March 2012, that more than a month earlier she and Johnson were watching a movie at her home, when they had sexual intercourse without her consent.

When interviewed by police Johnson admitted that he and the woman had sex, but he told them it was consensual.

Johnson was charged with sexual assault in July 2012.

Johnson's trial in March 2013 was "she said, he said" about the incident. The prosecution's case was based on the woman's testimony that Johnson didn't stop when she wanted him to. She admitted they had an ongoing sexual relationship, but she said [she told him](#), "No not tonight." Johnson testified in his defense that she didn't let him know she didn't want to have sex that night. He [told the jury](#), "If somebody says no, you stop. You respect that."

After 2-1/2 hours of deliberations the seven-



Jordan Johnson in 2011 when he was the quarterback for the University of Montana Grizzlies (University of Montana)

was aware of whether the sex was non-consensual. It's a sad case all the way around, with so many people affected. But you've just got to go with what the law says."

The university expelled Johnson in late 2012 after the University's Court determined he was guilty of raping the woman. Johnson appealed that decision. After his acquittal in his criminal case that determination was overturned in separate decisions by Montana's Commissioner of Higher Education, and the University of Montana's Dean of Students. Johnson was reinstated as a student.

Johnson filed a complaint for money damages against the State of Montana. He alleged that the handling of the case by the university violated his due process and civil rights, that he was subjected to sexual discrimination, and that potential evidence was destroyed by the deletion of files related to

woman, five-man jury acquitted Johnson. After the trial one of the jurors [told reporters](#), "You just can't convict somebody if you're not 100 percent, or reasonably sure. We were kind of hung up on the fact that we just couldn't do a conviction because we weren't sure whether Mr. Johnson

Johnson from the computer of the person who was the UM's Dean of Students at the time of the alleged incident in February 2012.

On February 16, 2016 it was announced that the State of Montana [had agreed to pay](#) Johnson \$245,000 to settle his complaint.

The handling of alleged sexual assaults at universities and colleges across the country is a controversial issue. [In April 2011](#), the U.S. Department of Education and its Office for Civil Rights told institutions of higher learning to use a "preponderance of the evidence" standard – a lower standard of proof – to evaluate cases of sexual violence instead of the "clear and convincing" standard that had been relied on for many years. The lower standard of evidence made it much easier to find male students "guilty" of sex related offenses.

Best-selling author Jon Krakauer's book, *Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town*, was published in May 2015. The [book covers cases](#) of alleged sexual assaults at the University of Montana from January 2008 to May 2012, including Johnson's case.

Sources:

[Jordan Johnson found not guilty of rape](#), *Missoulian* (Missoula, Mt), March 1, 2013

[Montana to pay former Griz QB Jordan Johnson \\$245K in settlement](#), *Missoulian*, February 16, 2016

[Higher education commissioner](#), dean of students reinstated expelled UM quarterback, *Missoulian*, April 25, 2015



6,403 Cases Now In Innocents Database

The [Innocents Database](#) now includes 6,403 cases: 3,954 from the U.S., and 2,449 from 114 other countries. The database includes 3,035 U.S. cases from 2016 to 1989, when the first DNA exoneration occurred.

The [Innocents Database](#) is the world's largest database of exonerated persons, and it includes all identifiable exonerations in the United States, as well as internationally. The Innocents Database includes:

- 586 innocent people sentenced to death.
- 972 innocent people sentenced to life in prison.
- 2,081 innocent people convicted of a homicide related crime.
- 1,005 innocent people convicted of a sexual assault related crime.
- 773 innocent people were convicted after a false confession by him or herself or a co-defendant.

- 1,780 innocent people were convicted of a crime that never occurred.
- 219 innocent people were posthumously exonerated by a court or a pardon.
- 71 innocent people were convicted of a crime when they were in another city, state or country from where the crime occurred.
- 1,729 innocent people had 1 or more co-defendants. The most innocent co-defendants in any one case was 29, and fifteen cases had 12 or more co-defendants.
- 12% of wrongly convicted persons are women.
- The average for all exonerated persons is 7-1/4 years imprisonment.
- 31 is the average age when a person is wrongly imprisoned.
- Cases of innocent people convicted in 115 countries are in the database.
- 3,954 cases involve a person convicted in the United States.
- 2,449 cases involve a person convicted in a country other than the U.S.

[Click here to go to the Innocents Database homepage.](#)

All the cases are supported by public sources for research. Those sources include court rulings, newspaper and magazine articles, and books. The database is linked to from [Justice Denied's](#) website.

User defined searches, and user defined sorts of any combination of more than 100 columns of data can be made for:

- [U. S. cases from 1989 to 2016](#);
- [U. S. cases prior to 1989](#);
- and, [International cases up to 2016](#)

The Innocents Database is an ongoing project that began more than 19 years ago, and now contains almost two million bytes of data. The accessibility and usefulness of that data to the public and researchers is improved by the ability to search and sort for specific information.

Email a question, correction, or suggested addition to the Innocents Database to: innocents@forejustice.org.

