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Message From The Publisher

Everyone innocent person convicted of a crime they didn’t commit is at best only a victim of imperfections in the functioning of the legal system. However, there is a special class of innocent people who are double victims: their conviction is ensured by people inside and/or outside the system who know the person is innocent. Actress Madge Meredith was one of those victims. She was convicted of a fake kidnapping staged by her former manager as a ploy to steal her house in Los Angeles’ Hollywood Hills. See p. 3.

Luke Brett Moore found out the hard way a business that makes a mistake costing it a lot of money may want more than repayment. The business may seek extraction of a pound of flesh by urging the legal system to convict and imprison the person of a non-existent crime. See p. 5.

Is it a crime for a woman to defend herself when she is attacked by a former boyfriend who stalked, terrorized and threatened to kill her? After Jessica Silva was convicted of manslaughter for stabbing her ex-boyfriend when he attacked her, and her brother and father, the New South Wales Court of Criminal Appeal acquitted her on the ground she acted in self-defense. See p. 7.

An ongoing problem is a prosecutor trying to unfairly influence the outcome of a trial. While often criticized by a court for their misconduct, typically at most a new trial is ordered. The prosecutor’s conduct in Charles K. Zisa’s case was so extreme that his retrial was barred. See p. 9.

The 2016 Innocents Database Exoneration Report is available online or it can be purchased from Amazon.com. See p. 6.

Hans Sherrer, Editor and Publisher
www.justicedenied.org – email: hsherrer@justicedenied.org

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