

THE EXONERATION PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

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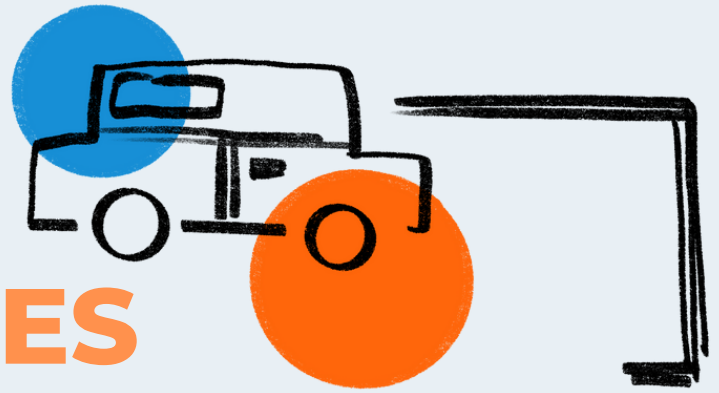
**WRONGFUL
CONVICTION
DAY
SUCCESS!!**

The EP's Wrongful Conviction Day, hosted at the end of September, was a great success! Around 70 attendees showed up to learn more about the resources available to them, and to enjoy food and drink and company!





"CLASSIFIED" UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



ABF FREIGHT - CHICAGO, IL DRIVER & WAREHOUSE HIRING EVENT

Tuesday & Wednesday,
November 1st & November 2nd, 2022

7:00am - 7:00 PM
1900 Lincoln Highway
Sauk Village, IL 60411

OMNI CHICAGO HOTEL - CHICAGO, IL SALES, RETAIL & CUSTOMER SERVICE

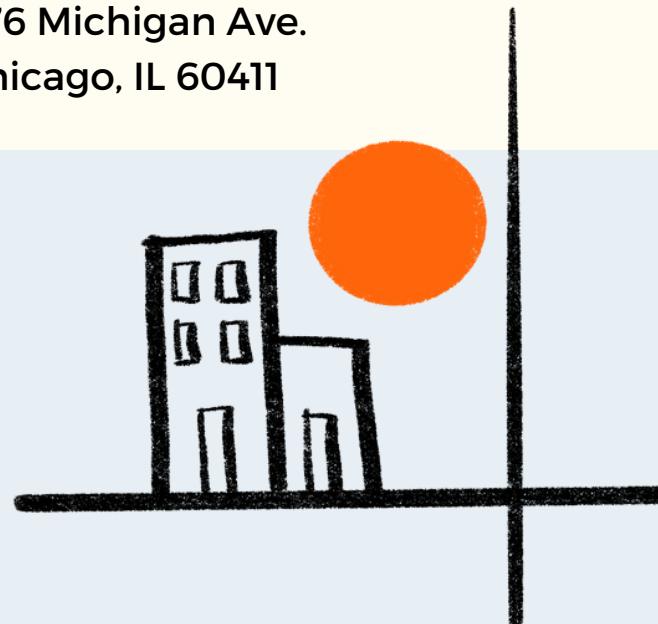
Monday
November 14th, 2022

9:30AM - 12:30PM
676 Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60411

A SAFE HAVEN FOUNDATION COOK

2750 Roosevelt Rd,
Chicago IL 60608

(773) 435 8300





Marcellous Pittman Exonerated



In 2001, Marcellous Pittman was wrongfully convicted of shooting a police officer who had been down the street from a Halloween egg fight turned shooting.

Despite there never being reliable evidence that the participants actually saw or intended to shoot at an officer, when Pittman went with his grandmother to the local police station to clear his name, the two interrogating officers tortured and intimidated him until he offered a "confession".

In 2014, a claim in support of Pittman's exoneration was filed before the Illinois Torture and Inquiry Relief commission, Team Pittman of The Exoneration Project dug into the case and over the last 6 years, they worked to exonerate Pittman.

Owing to the tireless work of Team Pittman, the dirty work done by cops James O'Brien and John Halloran gradually came to light—they had a history of using physical force to coerce "confessions", framing multiple innocent individuals during their time in the police force.

The case was finally presented in court—the first time Pittman was able to tell the world his side of the story and how it impacted his life. Although Judge Alfredo Maldonado had previously denied a similar petition for another claimant, he ruled in favor of Pittman in this case. Specifically, Maldonado found Pittman credible and the offers not, vacating his conviction and suppressing the alleged confession.

On October 12th, after 21 years of back and forth, of emotional turmoil and stress, with the help of generous individuals and the EP, Illinois has finally dismissed the case—Marcellous Pittman will be able to move on with his life, and along with his family, breath a heavy sigh of relief.

Details quoted from Team Pittman of The Exoneration Project



For 31 long years, Daniel Rodriguez waited to hear a court say what he and his adoring family already knew: He was innocent and not a murderer. On September 29th, following the dismissal of his conviction in April, Rodriguez was finally granted a Certificate of Innocence and clearing his good name.

Rodriguez is one of many individuals to suffer at the hands of former Chicago Police Department Detective Reynaldo Guevara. Over the years, Guevara forced witnesses to point fingers at innocent people and coerced those same innocent people to confess,

In Rodriguez's case, following a 1991 West Side Killing where Jose Hernandez Jr. was shot and killed. Guevara and his partner Ernest Halvorsen "investigated" the shooting. Despite the fact that Rodriguez had a clear alibi—he was at home with his fiancée, her sister, and his daughter at the time of the shooting, -two witnesses supposedly accused Rodriguez. We now know, however, those witnesses were forced to do so by the corrupt tandem of detectives, who similarly threatened and physically beat Rodriguez until he falsely confessed.

After three decades of maintaining the innocence he and his loved ones knew to be true, in April of 2022, Cook County State Attorney finally agreed to drop the case against Rodriguez. At the end of September, he finally obtained official documentation marking his innocence.

At the end of this saga, Rodriguez noted that this is far from the end for those who have had similar experiences at the hands of a corrupt justice system. Not only did Guevara's actions deny the original victims of justice, there are more people like Rodriguez out there, waiting for the world to see their innocence—something they have known all along.

EP Attorney Josh Tepfer shares a more personal reflection here:

<https://www.exonerationproject.org/stories/fathers-and-kids-2/>

DANIEL RODRIGUEZ'S INNOCENCE MADE OFFICIAL





Former Chicago Police Sergeant Ronald Watts is one of the most notorious figures to come out of the Chicago PD. It is now documented that Watts and his team of corrupt police have been responsible for many convictions of innocent people.

Watts ran a drug operation out of the Ida B. Wells housing project for years. If any residents dared to try to expose him, Watts would plant drugs or guns on them—sending them to jail and inevitable wrongful convictions.

Watts wasn't alone—his partners were at worst co-conspirators and at best stood by in silence to allow the wrongful arrests and Watts' drug enterprise to flourish. His team repeatedly falsely testified in Court to secure the wrongful convictions, and to this day most have suffered no consequences.

On October 3rd, 8 more Watts convictions—including 7 EP clients—received belated justice by having their convictions overturned. To date, more than 230 convictions of nearly 190 men and women have been thrown out, highlighting the extent of the Watts-led corruption.

The impact Watts and his horrific actions have had on the lives of these people are not so easily washed away. The lack of any real punishment for this corrupt unit by the City of Chicago highlights that police accountability in this City continues to be nothing more than a punch line. The EP continues to fight for these clients and other victims of police misconduct so we can move toward a better future and put an end to both this specific stain, and others like it.

NEED OUR HELP? REGISTER HERE

The Exoneration Project (EP) works to correct wrongful convictions only in cases where the accused is innocent of the crimes charged, meaning they did not commit the crime(s) and had no involvement in the crime(s). We do not take cases where the claim is an affirmative defense, such as consensual sex, self-defense, or accidental death.

To request help, fill out our application and email it to intake@exonerationproject.org or mail it to us at:

*Exoneration Project Intake
311 N. Aberdeen Street, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60607*



**FIND OUR APPLICATION BY SCANNING
THE QR CODE, OR VISIT:**

**[HTTPS://WWW.EXONERATIONPROJECT.
ORG/WHAT-WE-DO/REQUEST-HELP/](https://www.exonerationproject.org/what-we-do/request-help/)**

