



THE NATIONAL REGISTRY  
OF EXONERATIONS

## A Detective's Legacy of Misconduct

In 1999, Antonio McDowell was convicted of two violent crimes in Chicago, Illinois. One was the murder of a man during a robbery; the other a carjacking that occurred about 30 minutes after the murder.

Six months after these crimes, McDowell became a suspect in both cases after he was shot in the hand and refused to falsely accuse another man as his assailant. He would later say that Detective Reynoldo Guevara threatened him with violence and handcuffed him to the wall in an attempt to get him to cooperate.

Later, the witnesses to the murder and carjacking identified McDowell from highly suggestive lineups.

McDowell was exonerated of the [murder conviction](#) in May 2024 and the [carjacking conviction](#) in June 2025. His exonerations are the 48th and 49th cases in the Registry tied to misconduct by Guevara. Collectively, these defendants lost 957 years to their wrongful convictions. We expect more of these cases in the future.



Antonio McDowell (Photo: Anthony Vasquez/Sun-Times)

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### Other News

Last month, we also began publishing cases researched and written by students at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), who took the field study service learning course about the Registry's work taught by Simon Cole, co-editor of the Registry and a professor of criminology, law and society at the university. Cole and Researcher Ken Otterbourg supervised the students'

placements at the Registry. Students learned about the Registry's methodology, and they came away with greater understanding of the criminal legal system and the challenges defendants face in undoing wrongful convictions.

Prior to his exoneration, [Calvin Duncan](#) spent 26 years at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, working on his appeals and helping other inmates with theirs. One inmate would later call him "the most brilliant legal mind in Angola." Duncan's memoir, *The Jailhouse Lawyer*, written with Sophie Cull, was published this week.

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We published 13 other exonerations last month, including two of the eight student-authored cases, which are noted "UCI" below.

In 2016, [Sean McClendon](#) was sentenced to eight years in prison for possession of a handgun in Chicago, Illinois. He was granted a new trial, and the case was dismissed because the gun was the product of an illegal search. In 2024, he was granted a certificate of innocence based on evidence that a Chicago police officer falsely testified about seeing McClendon with the gun.

In 2013, [Kenneth Bullock](#) was sentenced to 32 to 72 years in prison for a carjacking at gunpoint in Detroit, Michigan. He was exonerated in May 2025 after the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office Conviction Integrity Unit identified the true perpetrator.

In 2000, [Corey Brock](#) was sentenced to seven to 32 years in prison after pleading guilty to sexual assault, armed robbery, and a weapons charge in Oakland County, Michigan. He was exonerated more than 25 years later, in May 2025, because the prosecution had failed to disclose that DNA testing performed before his conviction excluded him as the source of biological evidence from the crime.

[Chad Zurlo](#), of Fairbanks, Alaska, was convicted of murder in 2016 and sentenced to 30 years in prison. His conviction was thrown out in 2022 because of prosecutorial misconduct, and his case was dismissed in 2025 after two separate retrials ended in hung juries.

[Derrick Johnson](#) was sentenced to nine months in jail in Harris County, Texas, after pleading guilty to possession of cocaine. He was exonerated in 2025 based on a laboratory test that was negative for any illegal substance.

In 2016, [Anthony Bowers](#), of Soldier, Kansas, was sentenced to three terms of 25 years to life in prison after being convicted of sexually abusing his 6-year-old great-niece. He was acquitted on two of the charges at retrial in June 2021, and the state dismissed the third charge the next month. New evidence pointed to the girl's stepfather as the real perpetrator.

In 2014, [Michael Lawson](#) was sentenced to 37 1/2 years to 70 years in prison for a shooting that killed one man and injured another in Detroit, Michigan. His convictions were vacated and the charges dismissed in 2025 after a witness equivocated on earlier testimony implicating Lawson in the crime.

In 2023, [Ahmad Gatlin](#) was convicted of attempted murder in a 2021 shooting in Knoxville, Tennessee. Gatlin, who was 16 years old at the time of the shooting, was exonerated in 2025 after a new analysis of his cellphone records showed he was not at the location of the shooting.

In 2018, [Clifford Emarievebe](#), of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was convicted in Delaware County of sexually assaulting his young stepdaughter. He received a new trial in 2022, after showing evidence that his trial attorney did not provide effective representation, and was acquitted at a retrial in March 2025. (UCI)

In 1993, [Douglas Haynie](#) was convicted of murder and related crimes in the shooting death of a man in Snow Hill, Maryland. After more than 31 years in prison, Haynie was exonerated in 2025, based in part on new evidence that a forensic analyst testified falsely at his trial.

In 2007, [Joshua Lewis](#) was convicted of assault and other charges stemming from a traffic stop in Stoughton, Massachusetts, that culminated in police shooting him three times. He was exonerated in 2016, based in part on undisclosed impeachment evidence against the state trooper who shot Lewis and was the state's key witness. (UCI)

In 2021, [Ruel Hamilton](#), a real estate developer, was sentenced to eight years in prison after he was convicted of bribery in federal court in Dallas, Texas. He was granted a new trial and acquitted in 2025 when one of the witnesses recanted and said that Hamilton did not bribe him.

In 2001, [Kevin Jackson](#) was sentenced to 45 years in prison for a shooting that killed one man and wounded another in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2025 based on a reconstruction of the crime scene that contradicted the prosecution's case and by evidence that detectives with a history of coercing false statements from witnesses had done so in Jackson's case.

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