

# The Registry's New Home

Last month, we launched our new website. Our new URL is: exonerationregistry.org.

For thirteen years, we were hosted and supported by a dedicated and talented IT team at University of Michigan. About two years ago, we learned our platform and software were no longer being supported. It was time to initiate a transition we had long envisioned—an online re-homing for the Registry. Over the past year, we have migrated our complex, structured database to this new platform, and designed features and navigation options for users to access our stories, data, and other resources in enhanced ways. The new website reflects much more than a change of address.

One of our overarching goals through the development process was to make more of our exoneration data publicly available. Our new site allows for more targeted searches across a wider range of variables. For the first time, we also merged our main database with our Pre-1989 database, allowing for comprehensive searches across all known individual exonerations in the Registry.

Alongside our users, we are already finding new ways to quickly combine and analyze our data. The cleaner display gives us more space to highlight our summaries of new cases and present content on a more modern interface.

As with any website launch, there are still kinks to be worked out. We have more features to unveil, and more enhancements to add before we get to the finish line. The launch required us to take a short pause in publishing new cases, and we are thrilled to be back and doing what we do best: unearthing and telling each and every exoneree's story, providing data on those cases, and maintaining the authoritative record of exonerations in the United States.

#### We also published nine exonerations in April.

In 1997, <u>Robert Johnson</u> was convicted of murder during a home invasion in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2025 after a co-defendant recanted his testimony and other witnesses named another man as the participant in the crime.

In 2014, <u>Lafayette Upshaw</u> was convicted of an armed robbery in Detroit, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2024, after a federal judge ruled that Upshaw's attorneys had failed to investigate his alibi and that the prosecutor had violated his rights by removing Black jurors during jury selection.

In 1991, <u>Tyrece Williams</u> was sentenced to 35 years in prison for a murder in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2025 based on evidence that the lead detective, Reynaldo Guevara, punched a witness to coerce him to falsely identify Williams as the killer.

#### Our New Online Home

In 2016, <u>James Travis</u> was sentenced to 23 to 50 years in prison for a shooting in Wayne County, Michigan, that injured a 17-year-old boy. He was granted a new trial, and the charges were dismissed in 2024 based on new cellphone evidence that showed he was miles away at the time of the shooting.

<u>Monique Davis</u>, of Houston, Texas, pled guilty to a drug offense in 2008. She was exonerated in 2025 after the officer involved in her arrest was tied to misconduct in other cases.

In 1992, <u>Christopher Ellis</u> was sentenced to 31 years and six months to life in prison for a murder in Hempstead, New York. He was acquitted at a retrial on January 24, 2025 following disclosure by the prosecution of long-suppressed evidence pointing to other suspects in the crime.

<u>Willie Gaderson</u> of Houston, Texas, pled guilty to a drug offense in 2016. He was exonerated in 2025 after the officer involved in his arrest was tied to misconduct in other cases.

In 2007, <u>Alonzo Griffin</u> received a sentence of two years in prison after pleading guilty to possession of cocaine in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2024 based on evidence that he had been framed by corrupt police officers.

In 2004, <u>Cameo Potts</u> pled guilty to possession of heroin in Chicago, Illinois, and was sentenced to 18 months of probation. He was exonerated in 2024 based on evidence that he had been framed by corrupt police officers.

## With your support, the National Registry of Exonerations can protect the innocent by preventing false convictions.

**We find the stories.** We painstakingly search for every false conviction in the United States that is overturned and meets our criteria for exoneration. We gather the information, study the cases, and code the data, fueling the most comprehensive public database of exonerations that exists.

**We tell the stories.** One by one, we write and share the human stories behind each individual exoneration. We bear witness to these incredible injustices to ensure that they are remembered.

And we count the stories. Thousands of exonerces. Tens of thousands of years lost to wrongful incarceration. Untold costs paid by our communities. This independent collection of data allows us to understand how false convictions occur and prevent them from happening in the future.

### SUPPORT OUR WORK





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