

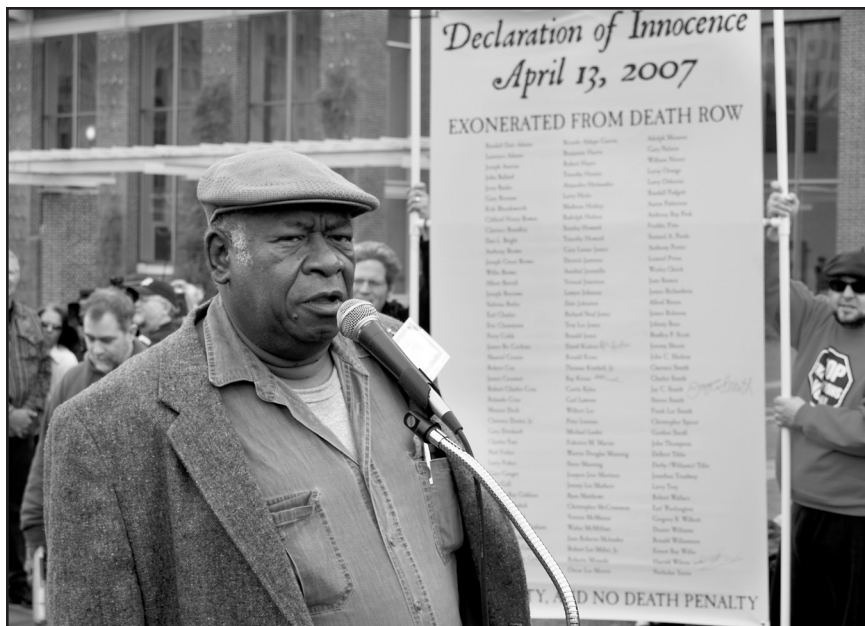
**THESE MEN SPENT
OVER 100 YEARS ON
DEATH ROW FOR CRIMES
THEY DID NOT COMMIT.**



**THEY INVITE YOU TO
HEAR THEIR STORIES.**

**WITNESSES
TO INNOCENCE**

SPEAKERS GUIDE



Freddie Lee Pitts speaking in front of the Liberty Bell

“As I see it, nothing is more powerful than the stories of these wrongfully convicted men who take us step by step through our faulty criminal justice system as it crushed their lives. Witness to Innocence’s exonerated death row survivor speakers are educational, accessible, and above all inspirational. But most amazing of all is their sheer goodness and integrity that keeps them from bitterness and a desire for revenge. Simply by being in their presence changes your life forever. Regardless of where you stand on the death penalty, their unique and powerful stories should be heard by all.”

– Sister Helen Prejean, Author, *“Dead Man Walking”*

WITNESS TO INNOCENCE

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INTRODUCTION

Witness to Innocence is the nation's only organization composed of, by, and for exonerated death row survivors and their loved ones. They are actively engaged in the struggle to end the death penalty, challenging the American public to grapple with the problem of a flawed criminal justice system that sends innocent people to death row.

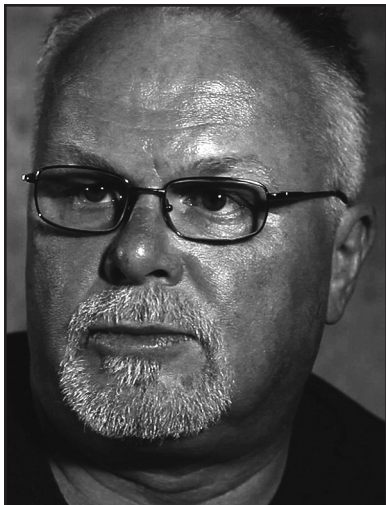
Our speakers are death row survivors ready to speak at colleges, K-12 schools, faith communities, civic and professional organizations . . . and to all audiences that are interested in listening to one of the most unique and inspiring stories they will ever hear. Inside this speakers guide, you will learn about just some of our amazing speakers who are willing to share with you their compelling journeys from death row to freedom, their stories of heartache and hope, and their quest to change hearts and minds so that America will someday no longer be the only Western democracy that executes its citizens.

Our staff prides itself on working closely with you to bring a speaker to your local community who best fits your organizational objectives. Our goals are to provide you with an unforgettable experience and further the public dialogue on our criminal justice system. Whether your audience is pro- or anti-death penalty, or sitting on the fence, our speakers will engage and deeply move all who hear them.

Fees and availability vary for each speaker, but we will do our best to work with the budget you have. All fees go directly to the exonerees. We can provide suggestions for co-sponsorship and other ways to help with costs and increase your audience.

To book a speaker or for more information, call 267-519-4583 or email kspillman@witness-to-innocence.org. We will get right back to you!

KIRK BLOODSWORTH



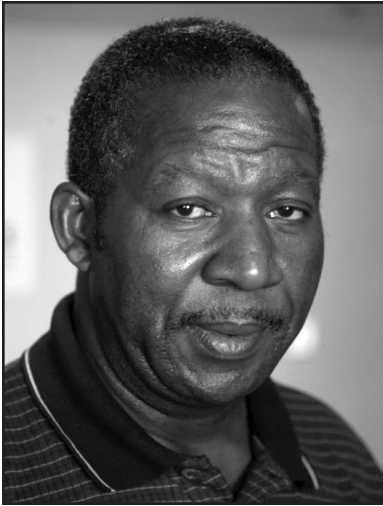
Kirk Bloodsworth, a former Marine and crab fisherman from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, was exonerated by DNA in 1993 of the rape and murder of nine-year-old Dawn Hamilton. He was sentenced to death in Baltimore County in 1985. After Kirk's conviction was reversed in 1986, he occupied a cell directly above Kimberly Shay Ruffner, who was serving a sentence for another rape and who would later be linked by DNA to the rape and murder of the child.

The evidence linking Bloodsworth to the 1984 crime was the testimony of five witnesses who placed him either with the victim or near the scene of the crime. In addition, the prosecution introduced forensic evidence purporting to link a pair of his shoes to marks on the victim's body. But the Maryland Court of Appeals overturned Bloodsworth's conviction in 1986, finding that the prosecution had illegally withheld potentially exculpatory evidence from the defense. Kirk was retried and convicted again, and sentenced to two life terms.

In 1992, Kirk obtained court approval for DNA testing of biological evidence from the crime scene. The tests incontrovertibly established Kirk's innocence, and he was released in June 1993. He was the first U.S. death row prisoner to be exonerated by DNA. In December 1994, Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer granted Kirk a full pardon based on innocence, and he was one of the very few exonerated death row survivors to receive compensation from the state in which they were incarcerated.

Kirk now works as the advocacy director for Witness to Innocence, actively campaigning in states around the country to abolish the death penalty and for federal compensation for death row exonerees.

CLARENCE BRANDLEY



Clarence Brandley was a high school custodian in Conroe, Texas, when police arrested him in 1980 for the murder of Cheryl Fergeson, a 16-year-old white student.

When his white co-workers voiced suspicion of Clarence, the only black man on the staff, he was quickly arrested and charged.

While the police interviewed Brandley and one of his white co-workers, an interrogator proclaimed that, “One of you two is going to hang for this,” and told

Clarence, “Since you’re the nigger, you’re elected.” In his first trial he faced an all-white jury. One juror refused to convict, causing a hung jury, and was met with a constant barrage of harassment and threats after the trial ended. Clarence’s second all-white jury convicted him, and in 1981 he was sentenced to death.

A year later it was revealed that the majority of the murder investigation’s physical evidence had mysteriously disappeared while under police control. In 1986 a new witness stepped forward claiming to know the real murderer. Mere weeks before Clarence’s scheduled execution in March 1987, PI James McCloskey joined his legal team and contributed to the first major break in the case. The original testimony of the other custodians was recanted after it was revealed that investigators had coerced their stories. Furthermore, when the blatant racism of the first two trials was discovered, the FBI decided to intervene, and Clarence was granted a new trial and exonerated.

Clarence now advocates for abolition of the death penalty by telling his story of racial bigotry and wrongful conviction. His story is the subject of the book *White Lies* by Nick Davies and a made for cable TV movie, *Whitewash: The Clarence Brandley Story*.

DAN BRIGHT



Dan Bright was wrongfully convicted at age 26 for the murder of Murray Barnes. He spent nine years in prison, four of which were on death row, before his conviction was overturned.

Dan was initially represented by a lawyer who did not investigate the case and was drunk during his trial. At the same time, the State withheld FBI documents that named the real killer and evidence that undermined the credibility of the State's primary witness.

Dan's sentence was later commuted to life, at which time he made requests to have the identity of the true killer released through the Freedom of Information Act. Citing the real killer's right to privacy, the federal government declined to reveal his name.

Shortly after Innocence Project of New Orleans signed on to the case with Dan's new counsel from the Louisiana Crisis Assistance Center, a federal district court judge ruled he had the right to know the identity of the true killer. The Louisiana Supreme Court then reversed Dan's conviction in 2004.

When Dan was released from prison in June 2004, among the most relieved was the late Kathleen Hawk Norman, the foreperson of the jury that had sentenced him to death. She had become one of his strongest advocates after learning that exculpatory evidence had been withheld from the jury. She also became one of his closest friends after his release.

Dan was one of the original voices in "Voices of Innocence" the Louisiana exoneree theater production. He lives in New Orleans and is actively involved in Resurrection After Exoneration and Witness to Innocence.

SABRINA BUTLER



Sabrina Butler was a Mississippi teenager who was convicted of murder and child abuse in the death of her nine month old son.

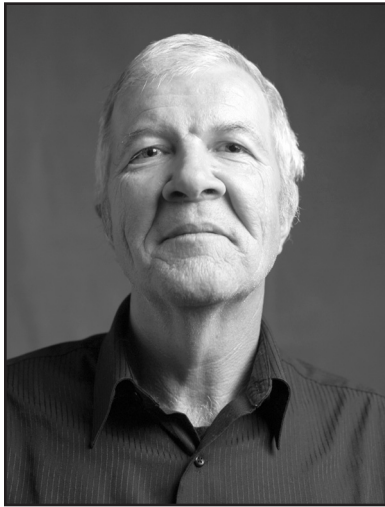
On April 12, 1989, Sabrina rushed her infant son, Walter Dean Butler, to the hospital after he suddenly stopped breathing. Doctors had attempted to resuscitate the child for thirty minutes, but failed, and Sabrina's baby died the next day. The very day of her son's death, Sabrina was arrested for child abuse due to the bruises left by her resuscitation attempts.

Sabrina's murder trial commenced in March 1990. At the trial, prosecutors sought to prove that Sabrina's account of the events leading to her son's death were false, and that she had inflicted the wounds intentionally. Sabrina was convicted of murder and child abuse, becoming the only woman on Mississippi's death row at the time. The Mississippi Supreme Court reversed and remanded her convictions in August 1992, declaring that the prosecution had failed to prove that the incident was anything more than an accident.

In 1995, Sabrina's case went to retrial. One of Sabrina's neighbors came forward with evidence that corroborated her account about the injuries to her son. The medical examiner also changed his opinion about Walter's cause of death, which he now believed was due to a kidney malady. In December 1995, Sabrina was exonerated after spending more than five years in prison and 33 months on death row. She is the only woman to be exonerated from death row in the United States.

Sabrina still lives in the same town in which she was convicted, and speaks often about her heartbreaking and moving story. She has recently published a memoir, *The Sabrina Butler Story*.

GARY DRINKARD



Gary Drinkard spent six years on Alabama's death row before being exonerated in 2001. He was sentenced to death in 1995 for the robbery and murder of a 65-year-old automotive junk dealer in Decatur, Alabama. Unable to afford an attorney, he was assigned two lawyers with no experience trying criminal cases. Despite being at home at the time of the murders and suffering from a debilitating back injury, Gary was convicted and sentenced to death.

Yet Gary maintained his innocence, barely believing his sentence. Amazingly, the conviction rested primarily on testimony by Gary's half-sister and her common-law husband, both facing charges for unrelated crimes. In exchange for testifying, all the charges against Gary's half-sister were dismissed.

In 2000, the Alabama Supreme Court ordered a new trial because of prosecutorial misconduct, and with the help of the Southern Center for Human Rights, Gary won an acquittal in 2001. The Center later represented Gary before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee to illustrate the urgent need for competent lawyers for those facing the death penalty.

"The system is broken," he says. "I don't think the death penalty is appropriate for anyone. God is the only one who has the right to take a life."

Today, Gary lives and works in Alabama, and is active in the movement to abolish the death penalty. He enjoys speaking to audiences of all kinds, from colleges to churches.

NATHSON “NATE” FIELDS



Nathson “Nate” Fields was acquitted on April 8, 2009, of double homicide for which he spent almost 20 years in prison, including more than 11 years on death row.

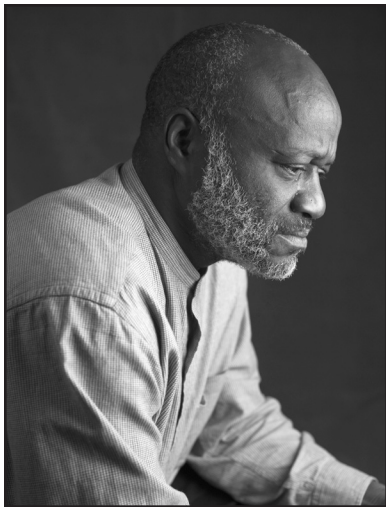
The crime occurred in 1984, when Nate, a young gang leader at the time, was accused with a co-defendant of killing rivals of the El Rukn gang in Chicago. The judge in his case, Thomas J. Maloney, took a \$10,000 bribe, but returned the money when he

discovered he was under federal investigation. The judge went to prison for 13 years, and Nate’s conviction was overturned when the corruption was uncovered.

After Maloney’s conviction, Nate was granted a new trial in 1998, but he remained incarcerated until a former death row inmate, Aaron Patterson, bailed him out in 2003. In the retrial, as in similar cases of wrongful conviction, his co-defendant pled guilty to a lesser charge in exchange for testimony against Nate. But his story had a different ending; Circuit Judge Vincent Gaughan swiftly acquitted Nate of all charges, the final act in an infamous murder case involving judicial corruption, graft, and greed.

Nate now lives in the Chicago area. Following the not guilty verdict handed down by Judge Gaughan, Nate said, “I feel like my prayers have been answered It’s been over 20 years of this ordeal for my family and my friends, and now with it coming to an end, it’s like a dream come true.” Nate enjoys talking to college and church groups, and especially to teens.

SHUJAA GRAHAM



Shujaa Graham was born in Lake Providence, Louisiana, and grew up on a plantation in the segregated South of the 1950s. After moving to Southern California, Shujaa experienced the Watts Riots and police occupation of his community. In and out of trouble, he spent much of his adolescence in juvenile institutions, and when he turned 18 he was sent to Soledad Prison.

Within prison walls, Shujaa came of age, taught himself to read and write, and studied history and world affairs, mentored by the leadership of the Black Prison movement. He became a leader of the growing movement within the California prison system, as the Black Panther Party expanded in the community.

But then Shujaa was framed in the 1973 murder of a prison guard at the Deuel Vocational Institute in Stockton, California, and was sent to San Quentin's death row. Because the district attorney had systematically excluded all African-American jurors, the California Supreme Court overturned his death sentence in 1979. Yet it wasn't until 1981 that he was found innocent and released from prison. Rather than being protected by the United States' criminal justice system, Shujaa often points out that he won his freedom and affirmed his innocence "in spite of the system."

Shujaa lives in Takoma Park, Maryland, with his wife, Phyllis, and both are active members of Witness to Innocence's Board of Directors. Shujaa gives lectures on the death penalty, the criminal justice system, racism, and gang violence to people around the world. Not surprisingly, one of Shujaa's favorite audiences is American youth. "I'm filled with ideals for a better future," he says. "I may never enjoy the fruits of this labor, but our children will."

DERRICK JAMISON



Derrick Jamison was an innocent man who spent nearly 20 years on Ohio's death row for a murder and robbery he did not commit. When James Suggs, an eyewitness to the killing of a Cincinnati bartender, was shown photos of suspects by police, he identified two men — but neither of them was Derrick Jamison.

Not only was this information withheld from Derrick's trial, but his co-defendant was promised a reduced sentence in exchange for

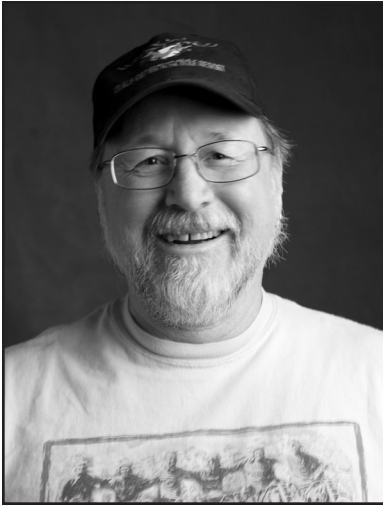
implicating Derrick. Based on this false testimony, Derrick was convicted in 1985.

In February 2005, Ohio Common Pleas Judge Richard Niehaus dismissed all charges against Derrick, three years after his conviction was overturned. Two federal courts ruled that the prosecution's actions denied Derrick a fair trial.

Today, Derrick is fully aware of the inequality of the criminal justice system. "There is a double standard when it comes to justice in our judicial system, especially with wrongful conviction," he says. "If you are a minority or a low-income citizen, the pursuit of justice can be an elusive one. But if you are rich, it happens overnight."

Derrick lives in Cincinnati, where he expresses daily gratitude for his release. "In the 20 years I experienced 'dead man walking' I never had anything to smile about," he says, "but on that day, I felt the smile come from within my heart. The sun shone down on me that day."

RON KEINE



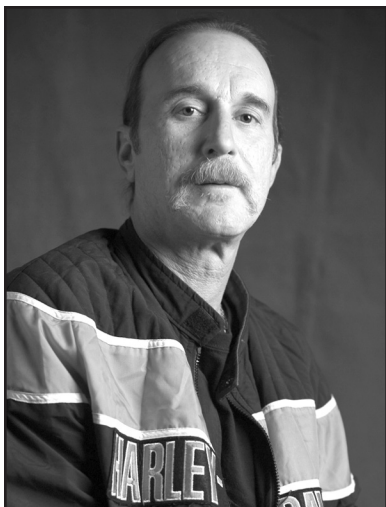
Ron Keine is the Assistant Director of Communications and Training for Witness to Innocence. Ron was one of four men convicted of the murder, kidnapping, sodomy, and rape of a University of New Mexico student in 1974. He and his co-defendants were sentenced to death, before an investigation by *The Detroit News* uncovered a bizarre campaign by prosecutors to coerce testimony from a motel maid named Judy Weyer, whom they wanted to be their star witness.

After prosecutors reneged on all their promises to Weyer, she fully retracted her story in a set of taped newspaper interviews. The story broke in January 1975, and a hearing for a new trial was held. Unbelievably, the judge refused to grant a new trial, and then the taped interviews with Judy Weyer mysteriously disappeared. Ron and his co-defendants remained on death row.

Ron was finally released in 1976, after the murder weapon was traced to a law enforcement officer who admitted to the killing. Because of the corruption surrounding Ron's case, the assistant prosecutor was disbarred and three sheriff detectives were fired because of their actions in the case.

After his release, Ron returned to Michigan, where he now resides. A life-long Republican, Ron says he used to have faith in the American justice system, but "now I know it is corrupt and broken. I don't believe the government should kill people." Utilizing a powerful mix of humor and pathos, Ron speaks to groups all over the country about the death penalty, and has given numerous interviews to national and local media, including "Larry King Live."

RAY KRONE



Ray Krone is the Director of Communications and Training for Witness to Innocence. Before his exoneration in 2002, Ray spent more than 10 years in Arizona prisons, including nearly three years on death row, for a murder he did not commit.

His world was turned upside down in 1991, when Kim Ancona was murdered in a Phoenix bar where Ray was an occasional customer, and he was arrested for the crime.

The case against him was based largely on circumstantial evidence and the testimony of a supposedly “expert” witness, later discredited, who claimed bite marks found on the victim matched Ray’s teeth. He was sentenced to death in 1992.

But Ray refused to give up his fight for exoneration. In 2002, with the help of attorney Alan Simpson, he convinced an appeals court that DNA found at the murder scene indicated the guilt of another man, Kenneth Phillips. When prosecutors dropped the charges that April, Ray became the 100th person exonerated from death row in the United States since 1973.

Ray now spends time with friends and family on his farm in York, Pennsylvania, and devotes his life to improving the criminal justice system that failed him. “I would not trust the state to execute a person for committing a crime against another person,” he says. “I know how the system works. It’s not about justice or fairness or equality. Any chance I can, whether I start with one or two people or a whole auditorium filled with people, I’ll tell them what happened to me. Because if it happened to me, it can happen to anyone.”

JUAN MELENDEZ



Juan Roberto Meléndez-Colón spent 17 years, eight months, and one day on Florida's death row for a crime he did not commit, before being exonerated in 2002.

The crime in Juan's case was particularly brutal. The victim was Delbert Baker, a white man, who was shot three times and his throat was slashed, leaving the crime scene drenched in blood. Juan, who could not afford an attorney, was convicted and sentenced to death within a week,

even though there was no physical evidence against him. Had it not been for the fortuitous discovery of a transcript of the taped confession of the real killer 16 years after Juan was sentenced to death, he almost certainly would have been executed. Ultimately, it came to light that the real killer had confessed to murdering at least 16 people, and the prosecutor had systematically withheld exculpatory evidence.

Since his release from death row, Juan has shared his story with tens of thousands of people in the United States, Canada, and Europe. His story is featured in the internationally-acclaimed documentary, *Juan Meléndez 6446*. Juan is also a member of the Board of Directors of Witness to Innocence.

When asked why he is indefatigable in his efforts to educate the public on the death penalty, Juan responds, "I have no choice. I left a lot of good people behind in there and they're killing them. I owe it to them, and I will not stop until we have abolished the death penalty in every corner of this nation!" Juan currently lives in Albuquerque, and is proud to call New Mexico his home.

RANDAL PADGETT



Randal Padgett spent five years on Alabama's death row for a crime he did not commit, before his exoneration in 1997. He was convicted and sentenced to death in 1992 for the rape and murder of his estranged wife, spending three years on death row and another two waiting for a second trial. His conviction was based almost completely on tainted DNA evidence. In 1995, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals overturned the

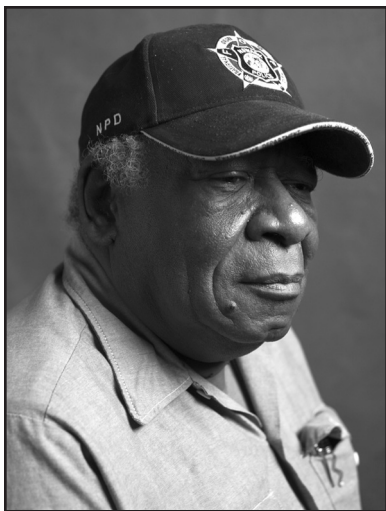
conviction, as the state failed to reveal discrepancies in the blood tests that would have aided in Randal's defense.

In preparation for a second trial, Randal's family hired a new lawyer known for providing strong defense for prisoners on death row. The attorney emphasized that more evidence existed incriminating a co-worker, with whom Randal had an affair. In October 1997, Randal was acquitted of all charges.

Because of Randal's experience, he expresses wariness toward the simple way many Americans view the criminal justice system. Prior to his own sentencing, Randal had assumed innocents were never convicted. "In the good ol' U.S. of A., I thought, during a trial the truth was foremost and the court endeavors to seek the facts. That isn't the case. Innocent people are convicted, and once you're convicted, it's difficult to find anyone willing to believe otherwise."

Randal currently lives in Alabama with his wife Brenda, whom he met during his fight for freedom. He credits his strong religious faith in sustaining him through his ordeal, and loves speaking to college students and communities of faith. He is driven by quiet dignity, yet determined passion, to see the death penalty abolished in the country he loves.

FREDDIE LEE PITTS



Freddie Lee Pitts and Wilbert Lee, both African-American, were convicted and sentenced to death for the 1963 murder of two white gas station attendants in Florida, despite a complete lack of physical evidence. Prosecutors used confessions that were extracted through beatings, testimony of a suspicious eyewitness, and polygraph tests taken under extreme duress to win their case. A few weeks after Freddie and Wilbert were sentenced to death, a white man

sentenced to life for another homicide admitted to the killings.

Despite learning of this confession, the local sheriff ignored it. A polygraph examiner who had heard the white man confess took the matter to the press, and soon a new trial was ordered. But astonishingly, Freddie and Wilbert were again convicted. After the second conviction, the alleged eyewitness recanted her testimony, and the state Attorney General admitted that the State had unlawfully suppressed evidence.

The defendants were released in 1975, when they received a full pardon from Governor Reubin Askew, who stated he was “sufficiently convinced that they were innocent.” In 1998, after a 20-year wait, Freddie was awarded \$500,000 by the Florida Legislature. This marked the first time that the legislature ordered restitution for a person wrongly sentenced to death. Some credit the release of Freddie and Wilbert to a book, *Invitation to a Lynching*, written by Pulitzer Prize-winner Gene Miller.

Freddie, who is Chair of the Board of Directors of Witness to Innocence, has devoted his life to educating the public about the death penalty with his razor-sharp knowledge of the legal system that put him on death row. He resides in Miami Shores, Florida.

JEREMY SHEETS



Jeremy Sheets was arrested for the 1992 rape and murder of 17-year-old Honors student Kenyatta Bush in Omaha, Nebraska. His conviction in 1997 was based exclusively on a taped confession made by his co-defendant, Adam Barnett, in 1996, in which he claimed Jeremy was his accomplice. In exchange for the taped statement, Barnett received a plea bargain in which he avoided a charge of first degree murder. Barnett later recanted his confession as false, but he hanged

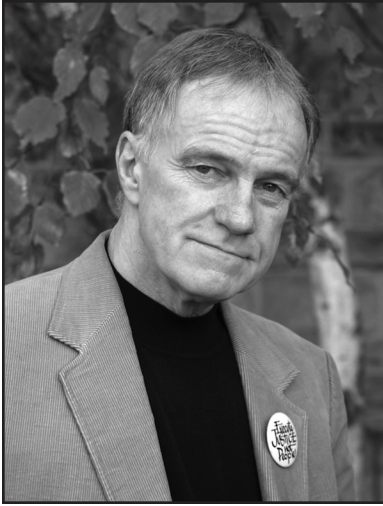
himself in November 1996 prior to Jeremy's trial.

The trial judge denied a motion to bar the recording from evidence, filed because his lawyers would not be able to cross-examine Barnett, and the jury, with only the taped confession of Barnett, sentenced Jeremy to death.

The Nebraska Supreme Court overturned Jeremy's conviction in 2000 due to the illegal use of the recorded confession. The prosecutors appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, but it refused to hear the case. In June 2001, the prosecutors dropped the case and Jeremy was freed after four years on death row, as there was absolutely no reliable evidence – forensic or otherwise – to retry him.

Today Jeremy is a graphic artist living in Denver, Colorado, with his wife Sara and five children. He enjoys speaking to audiences of all kinds about his story, particularly college groups, and taking part in activist work against the death penalty.

RANDY STEIDL



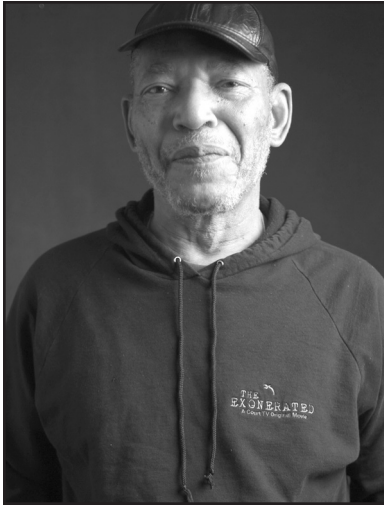
Randy Steidl spent 17 years in Illinois prisons, including 12 on death row, before his exoneration in 2004. He was wrongly convicted and sentenced to die for the 1986 murders of Dyke and Karen Rhoads. But an Illinois State Police investigation in 2000 found that local police had severely botched their investigation, and that the case was riddled with political corruption that led all the way to the Illinois Governor's office.

When questioned about the 1986 murders of newlyweds Dyke and Karen Rhoads in rural Southern Illinois, Randy cooperated with the police and gave a corroborated alibi for the night of the murders. It was a shock when he and a friend were arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to death within 90 days.

Randy had poor legal representation, and witnesses fabricated testimony against him due to police misconduct. An investigation by the Illinois State Police proved that local law enforcement and prosecutors had framed Randy. In 2003, a federal judge overturned Randy's conviction and ordered a new trial. The state reinvestigated the case, tested DNA evidence, and found no link to him. On May 28, 2004, Randy was released.

Randy believes that "one innocent life lost by execution is not worth 10 guilty persons being executed." Since his release, Randy has been active in the anti-death penalty movement, speaking to colleges, state legislatures, and communities of faith throughout the United States. His case is the subject of a recently published book, *Since When Is Murder Too Politically Sensitive?* He is a member of the Board of Directors of Witness to Innocence.

DELBERT TIBBS



Delbert Tibbs, a former seminary student from Chicago, had been traveling across the country and found himself in Florida in February 1974. He was stopped by the state police and questioned about the rape of 16-year-old Cynthia Nadeau and the murder of her traveling companion, Terry Milroy, in Fort Myers. Cynthia had described the offender as 5'6" with a dark complexion and a large Afro; Delbert stood 6'3" with a light complexion and had a small Afro. Yet after seeing

photographs, her description of the killer changed dramatically. She said the killer was Delbert Tibbs.

An all-white jury returned a guilty verdict against Delbert in less than two days. Florida had a moratorium on the death penalty at the time, so the judge told Delbert "if the moratorium continues, you will serve consecutive life sentences. If it doesn't, you'll be sent to death row." It didn't, and Delbert was given a death sentence.

Yet his story became the basis for tremendous community support. Such celebrities as Joan Baez and Pete Seeger became involved and raised money for the Delbert Tibbs Defense Committee. Delbert was then able to hire better legal representation and get a retrial. Eventually, the Florida State Supreme Court overturned his conviction by a 4-3 vote, and the District Attorney finally dropped the case in 1982.

Delbert lives in Chicago, writes poetry, and travels around the country, telling his story and reciting his poetry with big-hearted emotion and poignant reminiscences. His story is featured in the play *The Exonerated*. He is an Assistant Director of Communications and Training for Witness to Innocence.

GREG WILHOIT



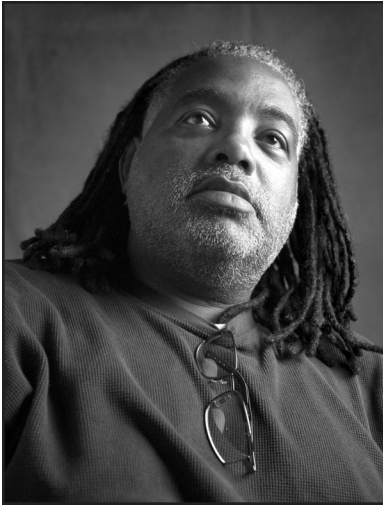
Greg Wilhoit came from a middle-class Christian family in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He loved his wife and two daughters tremendously, yet he later spent five years on death row for allegedly killing his wife, Kathy, on June 1, 1985. The case against him was based on the testimony of so-called dental experts, who were barely out of dental school. They claimed that a bite mark found on Kathy's body matched Greg's teeth.

His parents hired a lawyer with a reputation as one of the top defense attorneys in Oklahoma. After no preparation whatsoever for Greg's trial, he appeared in court drunk, vomited in the judge's chambers, and presented no defense. Greg was consequently found guilty and sentenced to death. He remembers the judge's words, "You are to die by lethal injection. If that fails, we'll electrocute you. If the power goes out, we'll hang you. And if the rope breaks, we'll take you out back and shoot you."

Greg was assigned an attorney, Mark Barrett from the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System, to handle his appeal. Barrett, convinced of his innocence, worked tirelessly for over four years to help correct a terrible wrong. The nation's top forensic odontologists examined the bite mark evidence, and testified that the mark could not possibly have come from Greg. A second trial was held in 1993, and Greg was cleared of all charges.

Greg currently lives in Sacramento with his wife Judy. He has never received an apology or one penny in compensation, despite the fact that the Oklahoma Legislature voted overwhelmingly in 2003 to award exonerated inmates \$200,000 for their time served in prison.

HAROLD WILSON



Harold Wilson was acquitted, based on DNA evidence, of a triple homicide on November 15, 2005. He served more than 16 years on death row. Harold was prosecuted during his 1989 trial by former Philadelphia Assistant District Attorney Jack McMahon, best known for his role in a training video that advised new prosecutors on using race in selecting death penalty juries.

Harold was convicted of three counts of murder and sentenced to death after the murder and robbery of three people in South Philadelphia. “I was in shock for at least a month after the verdict,” Harold recalls. “The only thought that ran through my mind was, ‘How are they going to kill me three times?’ My life was gone and no one in the system cared about my innocence.”

A subsequent appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court resulted in a new hearing, based on McMahon’s racially discriminatory practices in jury selection in Harold’s case. When new DNA evidence demonstrated that blood from the crime scene was not Harold’s — indicating another assailant — the jury acquitted him of all charges. With his family in the courtroom, Harold wept as the jury read the verdict.

Since his release, Harold has been a passionate advocate against the death penalty and for criminal justice reform, often asking his audiences, “Is the death penalty worth killing one innocent person? Was it worth killing me?” He lives in Woodbridge, Virginia, and travels whenever he can to tell his story to audiences around the country.

TESTIMONIALS ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

“Lives were changed today, mine included. Hearing the story of someone who survived death row gave me a vision of why I even became a teacher in the first place.”

– *Mike Levin, Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy,
Public Charter Middle and High School, Flagstaff, AZ*

“Powerful, thought-provoking . . . It was a quality educational presentation.”

– *Robin Slocum, Assistant Director of Student Activities,
Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden, NY*

“The speaker was fantastic! He tells a most compelling story in a most effective way.”

– *Dr. Marla Rita Sandys, Associate Professor of Criminal
Justice, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN*

“Convincing and educational . . . We were not only impressed by the speaker’s grasp of the issues, but he was able to talk to our congregation easily and naturally.”

– *Bruce Carpenter, St. Mark’s United Methodist Church,
Bloomington, IN*

“The speaker was very engaging . . . easy to follow and accessible, but also went into a level of depth appropriate for our audience. He was inspiring to our volunteers AND to us!”

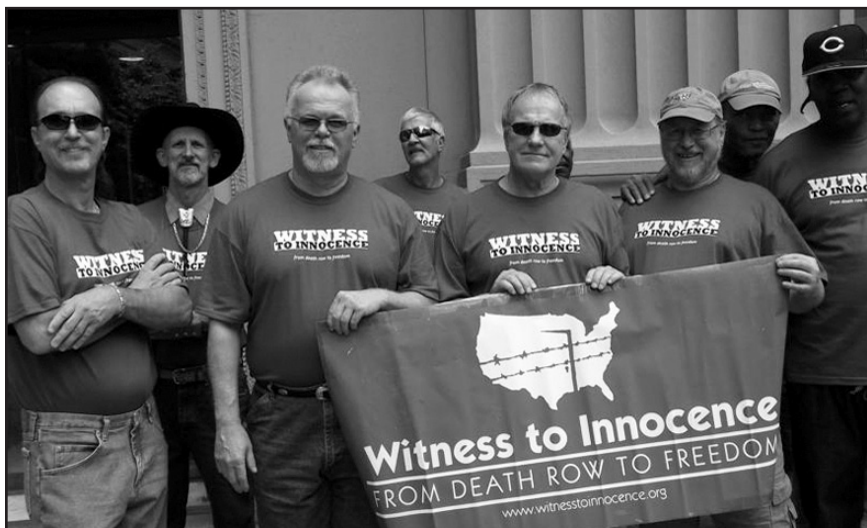
– *Rebecca Katz, Death Penalty Representation Project,
American Bar Association, Washington, D.C.*

“The speaker understood and conveyed the legal aspects of his case very clearly . . . Captivating, moving, and extremely well-organized.”

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