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# Convicting The Innocent Where Criminal Prosecutions Go Wrong

**Noël Merino**



## **Convicting The Innocent Where Criminal Prosecutions Go Wrong:**

**Convicting the Innocent** Brandon L. Garrett, 2012-09-03 On January 20 1984 Earl Washington defended for all of forty minutes by a lawyer who had never tried a death penalty case was found guilty of rape and murder in the state of Virginia and sentenced to death After nine years on death row DNA testing cast doubt on his conviction and saved his life However he spent another eight years in prison before more sophisticated DNA technology proved his innocence and convicted the guilty man DNA exonerations have shattered confidence in the criminal justice system by exposing how often we have convicted the innocent and let the guilty walk free In this unsettling in depth analysis Brandon Garrett examines what went wrong in the cases of the first 250 wrongfully convicted people to be exonerated by DNA testing Based on trial transcripts Garrett s investigation into the causes of wrongful convictions reveals larger patterns of incompetence abuse and error Evidence corrupted by suggestive eyewitness procedures coercive interrogations unsound and unreliable forensics shoddy investigative practices cognitive bias and poor lawyering illustrates the weaknesses built into our current criminal justice system Garrett proposes practical reforms that rely more on documented recorded and audited evidence and less on fallible human memory Very few crimes committed in the United States involve biological evidence that can be tested using DNA How many unjust convictions are there that we will never discover Convicting the Innocent makes a powerful case for systemic reforms to improve the accuracy of all criminal cases [Wrongful Convictions in China](#) Na Jiang, 2016-08-08 The primary focus of this comparative and empirical work is to address wrongful convictions between China and common law countries in order to promote a better understanding of wrongful convictions in China s practice with the help of comparative analyses verifiable and empirical data and case studies It examines the scope of wrongful convictions and offers new insights into the worldwide movement to prevent them assesses how far it has progressed and what reforms are most needed The book suggests that adversarial and inquisitorial systems alike could benefit from this research and learn valuable lessons from one another on how to effectively reduce the risk of wrongful convictions **Wrongful Convictions and the DNA Revolution** Daniel S. Medwed, 2017-03-30 This book examines the lessons learned from twenty five years of using DNA to free innocent prisoners and identifies lingering challenges **University of Chicago Law Review: Volume 79, Number 2 - Spring 2012** University of Chicago Law Review, 2012-11-22 A leading law review offers a quality eBook edition This second issue of 2012 features articles and essays from internationally recognized legal scholars Authors include Eric Biber writing on variations in scientific disciplines experts and environmental law Frederic Bloom and Christopher Serkin on suing courts and takings of property Myriam Gilles and Gary Friedman on aggregating consumer litigation after the AT and David Skeel Jr on the possibility of bankruptcy for several U S states In addition the issue includes book review essays by Aziz Huq concerning the power and limits of the executive branch and by Laura Nirider Joshua Tepfer and Steven Drizin on convicting the innocent and false confessions Finally an extensive student contribution explores antitrust law state immunity from suit

and state licensing boards In the eBook edition Tables of Contents are active including those for individual articles footnotes are fully linked and properly numbered graphs and figures are reproduced legibly URLs in footnotes are active and proper eBook formatting is used

**Controversies in Innocence Cases in America** Ms Sarah Lucy Cooper,2014-05-28 This volume brings together leading experts on the investigation litigation and scholarly analysis of innocence cases in America from legal political and ethical perspectives The contributors consider the challenges faced by the exoneration movement causes of wrongful convictions problems associated with investigating proving and defining innocence and theories of reform These issues are investigated from a multi disciplinary perspective and with the aim of improving the American criminal justice system when it is faced with its most harrowing sight an innocent defendant *Questioning Capital Punishment* James R. Acker,2014-06-13 The death penalty has inspired controversy for centuries Raising questions regarding capital punishment rather than answering them *Questioning Capital Punishment* offers the footing needed to allow for more informed consideration and analysis of these controversies Acker edits judicial decisions that have addressed constitutional challenges to capital punishment and its administration in the United States and uses complementary materials to offer historical empirical and normative perspectives about death penalty policies and practices This book is ideal for upper level undergraduate and graduate classes in criminal justice

**People of the State of Illinois V. Belknap** ,2013 **Bringing Ben Home** Barbara Bradley Hagerty,2024-08-06 How states are making their legal systems more equitable seen through the story of a Black man falsely imprisoned for thirty years for murder In 1987 Ben Spencer a twenty two year old Black man from Dallas was convicted of murdering white businessman Jeffrey Young a crime he didn t commit From the day of his arrest Spencer insisted that it was an awful mistake The Texas legal system didn t see it that way It allowed shoddy police work paid witnesses and prosecutorial misconduct to convict Spencer of murder and it ignored later efforts to correct this error The state s bureaucratic intransigence caused Spencer to spend more than half his life in prison Eventually independent investigators new witness testimony the foreman of the jury that convicted him and a new Dallas DA convinced a Texas judge that Spencer had nothing to do with the killing and in 2021 he was released from prison As Spencer s fight to clear himself demonstrates our legal systems are broken expedience is more important than the truth That is starting to change as states across the country implement new efforts to reduce wrongful convictions and one of the states leading the way is Texas Award winning journalist Barbara Bradley Hagerty has spent years digging into this issue and she has immersed herself in Spencer s case She has combed police files and court records interviewed dozens of witnesses and had extensive conversations with Spencer and in *Bringing Ben Home* she threads together two narratives how an innocent Black man got caught up in and couldn t escape a legal system that refused to admit its mistakes and what Texas and other states are doing to address wrongful convictions to make the legal process more equitable for everyone By turns fascinating and enraging personal and provocative *Bringing Ben Home* is the powerful story of one innocent man who refused to admit that

he was guilty of murder and how his plight became part of a paradigm shift in how the legal system thinks about innocence as it institutes new methods to overturn wrongful convictions to better protect people like Ben Spencer **Evidence** Andrew Choo,2021 Choo s Evidence provides a lucid and analytical account of the principles of the law of evidence in England and Wales Succinct critical and engaging it is the ideal text for undergraduate law students **Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law** ,2016 *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of New Jersey* New Jersey. Supreme Court,2012 **The Missouri Review** ,2012 *Death Penalty* Noël Merino,2015 A compendium of opinion surrounding the death penalty including its ethics public service application and reformation possibilites *Minnesota Law Review* ,2015 **Death Penalty and the Victims** Ivan Šimonović,2016 This book includes perspectives from a broad range of victims including family members of the crime victims convicted persons whose rights are violated by the justice system through wrongful convictions unequal and discriminatory application of justice lack of a due process imposition for crimes that do not meet the most serious crimes threshold or to the categories of perpetrators that should be protected from the death penalty minors persons with mental or intellectual disabilities pregnant women as well as third parties including family members of the convicted person especially children and primary caretakers and persons included in criminal proceedings or executions such as prosecutors judges lawyers and executioners It is argued in this thought provoking book that the states right to execute violates the right to life and negatively reflects on human rights of its citizens in general **Michigan Law Review** ,2015 **Florida Law Review** ,2018-03 *University of British Columbia Law Review* University of British Columbia,2014 **Do No Wrong** Peter A. Joy,2009 Do No Wrong Ethics for Prosecutors and Defenders is designed to help provide guidance for resolving ethical issues such as How far may the prosecution or defense go in using religion in closing argument Does the defense lawyer or the client decide whether to raise an insanity defense or to present mitigation evidence Is the defendant entitled to Brady material prior to entering a plea bargain When may the defense introduce evidence of an alternate perpetrator or SODDI the some other dude did it defense A list of research resources appears at the end of each chapter In addition to exploring ethical issues that prosecutors and defense attorneys routinely face this book also examines emerging areas of ethics such as lawyer involvement in client media campaigns and ongoing policy debates over the proper roles for prosecution and defense counsel *The Economist* ,1983

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