



29 PEOPLE FREED | 411 YEARS LOST

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

1.19

NCIP client Armando Ortiz is released after 16 years



In 2002, sixteen-year-old Armando Ortiz was wrongfully convicted of murder and robbery in Fresno, CA. At trial, Ortiz's attorney failed to call nine alibi witnesses, even though he had been told about them. Ortiz's attorney was subsequently disbarred and has since died. On January 19, 2019, Ortiz was released from prison after his conviction had been previously reversed by the Fresno County Superior Court.

3.8

NCIP hosts a training for attorneys on abusive head trauma and shaken baby syndrome (SBS)

**"Shaken Baby Syndrome is not adequately scientific to be treated as such in the courts."  
-Randy Papetti, Lawyer and Training Presenter**

3.19

NCIP client Karla Baday's conviction is reversed and she is subsequently released after spending 17 years wrongfully incarcerated



In 2002, Karla Baday was wrongfully convicted of molesting three children of her former partner in Hanford, CA, based on false accusations and faulty forensic science. On March 19, 2019, the Kings County District Attorney conceded NCIP's petition based on the fact that the medical evidence presented at trial was false, and the court reversed her conviction.

4.3

NCIP celebrates its 12th annual Justice For All (JFA) Gala at the Julia Morgan Ballroom in San Francisco

**"Now that we have our freedom, we should do nothing but celebrate . . . because like we say, tomorrow's never promised to us."  
-Christopher Scott, Exoneree and JFA Keynote**

4.22

NCIP client Ricky Davis' conviction is reversed after 14 years



In 2005, Ricky Davis was wrongfully convicted of a 1985 murder in El Dorado, CA, based largely on false testimony from Davis' former girlfriend. On April 22, 2019, based on DNA test results that contradicted her testimony, the El Dorado County Superior Court reversed Davis' conviction. A retrial is pending.

5.15

NCIP client Lionel Rubalcava's conviction is reversed and charges are dismissed after 17 years of wrongful incarceration

**"I feel like I was robbed of 17 years of my life, but for now, I'm going to spend time with my family and enjoy this."  
-Lionel Rubalcava, 17 years lost**

8.15

NCIP hosts its first annual exoneree summit at Santa Clara University



On August 15, 2019, NCIP held its first summit for exonerees and their family members. At the summit, NCIP staff and volunteers, exonerees, and guest presenters discussed, among other things, how to improve exoneree post-exoneration services, and how best to engage exonerees and their family members in NCIP's policy work.

# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

8.20

NCIP welcomes a new class of 18 law students into its clinical program



NCIP at Santa Clara University School of Law is the only innocence organization in northern and central California. The clinic provides rich opportunities for students to be involved in the investigation, litigation and negotiation process, and helps them develop critical lawyering skills.



8.23

NCIP client Bob Fenenbock's conviction is reversed and he is released after 28 years of wrongful incarceration



**"I kept fighting this for 28 years . . . But you can't compete against the powers that be. Had I not had [the NCIP's] help, I would have never have gotten here."**

**-Bob Fenenbock, 28 years lost**

10.2

NCIP celebrates the 6th annual International Wrongful Conviction Day



International Wrongful Conviction Day is a day to raise awareness of the causes of and remedies for wrongful conviction and to recognize the tremendous personal, social, and emotional costs of wrongful conviction for innocent people and their families. NCIP staff, students, and exonerees hosted multiple events on and off campus to educate the community about wrongful conviction.



10.2

Governor Newsom signs NCIP co-sponsored Senate Bills 269 and 651 which improve the compensation scheme for exonerees in CA and provide expanded access to post-conviction discovery



**"NCIP is part of a strong coalition that advocates for legislative reform. We are grateful for the governor's recognition that innocence matters."**

**-Melissa O'Connell, NCIP Policy Liaison**

10.11

NCIP client Jack Sagin is released from prison after spending nearly 34 years wrongfully incarcerated



Jack Sagin, NCIP's longest-represented client, was released from prison on October 11, 2019. The 6th District Court of Appeal reversed his murder conviction and the Monterey County DA dismissed charges after NCIP's legal team demonstrated that DNA found under the victim's fingernails belonged to an unknown male and Sagin's DNA was absent from every item of tested crime scene evidence.



10.12

NCIP Executive Director Linda Starr, and exonerees Rick Walker, Franky Carrillo, and Obie Anthony present at the California Judges Association 2019 Annual Meeting in Monterey



**"Judges are an important audience because they guard the integrity of the system."**

**-Linda Starr, NCIP Executive Director**

10.26

NCIP partners with Santa Clara Law's Criminal Law Society and Center for Social Justice to host the "Second Chances and Empathy Hackathon"



Over the day-long Hackathon, Santa Clara Law students and tech professionals teamed up to help non-profits solve problems within their organizations and the criminal justice system. NCIP sponsored two teams which worked to improve NCIP's website and to identify California convictions based on potential SBS misdiagnoses.



Together, we are freeing the innocent and reforming policies to help prevent wrongful convictions - but without you, it wouldn't be possible. **Please make your year-end gift to NCIP today via the enclosed envelope or online at [www.ncip.org](http://www.ncip.org).**