



Accuracy & Justice: Listening to Innocence
SAO 13th CLE Workshop
April 20, 2018

George Edgecomb Courthouse Jury Auditorium
800 E. Twiggs St., 2nd Floor Tampa, FL 33602

WTI is committed to reducing the number of wrongful convictions in capital cases. An Accuracy & Justice Workshop hosts a panel of three exonerated death row survivors to engage in a facilitated conversation with a group of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, or other practitioners. The exonerees convey their experience to the public by emphasizing their time on death row and what led to their eventual release.

Facilitator Bios

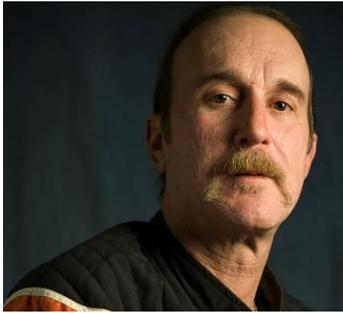
Richard Dieter



Richard Dieter received his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center, where he was named a Public Interest Law Scholar. He served as the Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, D.C. from 1992 until 2015. He has authored 40 reports on the death penalty that have been widely cited in the national media and utilized at all levels of state and national government, including the U.S. Supreme Court. His most recent publication, *Battle Scars: Military Veterans and the Death Penalty (2015)*, received the Congressional Black Caucus's Veterans Braintrust Award. He also served as an Adjunct Professor at the Catholic University School of Law for 14

years.

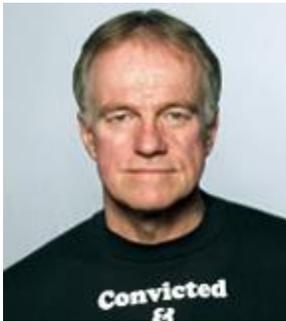
Ray Krone



In 1991, a woman 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 the testimony of an “expert” witness, later discredited, who claimed bite marks found on the victim matched Ray’s teeth. He was sentenced to death in 1992. In 1995, he received a new trial but was again found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. In 2002 his attorneys demonstrated that DNA found at the murder scene belonged to another man. Prosecutors dropped all charges against Ray, and he became the 100th person exonerated from death row in the United States since

1973. Ray Krone co-founded Witness to Innocence with Sister Helen Prejean in 2003.

Randy Steidl



Randy Steidl spent 17 years in Illinois prisons, including 12 on death row, prior to his exoneration. He was wrongly convicted and sentenced to die for a double murder committed in 1986. When questioned, Randy cooperated with the police and gave a corroborated alibi for the night of the murders. 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. All

charges were dismissed in 2004.

Sabrina Smith



Sabrina Smith was a Mississippi teenager who was convicted of murder and child abuse in the death of her nine-month-old son. In 1989, Sabrina rushed her son 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 day of her son’s death, Sabrina was arrested for child abuse due to the bruises left by her resuscitation attempts. 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 fatal wounds intentionally. Sabrina did not testify at her trial, and was convicted of both

murder and child abuse, becoming the only woman on Mississippi’s Death Row at the time. The Mississippi courts reversed her conviction in 1992, declaring that the prosecution had failed to prove that the incident was anything more than an accident. In 1995, Sabrina was retried. The medical examiner changed his opinion about her son’s cause of death, which he newly attributed to a kidney malady. In 1995, Sabrina was acquitted of all charges. She is one of only two women in the United States exonerated from death row.