
News from the Innocence Project

Advisory for hearing Wednesday, December 8 – Friday, December 10, 2010

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Innocence Project to Present Evidence about Wrongful Executions of Cameron Todd Willingham and Claude Jones in Death Penalty Hearing

A Houston judge began hearing evidence today in a hearing in *Texas v. Green* on whether the substantial risk of wrongful conviction makes the death penalty unconstitutional. Starting Wednesday, the Innocence Project will be presenting evidence about the wrongful executions of Cameron Todd Willingham and Claude Jones.

Willingham was executed in 2004 for allegedly setting a fire that killed his three daughters 13 years earlier. Prior to his execution, renowned arson expert Gerald Hurst notified Gov. Rick Perry and a Texas appeals court that the testimony of the fire investigator was based on faulty arson science. Since his execution, numerous other experts have reviewed the evidence and reached the same conclusion that there was no reliable evidence to prove the fire was started intentionally. The only other evidence pointing to Willingham's guilt was the jailhouse informant John Webb who is scheduled to be produced at the hearing and will be cross examined for the first time since the trial.

Jones was executed for murder in 2000. Last month, the Innocence Project released DNA evidence proving that a hair sample that was the only physical evidence linking Jones to the murder scene did not belong to Jones. During the clemency review, then-Governor Bush was not informed that Jones had requested DNA testing that might have freed him. The only other evidence in the case was the testimony of a coconspirator, and under Texas law coconspirator testimony must be corroborated by additional evidence in order to convict.

Following are additional details on the hearing.

WHAT: Innocence Project will present evidence that questions the fairness of the review process in Texas death row cases Willingham, Jones and Green.

WHO: **Attorneys:** Barry Scheck, Innocence Project Co-director; Gerry Goldstein of Goldstein, Goldstein & Hilley; Danny Greenberg, Alan Glickman, Yocheved Cohen, Chris Giampapa and Eliza Jacobs of Schulte Roth and Zabel, LLP.

Forensics Experts: Gerald Hurst and John Lentini
John Webb, the Jail House Informant in the Willingham case

WHEN: **Wednesday, December 8 — Friday, December 10**
Tentatively scheduled to begin at 10:30 AM

WHERE: Judge Kevin Fine's court room
Harris County Criminal Justice Center, 1201
Houston, TX

CONTACT: **For additional press inquiries please contact:**
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The Innocence Project, which is affiliated with Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, is a national litigation and public policy organization dedicated to exonerating wrongfully convicted people through DNA testing and reforming the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice. To

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