

MJP MAGAZINE



Oregon mother
freed in wake of
MJP probe

Inmate released
from solitary
after 36 years

Judge reverses
Del Prete's murder
conviction

Freedom.



ISSUE I, VOL. I

JUNE 2017

Ambitious, time-consuming investigative reporting about life and death used to be the province of The Washington Post, where I was an investigative reporter for many years, and other traditional players in the news media. But no longer.



The Medill Justice Project, which I run at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, represents, I think, the vanguard of a new kind of bold journalism serving the public interest: Conducted by students, overseen by a veteran journalist, carried out at a university that has the patience and the metabolism to take on the difficult, to delve into the complicated, no matter the commercial interest.

At MJP, we have made it a long-term priority to doggedly investigate, research and publish stories on miscarriages of justice, and we believe our work has impacted people's lives in the way that journalism is intended.

Prof. Alec Klein
Director of MJP
Northwestern University

MJP MAGAZINE

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Kenny "Zulu" Whitmore, pictured above, was released from solitary confinement after about 36 years following MJP's probe of his case. Read more on page six. (Photo courtesy: Kenny "Zulu" Whitmore)



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Crime and punishment: a man in prison for life after purse snatchings

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Pictured on the cover is Kate Parker who was freed and reunited with her family in the wake of MJP's investigation. (Allisha Azlan/The Medill Justice Project)

Pictured on the back cover is Jennifer Del Prete with her daughter, Tia, on the day she was released from prison. A federal judge, saying no reasonable jury would have found her guilty of murder, freed Del Prete on bond after she had served about a decade of her 20-year sentence. (Annabel Edwards/The Medill Justice Project)



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The D.C. Housing Department forfeited millions

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Coming home

Kate Parker celebrates her sudden freedom
with family



Kate Parker expresses excitement about being reunited with her family. (Allisha Azlan/The Medill Justice Project)

By Alec Klein
The Medill Justice Project

GRANTS PASS, Ore.— On a wide open road, Kate Parker headed south today on Interstate 5 under a sky of Van Gogh swirls of clouds when she instinctively reached for the bracelet on her right ankle.

It wasn't there. No one was tracking her movements anymore.

"I've been dreaming of this for almost two years," she said of what was about to happen next.

After 99 weeks—693 days—Parker pulled into a familiar cul-de-sac

and stepped up to that brown front door where, with the sun receding behind the mountains in the distance, she was immediately embraced by a deluge of daughters and sons, her husband and friends.

"I love you, Mom," said Joshua, her 9-year-old son, wrapping both arms around her, as if to keep her from floating away.

"I love you so much," she said back.

So ended an ordeal that began April 1, 2014, when Parker was accused by prosecutors

of manipulating doctors and others to provide harmful treatment to Joshua and two of her other eight children.

Faced with 43 charges in what is believed to be the first criminal medical child abuse case in Oregon history, Parker went home today a free woman.

In a settlement with Multnomah prosecutors, Parker pleaded no contest to three misdemeanor charges. ♦

read more at
bit.ly/1S0swxz

Judge reverses Del Prete's murder conviction

Ruling comes more than two years after a federal judge freed Del Prete from prison



Jennifer Del Prete, left, on the day she was released from prison. A federal judge, saying no reasonable jury would have found her guilty of murder, freed Del Prete on bond after she had served about a decade of her 20-year sentence. (Manini Gupta/The Medill Justice Project)

**By Allisha Azlan
and Rachel Fobar**
The Medill Justice Project

A Will County Circuit Court judge today vacated Jennifer Del Prete's murder conviction and ordered a new trial, the latest victory in her fight to clear her name.

Little more than two years ago, a federal judge released Del Prete from prison, rul-

ing no reasonable jury would have convicted her based on all of the evidence, which included a police detective letter discovered by The Medill Justice Project.

"As of today, after nine years, one month and 26 days, I am no longer a convicted felon," said Del Prete who is now 45 years old and has strug-

gled to find steady employment and rebuild her life.

Judge Carla Alessio Policandriotes, who convicted Del Prete in a bench trial in 2005, denied the state's motion to dismiss Del Prete's post-conviction petition. The order from the judge, who could not be reached for comment, follows a May ev-

identitary hearing where witnesses said key evidence pointing to Del Prete's innocence had been withheld at trial.

On learning of the judge's ruling, there was "a lot of relief and excitement," said Jodi Garvey, an attorney for Del Prete.

Del Prete was a Rome-oville, Illinois, day care worker when she was accused of violently shaking a 3 ½-month-old infant under her care and convicted of first-degree murder in 2005. About eight years

later, in 2013, The Medill Justice Project discovered a letter, obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request,

in which Police Commander Kenneth Kroll, a detective in Del Prete's case, said the forensic pathologist who performed the infant's autopsy expressed doubts about whether the day care worker had violently shaken the child in what is known as shaken-baby syndrome or abusive head trauma.

During the May court hearing, Patrick W.

Blegen, another Del Prete attorney, said her lawyer at trial, Chuck Bretz, was unaware of forensic pathologist Jeff Harkey's skepticism about whether the infant had been a victim of shaken-baby syndrome. Blegen also said Harkey, who conducted the autopsy, was unaware the child's radiology report revealed the presence of a chronic subdural hematoma, or brain bleed. Both of these facts, Blegen said, had been withheld from Bretz during Del Prete's trial, and had these facts been known to

the defense, Del Prete may not have been convicted of first-degree murder.

Bretz, Del Prete's trial attorney, testified in May that had he been aware of the Kroll letter, his defense strategy would have been significantly altered. Bretz said, for instance, that had he known of the doctor's skepticism, the attorney would have sought to interview Harkey beforehand and then tailored his questions at trial accordingly.

U.S. District Court

Judge Matthew F. Kennelly, saying no reasonable jury would have found her guilty, released Del Prete on bond in 2014 after she had served about a decade of her 20-year sentence. Del Prete's case is on hold in federal court, pending resolution of this state action. In his ruling two years ago, the judge said Del Prete "should not have to wait in custody" while her claims are being reviewed by the state courts because "the delay is wholly attributable to the law enforcement authorities who did not disclose to Del Prete" the police detective letter and related evidence.

The next court date is scheduled for Sept. 23, when prosecutors are expected to respond to the ruling.

Prosecutors plan to appeal the judge's order, said Charles Pelkie, a spokesperson for the Will County State's Attorney's Office. "Our position has always been that the [Kroll] letter... had no impact whatsoever in regards to any evidence that was presented at trial in this case," Pelkie said.

◆

Inmate released from solitary confinement after about 36 years



The Medill Justice Project confirmed Kenny "Zulu" Whitmore has been released from solitary confinement into the general prison population at Louisiana State Penitentiary. (Photo courtesy: Kenny "Zulu" Whitmore)

**By Allisha Azlan
and Anthony Settiani**
The Medill Justice Project

Kenny "Zulu" Whitmore has been released from solitary confinement after about 36 years at the infamous Angola prison, ending one of the longest

stints in isolation in the United States, The Medill Justice Project confirmed today.

Whitmore's release into the general prison population at Louisiana State Penitentiary came little more than

a year after The Medill Justice Project, as part of an investigation, challenged the then-warden to account for why he would hold a prisoner in isolation for so long. The warden told MJP then he would seriously consider releasing Whitmore from solitary confinement.

Details are still emerging, but Whitmore has been moved out of what the prison calls closed cell restriction and into its J-Bass dormitory, which houses about 95 prisoners, according to friends and others familiar with Whitmore's prison conditions.

Whitmore and members of his family could not be immediately reached for comment but Maria Hinds, a New Orleans graphic designer and friend and supporter of Whitmore, said, "He seems to be adapting well," adding this about his release after more than three decades:

"It's pretty incredible."

Of his many years in solitary confinement—a 6-foot by 9-foot cell which allowed him little human contact—Whitmore served about 29 years consecutively until about

November of last year. No announcement was made about his move to the general prison population, though Whit-

more's confinement has been an international cause celebre, and the prison declined to comment today, except to acknowledge Whitmore's release after MJP had independently verified it.

"We will confirm that he is no longer housed in closed cell restriction and is housed in general population," Gary Young, a prison spokesperson, said in an email.

Hinds, who said she recently spoke with Whitmore by telephone, said he has a job cleaning the dorms and is able to go to the hobby shop where he makes leather goods. Recently,

Hinds said, he manned a stall at the well-known Angola prison rodeo.

The move to release Whitmore from solitary confinement was part

"I've got some young people, predators, that need to be in that cell. When I can conclude he's not going to cause me the blues, then he can come out of the cell."

of a confidential settlement of a federal suit in which Whitmore asserted he was subjected to cruel and unusual punishment, according to Michelle

Rutherford, one of his attorneys. Whitmore has maintained that his confinement caused him to suffer from vision damage, hypertension and other ailments.

"He's currently enjoying some hobby craft," Rutherford told MJP. "And I know he intends to study carpentry when that becomes available to him. He also is taking classes and just generally getting acclimated to living in a dormitory situation."

Over the years, Whitmore, 61, has been supported by various advocacy groups around the world, including in the United Kingdom and

the Netherlands, which have created T-shirts and other merchandise with Whitmore's likeness to help support his cause and demand his release from solitary. The Medill Justice Project conducted a detailed probe of Whitmore's time in solitary confinement as well as his conviction.

Whitmore was sentenced to life in prison in 1977 for second-degree murder, following the 1973 murder of former Zachary, Louisiana, mayor, Marshall Bond. Whitmore also was sentenced to 99 years for armed robbery in the Bond murder and 125 years of hard labor for a shoe-store robbery.

In July 2014, The Medill Justice Project was able to obtain an impromptu interview outside the prison gates with then-warden Burl Cain, who, when asked about Whitmore's long stay in isolation, said he was prepared to take Whitmore out of solitary confinement if he were to no longer represent a safety risk. ♦

*read more at
bit.ly/1NYhbc3*

Crime and punishment

Man in prison for life after purse snatchings



Under Oklahoma's habitual offender law, Rodney Fisher, 52, is serving a life sentence for a series of purse snatchings in the 1980s and a prison escape in 2004. Fisher said he couldn't believe "they would sentence me so harshly, like I shot somebody or something." (Kara Stevick/The Medill Justice Project)

**By Yaqoob Qaseem,
Kara Stevick and
Alyssa Wisnieski**
The Medill Justice Project

TULSA, Okla.—It was not unusual for people to ask 68-year-old Gladys O'Connor for directions. She was often one of the only people around her quaint South Tulsa residential community during the day. So she didn't hesitate when a man approached her in front of her Cambridge Square condo that afternoon on Oct. 24, 1986, and asked for directions to a nearby intersection.

According to court records, O'Connor had just returned home from a trip to the grocery store and bank with \$200 in the tan Coach purse slung over her left shoulder. She was standing in the sunshine outside her door just beyond a massive pecan tree. She noticed her flowerpot had fallen off the stoop, she later testified.

As O'Connor began to gesture to explain what road to take, the man grabbed her arm. He snatched her purse and struck O'Connor in the

chin. She started to fall but the purse caught on her wristwatch so he jerked the purse free. O'Connor was spun around as she fell. From the ground, O'Connor watched the man flee to a cream-colored car.

Recovering from bruises, O'Connor was called to the police station a week later. She looked through three books containing hundreds of photos of suspects but did not find her assailant. Twelve days later, she viewed a lineup and immediately identified the man

whom she believed had attacked her: 23-year-old Rodney Fisher.

Within six months, Fisher was sentenced to 52 years in prison for the O'Connor crime and a spate of other purse snatchings in 1986. He maintains he wasn't involved in the O'Connor robbery. He also admits he served as the getaway driver in some purse snatchings but never approached or touched the victims in any of the crimes.

Fisher's sentence was the end product of a system of justice put in place in Oklahoma more than a century ago. That style of justice largely remains. It is called the habitual offender law—known colloquially as “three strikes.”

It works this way: If you commit a third felony, you're in big trouble. And it usually means spending a long time in prison. In Fisher's case, because he had already been convicted of two felonies, it meant he was slated to be behind bars until he was 75.

“I was devastated, I mean ... how could they do that type of thing?” he said in an interview for this story, adding he

was stunned he “could be railroaded like that, that they would sentence me so harshly, like I shot somebody or something.” O'Connor, the victim of the purse snatching, was not seriously injured and went on to live to the age of 92.

Under Oklahoma law, those convicted of murder can serve as little as 10 years. A robbery sentence can bring less time than that. Some nonetheless say Fisher, now 52, got what he deserved. Others point to action in states that have reformed draconian sentences. In Oklahoma, leaders are beginning to grapple with the consequences of prison overcrowding, one of the highest incarceration rates in the nation and the consequences of its habitual offender law.

Oklahoma's habitual offender law is as old as Oklahoma's government itself, archival records show.

When Oklahoma became a U.S. territory in 1890, its first legislative assembly adopted a law, borrowed from the Dakota Territory, which heaped on more prison time for those who

committed a second “offense punishable by imprisonment in the Territorial prison.”

Little changed in the law until the late 1970s, a review of the statutes over those 80 years shows. On the heels of President Richard Nixon's war on drugs, launched in 1971, Oklahoma lawmakers added language to increase the punishment for third-time felony offenders. Before, in some instances, they were given 10 years to life. After, they were given 20 years to life.

That's what Fisher faced in 1987 for the O'Connor purse snatching. ♦

*read more at
bit.ly/2cknBut*



Gladys O'Connor's purse was snatched outside her Cambridge Square condo in October 1986. Within six months, Rodney Fisher was convicted of the crime—his third felony—and a spate of others and sentenced to 52 years in prison. (Alyssa Wisnieski/The Medill Justice Project)

Stranger than fiction?

Deep in a Pittsburgh murder case: Can a witness suddenly remember a crime 15 years later?



Pictured with his attorney at the 1992 trial, Steven Slutzker, left, was convicted of murder in the wake of the victim's son's recovered memory of the night of the crime. (John Beale/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)

By Rachel Fobar The Medill Justice Project

PITTSBURGH—From another room, 20-year-old John heard two words directed at his girlfriend, Kimberly: "F—you."

The expletive came from Kimberly's friend Steve, who was helping her clean up in the dining room after a night of watching TV, playing Trivial Pursuit and eating cold pizza. Those two words were enough to light a "fire in his eyes," Kimberly later told police. From the living room, John leapt over his couch, grabbed

Steve by the shirt and threw him against the wall. As Steve slumped to the ground, John grabbed a dining room chair, ready to bash him over the head.

But he stopped. An American flag caught his eye. The flag, which John had just hung on the wall a few days before, had covered the coffin of his father, a Navy veteran, at his funeral 15 years earlier. John's father had been murdered, but no one had been convicted of the crime.

Suddenly, a set of im-

ages flashed through John's mind, "almost like watching a slide-show," he later testified: He sees himself, a Superman blanket wrapped around his small, 5-year-old body as he rests on the couch. Seven loud sounds. A fish tank light illuminating the stairway to the basement. His father's body lying motionless at the foot of the steps.

Then, he said, speaking in a high-pitched, childlike voice, he sees in his mind a man—also named Steve—emerge from the kitchen which led from the basement stairs, stop briefly to speak with John's mother in the living room and stride out the front door into the snow.

When John Mudd Jr. took his newly recovered memories to the police in November of 1990, his sudden recall raised a question: Were they reliable?

In the early 1990s, the same question cropped up repeatedly in courtrooms across the coun-

try as accusations based on recovered memories became more common. In 1993, in the midst of the debate, the American Psychiatric Association said, "It is not known how to distinguish, with complete accuracy, memories based on true events from those derived from other sources."

To this day, there still is no consensus on whether recovered memories should be admissible in court, even as people in the United States and elsewhere continue to be accused of crimes based on these contested recollections. The U.S. Attorneys' Manual, published by the Department of Justice, encourages a "case-by-case approach" when evaluating the reliability of recovered memories.

In the wake of Mudd's recovered memory 15 years after the crime, Steven Slutzker was arrested and eventually convicted. And Douglas Sughrue, Slutzker's former attorney, says he is convinced Mudd's recovered memory played a fundamental role in the conviction because there was no physical evidence directly linked to Slutzker, who had no

criminal history before the murder.

"It was the only reason he was even arrested," Sughrue says.

Mudd declined to comment for this article.

On Dec. 28, 1975, John Mudd Sr., his wife Arlene Mudd and their 5-year-old son returned home just east of Pittsburgh in Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, from visiting family and admiring Christmas lights. This is what Arlene testified happened next: At about 11 p.m., as the news played on the television in their home, the power went out, plunging at least part of the modest two-story home on snow-dusted Marlboro Avenue into darkness. Leaving his wife and son in the living room, the elder Mudd descended into the basement to check the fuse box. Moments later, there were eight gunshots, a firearms expert later testified, and Mudd's father was dead on the basement floor.

Almost immediately, records show, police turned their attention to Slutzker, who lived across the street from the Mudds and, during a 1976 interrogation,

admitted to police he had had a passionate affair with Arlene that her husband was well aware of. "I ended up falling for her," Slutzker told police. Authorities also knew Slutzker, a handyman, had done electrical work in the Mudd home earlier that year and had been in their basement. What's more, Slutzker, once a voluntary special patrolman for the Pittsburgh police, had a permit for two revolvers. And he told police that Arlene, who faced murder charges in the case that were later dismissed, was repeatedly abused by her husband and wanted him dead, so Slutzker asked acquaintances if they knew of a hitman to kill him. ♦

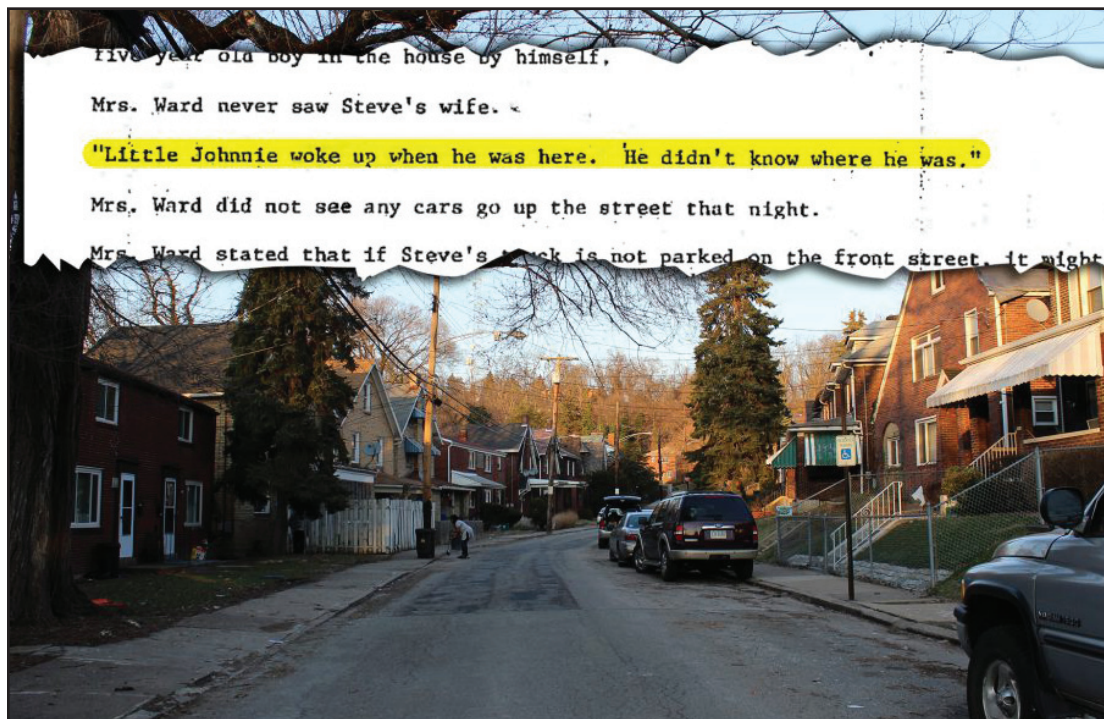
*read more at
bit.ly/2IABWHZ*



In 1992, 21-year-old John Mudd Jr. testified he recovered memories of Steven Slutzker leaving the Mudd home on the night of John Mudd Sr.'s murder in 1975. (Photo courtesy: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)

Stranger than fiction?

Investigating an old murder case built on circumstantial evidence, The Medill Justice Project finds police records and witness accounts that don't add up



A 1975 murder on Marlboro Avenue—pictured in 2017—turned neighbors into victims, defendants and witnesses. Some accounts of what happened call into question who saw what and whether the convicted killer pulled the trigger. (Alisha Azlan/The Medill Justice Project)

By Henri Adams, Annie Boniface, Benjamin Din, Jacob Frazer, Jun Tae “Walter” Ko, Ross Krasner, Jamie Schmid, Lauren Sonnenberg, Amanda Svachula and Emagin Tanaschuk
The Medill Justice Project

WILKINSBURG, Pa.— Shots were fired and a man slumped dead, bloody in his basement on a late snowy December night in 1975. Within minutes, Sgt. Dominick LaBella of the Edgewood Police Department entered

the modest brick home where he found the victim’s 5-year-old son hysterical.

LaBella later testified, “He was really screaming and carrying on.”

Or maybe not. The

child, John Mudd Jr., was fast asleep on the couch when Wilkinsburg Police Officer Dominick Mangano arrived moments after LaBella. Though Mangano later testified at least three times that the child was asleep on

the night of the murder, it was never explored in court how the child could also be screaming and crying. LaBella died in 2005.

In an interview for this story, Mangano said he carried the slumbering child to his own home on the same street. When Mangano handed the child to his wife, Linda Mangano, the boy was still asleep, she confirmed with The Medill Justice Project.

"He was in a deep sleep," said Linda, who did not testify in the case.

Arlene, the child's mother, said he was asleep when the murder occurred, according to two of her interviews with police, records show. She said after her son fell asleep, she and her husband, John Mudd Sr., were watching the news on television and then the power went out. That's when she said her husband went into the basement to check the fuse and was shot. Arlene declined to comment for this article.

Fifteen years later, when Mudd was 20, he said he suddenly remembered what happened that night, records show. After hearing "loud noises," he said he remembered seeing his father's body at the foot of the basement stairs. Mudd also said he remembered seeing a man standing with his mother — and he recalled him as the neighbor across the street: Steven Slutzker.

A case that remained unsolved for 15 years suddenly was reexamined, authorities said, leading to Slutzker's arrest, murder conviction and life sentence.

The case has continued to draw attention. In 2004, the Innocence Institute of Point Park University in Pittsburgh published an investigation raising questions about Slutzker's conviction. The Medill Justice Project's investigation builds on the Innocence Institute's examination.

Mangano, the former Wilkesburg police officer, is unpersuaded of Slutzker's guilt, especially, he said, because

the child was asleep and couldn't have seen the assailant. "He was out," Mangano said. "... There is no way in God's green acre he could've saw who that person was."

Mangano added, "It's a shame they got the wrong person in jail."

Regis Kelly, then an Allegheny County homicide detective who began investigating the Slutzker case in 1990, said Mudd's recovered memory was credible. But when asked for this article how Mudd could have remembered anything if he was asleep, Kelly, now a special agent for the Pennsylvania Attorney General, replied, "That's an excellent question."

Judge Jeffrey A. Manning, who presided over Slutzker's trial, said in an interview for this story he didn't find Mudd's testimony "particularly compelling." Mudd declined to comment for this article. Manning said it did not matter if he believed Mudd's testimony because the jury, not the judge, is responsible as the fact finder. ♦

*read more at
bit.ly/2o1GcOg*



Fallon Schlossman interviews Ralph V. "Terry" Hadley III, who represented William Thomas "Tommy" Zeigler at trial. (Jacqueline Montalvo/The Medill Justice Project)

Death denied

By Fallon Schlossman
The Medill Justice Project

Seven-episode podcast series ♦ bit.ly/29ByNfJ

A Medill Justice Project podcast provides a rare behind-the-scenes look at an investigation of a death row inmate's case. The seven-episode series follows MJP staff and students who spent 10 weeks examining Tommy Zeigler's conviction. Listen to class strategy sessions, extended cuts of interviews with key subjects and students' reactions as they search for the truth.



Alicia Duff was 11 weeks old when her mother, Tonia Miller, was accused of shaking her to death, a crime she maintains she did not commit.

Shaken: a reminder of what's lost

By Allisha Azlan
The Medill Justice Project

One of a five-part series ♦ bit.ly/2qS2KoV

A Medill Justice Project video documents the impact of a Michigan shaken-baby syndrome case on family and friends.



William Thomas "Tommy" Zeigler was 30 years old when he was sentenced to death in 1976. He was convicted of murdering four people, including his wife, and has always maintained his innocence.

Sword of Damocles

By Allisha Azlan
The Medill Justice Project

Part three in a series ♦ bit.ly/2i0ChxS

This documentary highlights Tommy Zeigler's four decades on death row. The video also explores issues surrounding living conditions, costs, execution methods of capital punishment and the prospect of innocent people being sentenced to death.



Allisha Azlan, host of MJP-TV

MJP-TV

Season one ♦ bit.ly/29sqE2k

The Medill Justice Project created MJP-TV, an interview-style television program that discusses local, national and international criminal justice issues. The first season premiered on Chicago Access Network Television in May 2016, and guests included criminal justice experts, Jennifer Del Prete and MJP Director of Operations Amanda Westrich.

The D.C. Housing Department forfeited millions as families waited for help

The Washington Post

in partnership with



With no running water in the home where he rents a basement room, D.C. resident Michael Wilkerson, 55, brushes his teeth using store-bought water. He is disabled by cervical degeneration and is on a list for a city rent voucher. (Jahi Chikwendiu/The Washington Post)

By Debbie Cenziper, Sarah Bowman, Lillianna Byington, Robin Eberhardt

Just before her 100th day in office, D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser stood before a packed house at the city's historic Lincoln Theatre and called

on taxpayers to make an unprecedented investment in the poor.

For the first time, she announced, the District

would devote \$100 million in city funds each year to the Housing Production Trust Fund — a lifeline for families struggling to find

a place to live in one of the least affordable cities in the country. "If we're going to be a city where families can stay and grow, we must do more to create opportunity for them," Bowser (D) said during her State of the District address in March 2015.

But at the city agency entrusted with producing homes for the poor, officials were giving up millions of additional dollars from another essential source of affordable housing money: the federal government.

The D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development was forced to forfeit \$15.8 million in the past three years after repeatedly missing key spending deadlines meant to ensure that federal housing money is properly managed at the local level, The Washington Post found.

The spending problems predate the Bowser administration, but most of the bills came due soon after the mayor took office and launched her affordable housing plans.

No other housing agency in the country returned more

affordable-housing money to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development between 2014 and 2016 than the District's — which forfeited 22 percent of all the money that was sent back to HUD in the three-year period, an analysis of federal data shows.

The \$15.8 million sent back could have provided rent vouchers for a year to roughly 1,000 of the city's poorest families.

"This is insane," said Will Merrifield, a lawyer at the nonprofit Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless. "That they would allow this money to go to waste is absurd."

The funding came from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which for 25 years has provided seed money to developers willing to build or renovate low-income housing. HUD, which oversees the program, estimates that \$1 in HOME funds can leverage \$4.28 from

other funding sources.

HOME money can also be used to provide down-payment assistance to buyers or to fund vouchers for fam-

ilies that cannot afford rent on the private market. The program — the largest federal block grant for affordable housing — has produced 1.2 million affordable

units across the country in the past quarter-century.

The District's housing department was forced to return millions in HOME dollars even as the homeless population soared, more and more families moved into shelters, and the waiting list for rent vouchers remained closed to new households. Nearly 40,000 families are waiting for vouchers — those near the top of the list signed up well over a decade ago. ♦

read more at
wapo.st/2rrx4no

partnerships

The Washington Post

After a yearlong investigation with The Medill Justice Project, The Washington Post published in March 2015 a two-part series on shaken-baby syndrome. The Washington Post, in partnership with MJP, published an in-depth story in May 2017 on the forfeiture of federal funds meant to provide affordable housing in U.S. cities.

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

The Medill Justice Project, in partnership with the Wisconsin State Journal newspaper, examined a 2007 shaken-baby syndrome case involving a Verona, Wisconsin, day care provider. The investigation was published as a two-part series in the Wisconsin State Journal in May 2014.

Quad-City Times

In December 2013, a Medill Justice Project murder investigation was published as a two-part series on Page One of the Quad-City Times. MJP uncovered information that challenged the key fingerprint evidence from the 2003 case.

THE LENS

FOCUSED ON NEW ORLEANS AND THE GULF COAST

In spring 2014, The Medill Justice Project partnered with The Lens, a New Orleans-based investigative online media outlet, in its probe of a local murder conviction.

LIFE _{OF} THE LAW

In fall 2016, The Medill Justice Project co-published with Life of the Law a podcast that delves into a shaken-baby syndrome case of a teenage mother in Michigan.

selected awards



Robert F. Kennedy
Journalism Award

Sigma Delta Chi Award
Society of Professional Journalists



IRE Award
Investigative Reporters and Editors

Sunshine Award
Society of Professional Journalists



Salute to Excellence in
Collegiate Journalism Award
National Association of Black Journalists

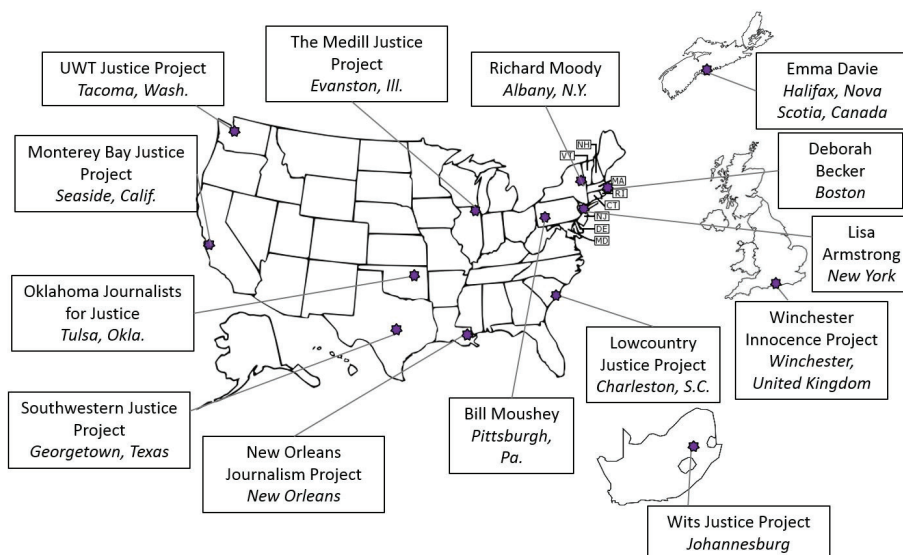
Peter Lisagor Awards
Chicago Headline Club



Regional Edward R.
Murrow Award
Radio Television Digital News Association

journalism justice network

The Journalism Justice Network connects investigative journalism enterprises focused on uncovering wrongdoing in the criminal justice system through groundbreaking research and the examination of potentially wrongful convictions.





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