

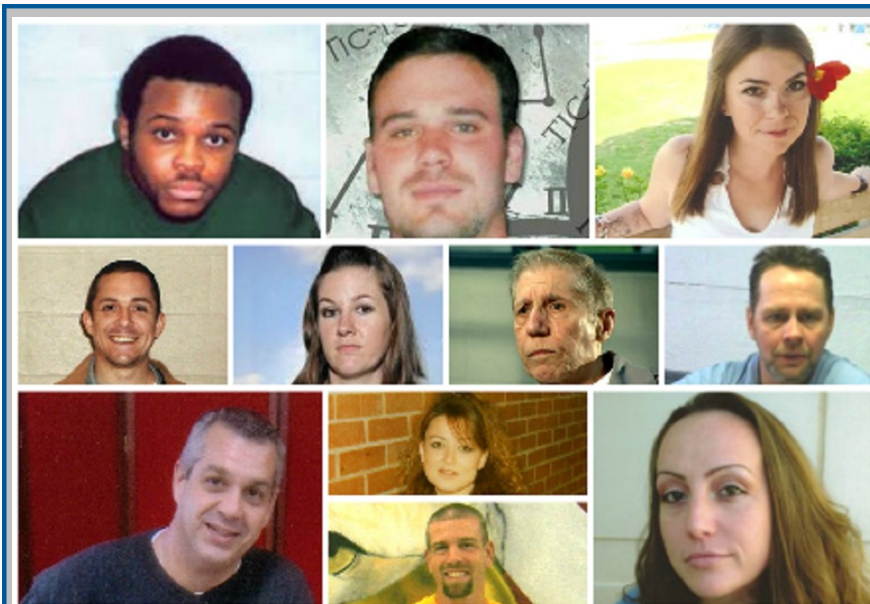


# Injustice Anywhere

an organization working to correct wrongful convictions

Injustice Anywhere Newsletter

Winter 2016



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February 4, 2016

By Bruce Fischer

According to the [National Registry of Exonerations](#), 2015 was a record year for exonerations. The registry recorded 149 exonerations in the United States, which broke the previous year's record of 125. Fifty four of the exonerees on the 2015 list were wrongfully convicted of murder. Disturbingly, five of those exonerees were on death row.

These numbers show that we are on the right track, but we have a long way to go. We need to correct the mistakes we have made, and we also need to do the crucial work of reforming the system which allowed those mistakes to occur in the first place. If we fail to enact reform, we will continue to send innocent people to prison, which is unacceptable for any nation that expects to be viewed as civilized.

Injustice Anywhere made progress in 2015. Our main website [injusticeanywhere.org](http://injusticeanywhere.org) received a major overhaul, making it more efficient and user friendly. We moved our radio show from Blogtalkradio to Sreaker, which opened the door to a wider listening audience. And we worked to launch an all new GroundReport website, which allows us to continue publishing articles on a news platform recognized by Google News.

Injustice Anywhere was happy to see positive results for three of our featured cases in 2015. Amanda Knox and Raffaele Sollecito were exonerated in Italy, Debra Milke was exonerated in Arizona, and Russ Faria was exonerated in Missouri. We also followed several other cases on our discussion forum and radio show, including: Hannah Overton, Barry Beach, and the Fairbanks Four. We were thrilled to see all of these cases finally end in freedom.

Sadly, the wrongful conviction problem is far more pervasive than most people realize, and even with increased interest in wrongful convictions over the past few years, most cases continue to lack the attention they warrant. These cases go far beyond the few our organization is able to feature and endorse. We are hopeful to see another successful year for exonerations in 2016. Many innocent people remain in prison. They need others to be their voice. They need you. Please join us in the fight to free the innocent.

## Injustice Anywhere Successful Cases For 2015

### Amanda Knox and Raffaele Sollecito

Amanda Knox and Raffaele Sollecito were wrongfully convicted in 2010 for the murder of Meredith Kercher in Perugia Italy, in 2007. After a series of trials, the two were fully exonerated by the Italian Supreme Court in March of 2015. This case is one of the highest profile miscarriages of justice of the 21st century, and it is the case that started it all for Injustice Anywhere.



The Kercher murder investigation went off the rails right from the start when authorities arrested three innocent people for the crime: Amanda Knox, Raffaele Sollecito, and Patrick Lumumba. The world was told early on that Kercher was killed in a sex game gone wrong, and that the suspects were in custody. The problem was, after the initial arrests, the forensic evidence came back pointing to a man named Rudy Guede. The police should have realized at that time that they had the wrong suspects, but that was not the case. Unbelievably, they simply removed Lumumba, plugged in Guede, and pressed forward with the same ludicrous sex game theory. Their refusal to admit a mistake led to two wrongful convictions.

The evidence in the case points directly at Rudy Guede. He remains in prison for the crime, serving a 16-year sentence. Injustice Anywhere has two websites which detail the aspects of this case, [amandaknoxcase.com](http://amandaknoxcase.com) and [injusticeinperugia.org](http://injusticeinperugia.org). We believe this case will serve as a learning tool for many years to come.

### Debra Milke

Debra Milke was wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death in Arizona in 1990 for the murder of her four-year-old son Christopher in 1989. Debra was released on bond in September of 2013, after her conviction was overturned. The State's effort to pursue a new trial was halted when an appeals court ordered the murder charges dismissed. Debra's case was officially closed on March 23, 2015.



Debra Milke was a guest on the [Injustice Anywhere Radio Program](#) in May of 2015. When asked how she found the strength to survive all of those years in prison, her thoughts went immediately to her son. She stated that she was determined to find out what really happened to Christopher that day in the desert, and found strength every day to continue her pursuit of justice. Debra also stated that she filed a civil lawsuit against Maricopa County and the individuals who were responsible for her wrongful conviction.

### Russ Faria

Russ Faria was wrongfully convicted and sentenced to life without parole in Missouri in 2013 for the murder of his terminally ill wife, Elizabeth "Betsy" Faria, in 2011. Russ was convicted despite the fact he had a rock solid alibi. In 2014, Russ's defense team filed a motion requesting a new trial. Their request was granted, leading St. Louis Circuit Judge Steven Ohmer to throw out Russ's conviction in June of 2015, and order a new trial. Russ's appeal was successful, and he was freed in November of 2015.



The misconduct seen in Russ's case was horrendous. Prosecutor Leah Askey accused four alibi witnesses of conspiring to kill Betsy Faria during her closing arguments. Those accusations were never mentioned outside of the courtroom and the four witnesses were never charged. Askey pulled the stunt for the sole purpose of misleading the jury. Askey also had an alleged affair with the lead detective investigating the murder, all while ignoring the likely suspect. Please visit [Injustice Anywhere](#) to learn more about this compelling case.

## What America Can Learn From The Amanda Knox Case

By Phillip Mause

Eight years of litigation came to close last year as the Italian Supreme Court acquitted Amanda Knox and her co-defendant Raffaele Sollecito of charges that they were involved in the murder of Knox's roommate, Meredith Kercher. Numerous books, countless magazine articles and a veritable avalanche of internet traffic was generated by the case. In the process, two "camps" (an "innocence" camp and a "guilt" camp) emerged and went to war on the internet. The case had many twists and turns with an initial conviction at trial followed by a reversal of that conviction on appeal, then a reversal of the reversal by the Italian Supreme Court with a remand to an intermediate court which returned guilty verdicts and finally with the reversal of those guilty verdicts by the recent Supreme Court action. As the seesaw battle proceeded, there was a tendency of the camps to praise or attack the Italian legal system depending upon how they were faring at a particular point in time. Not surprisingly, the guilt camp extolled the virtues of the Italian legal system while they were winning, and then, upon the recent and definitive judgment of acquittal, began to imply the possibility of "corruption."



Amanda Knox

This article will not go into the merits of the case (the author believes that the judgments of acquittal were correct) nor will it try to evaluate whether the Italian system is somehow "better" than the American system. What I will do is to point to certain features of the Italian system which may suggest avenues of reform for the American system. Having followed the case and written a number of articles about it, I was fascinated by certain aspects of the Italian criminal justice system which appear to be superior to our own.

**1. A True Second Look On Appeal** – In Italy much more than in America, appellate courts take a true "second look" at criminal convictions. Appellate courts can hear new or old witnesses and can investigate the case factually. The first appeal was adjudicated under the supervision of Judge Pratillo Hellmann, who may well be the hero of this case. He heard evidence, appointed independent experts to resolve key technical issues, and concluded that the defendants were innocent. In America, the appellate process is very limited and generally does not involve a reexamination of the facts. Until fairly recently, criminal defendants also had an opportunity to challenge convictions through the Habeas Corpus process but recent changes in the law have narrowed this avenue of review substantially. Thus, an American defendant who is convicted at the trial level faces a daunting task in attempting to overturn that conviction. The system is now structured in such a way that, while "rubber stamp" review does occur at several levels, none of the reviewing courts really take a true "second look" at the case to determine whether the defendant is really guilty. Perhaps, this problem may be remedied in some states by "conviction integrity panels" designed to identify wrongful convictions. As DNA evidence is beginning to allow us to discover that more and more convictions are truly wrongful and that we have been imprisoning significant numbers of innocent men and women, it is vitally important that, in each state, there be some point in the after trial process at which a true second look at serious criminal convictions is undertaken. It may be that the solution is to remove various limitations on Habeas Corpus. The important thing is that somewhere and at some time a true, thorough, second look be focused on serious criminal convictions.

**2. Written Opinions** – In Italy, the trial court (actually a kind of mixed court and jury) writes a detailed opinion going through the evidence presented and reaching conclusions about factual issues. It attempts to reconstruct what actually happened and explains why its factual conclusions support conviction or acquittal. Of course, this written opinion facilitates appellate review because an appellate court can evaluate the conclusions of the court below to determine whether they are supported by the evidence. In the United States, the trial proceeding generally generates only a "guilty" or "not guilty" verdict without detailed explanation of the underlying rationale. It is very hard for appellate courts (or anyone else) to discern the connection between the evidence presented at trial and the outcome of the case. This is, to some extent, the natural result of the American system's reliance on lay juries. A jury of twelve sits through the trial, confers and reaches a verdict. To ask the twelve citizens to stay around after the verdict and write a detailed opinion citing the transcript of proceedings would create enormous burdens on those called for jury duty, might be impossible due to the differing views of individual jury members, and could become unworkable. The solution I would propose is that – in all cases in which the sentence is more than a certain length (say, ten years) the trial judge would have to write a detailed opinion describing why a reasonable jury could have found the defendant guilty. The opinion would cite the transcript of the proceedings. This opinion would then allow the appellate court to conduct a more meaningful review of the case.



What America Can Learn From The Amanda Knox Case (continued)

**3. Independent Experts** – The real turning point in the Knox case came in 2011 when Judge Hellmann appointed two experts to review a key technical issue in the case. The issue involved DNA evidence which the prosecution claimed supported its case. One instance was the alleged DNA of Sollecito on the bra clasp of the victim found at the crime scene only after a considerable time had elapsed from the date of the crime. The other instance was a kitchen knife found in the apartment of Sollecito which knife allegedly contained DNA of the victim. At the trial level, there was the typical battle of the experts with experts from both sides testifying either that the evidence was reliable or that it should be disregarded. Judge Hellmann resolved this issue by appointing independent experts who would not be beholden to either side. The turning point in the litigation of the case came when the independent experts submitted their conclusions and determined that both items of evidence should be disregarded. This was a major victory for the defense. With these two items out of the case, there was no evidence of Knox or Sollecito in the room where the crime was committed and no evidence of the crime on the persons or belongings of either of the defendants. I think that consideration should be given to using independent experts more often in the United States criminal justice system. There are numerous technical issues in criminal cases – especially in case where crime scene evidence is of critical importance. I suspect that it is not at all unusual for American judges and juries to be confused by the testimony of technical experts – especially when dueling experts get into conflict on highly technical matters. Of course, the independent experts would have enormous power in certain cases and care would have to be taken in their selection. Each party could submit a list of acceptable experts and the judge could examine each list. His task would become easy if there were “overlap” and certain experts were on both lists. If no overlap could be found, the judge could investigate the selection of an independent expert and contact target individuals to finalize the selection.

I think that these measures would tend to reduce the unacceptably high rate of wrongful convictions in the United States.

You can read more from Phillip Mause on Seeking Alpha: <http://seekingalpha.com/instablog/396040-philip-mause/4674866-what-america-can-learn-from-the-amanda-knox-case>

## Rex's Ride for Jamie Snow

By Tam Alex

First, a quick update: Although there has been much going on in the background, we all know that moving through the courts is a slow and tedious process. To that end, we still have a DNA motion pending in Circuit court, and the federal habeas is still in abeyance. That's where we are in the courts, and we hope to see some movement in 2016. We continue to thank you for your support – it means everything.

Which brings me to the topic of my note for you – an amazing supporter.

Rex and Jamie share a love of motorcycles. Jamie has been riding them since he was 5 years old and Rex rebuilds them as a hobby. Jamie's dad was a mechanic, and rather famous on the stock car circuit.

Now deceased, Jamie's father, Les “Tiger” Snow was inducted into the Illinois Stock Car Hall of Fame in 2012. Les won 3 Championships in a row at Peoria Speedway in 1950, 1951 and 1952 doubling up at Kankakee in 1950 & 1951. He also competed at Lincoln, Springfield, Fairbury and Farmer City. He remarkably was able to get a factory ride with Chevy in 1956. Les drove ARCA scoring over 35 victories including an ARCA 200 at Daytona International Speedway.



Source: [http://www.illinoisstockcarhalloffame.com/2012\\_inductees.asp](http://www.illinoisstockcarhalloffame.com/2012_inductees.asp)

## Rex's Ride for Jamie Snow (continued)

Rex is building a bike for Jamie to ride when he gets out. They are starting from scratch, and constantly going back and forth about the design, colors, etc. It's an enormous task, and a beautiful thing. They are both very funny, and before I go on, you can read the letters between them and see the pictures here:

<http://blog.freejamiesnow.com/category/rexs-ride-for-jamie/>

The bike before rebuild:



Rex showing Jamie what "fringe" on the handle bars and another seat type will look like before he tears it down:





Rex's Ride for Jamie Snow (continued)

The crew from the Powder Coat shop made a picture for Jamie holding the newly powder coated frame:



I'm not even sure Rex realizes the reach what he's doing. Jamie is excited, interested and engaged with people on the outside. He has a project of his own and has control over the design. He has a friend who cares enough to do this for him. And finally, he has something to take him away from that place and his case – even if for a couple of hours when he's thinking about his bike.

The case, the case, the case. I am the world's worst about focusing on the case and not personal things. Thank God he has supporters like these who keep things balanced.

Just one "not so small" gesture from someone like Rex, who keeps Jamie connected to the outside. It all counts, it all matters.

Thank you Rex.

Tam Alex

**Please visit these websites to learn more about Jamie's case:**

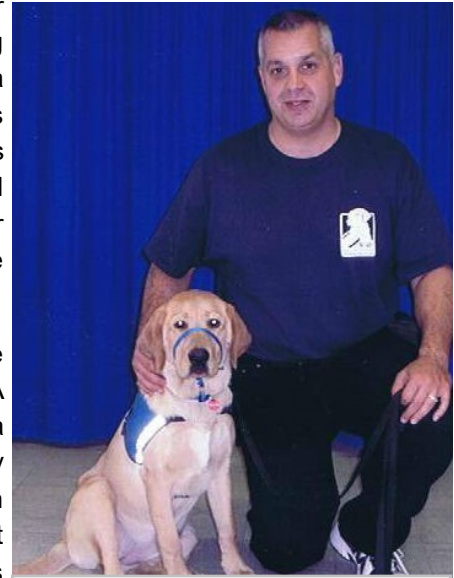
- Committee to Free Jamie Snow: [FreeJamieSnow.com](http://FreeJamieSnow.com)
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/freejamiesnow>
- Injustice Anywhere Featured Case: <http://www.injusticeanywhere.org/2015/01/08/jamie-snow/>

## Brian Peixoto Update

By Sarah Snyder

Brian Peixoto is convicted of assaulting his ex-girlfriend's child Christopher Affonso for wetting his pants resulting in his death. The truth is the young child suffered a subdural hematoma developed from a fall down a staircase 10 days before. He suffered seizures days later resulting in his death. The medical diagnosis at the time was that Christopher's injuries were so severe they only could be caused shortly before death. Medical information has developed enough to now know that it was possible for Christopher to survive many days with his initial injury from the fall before he fell into seizures that ended his life. [brianpeixoto.com](http://brianpeixoto.com)

Since this case was first introduced to Injustice Anywhere in 2014 there have been a lot of developments in the campaign for Brian's release. A Facebook page was established to promote Brian's case. It has become a rally point for Brian's friends and family as well as all those compelled by this outrageous injustice. Old friends who Brian had not heard from in years now have a place to come and voice their support, and that support has been very touching. This is a man who left friends from all areas of his life that have never believed Brian could be guilty. [www.facebook.com/Free-Brian-Peixoto-744966995577900/](https://www.facebook.com/Free-Brian-Peixoto-744966995577900/)



Brian Peixoto

Almost simultaneously Injustice Anywhere board member Jen Fitzgerald offered her assistance to his cause. Jen is a former public defender who lives very close to the Peixoto family in Massachusetts. It almost seems like destiny that Jen and the Peixoto's have been drawn together. Jen has since dedicated herself round the clock to Brian Peixoto, as well as another IA featured case, Jeff Havard. The two cases have a great deal of similarities involving medical misdiagnosis of a child's head injury. Jen says she WILL win and it is hard not to believe her. These cases need all the help they can get. Please help by signing their petitions and writing letters on their behalf.

The most exciting news to start the new year off with a lot of hope is a huge feature article in Boston Magazine 'A Final Appeal' by Gus Garcia-Roberts. The article will be posted soon, so keep your eyes open for it. This article could be a huge step in gaining Brian's case the public attention that it needs and deserves. Brian's support is strong and his case is gaining public momentum.

All of this leads to the most important thing of all - a new trial. Attorney Jen Fitzgerald, along with an investigator, has gone through the entire case files and has found a lot to work with. Brian has already had two appeals denied and the cards are stacked against him. One strategic aspect will be showing the amount of errors made in Brian's case are so voluminous that to deny him a new trial would be an injustice. Another aspect will be revealing that the defense was not given information that Christopher Affonso Sr. had filed neglect papers against mother Ami Sneed before his son's tragic death. A phone call he had with Ami also supported Brian's description of events. Ami told Christopher's father that she had seen him having seizures, hitting his head on the floor, and throwing up.

If you wish to help Attorney Jen Fitzgerald and Brian Peixoto's support network, please start by signing his petition: [www.change.org/p/governor-baker-advisory-board-of-pardons-executive-office-of-public-safety](http://www.change.org/p/governor-baker-advisory-board-of-pardons-executive-office-of-public-safety)

Follow that up with a letter in his support. There is a huge year coming in Brian Peixoto's pursuit for freedom. Keep your eyes open for his appeal and any ways you can assist.

## Jeff Havard Awaits Decision On Request For Evidentiary Hearing

By Bruce Fischer

2015 was a difficult year for Jeff Havard but it was not a year without hope. Jeff currently sits wrongfully convicted on death row in Mississippi for the sexual assault and murder of his girlfriend's six-month-old daughter, Chloe Britt. The truth is the infant slipped from Jeff's arms while lifting her from the tub, causing her head to hit the toilet. New expert evidence supports Jeff's claims. Improper accusations of a sexual assault were the result of a rush to judgement by ER staff. It has now been proven that no sexual assault of any kind ever took place. Chloe's death was a tragic accident, not a murder.



Jeff Havard

After nearly 13 years, the Mississippi Supreme Court finally granted Jeff permission last April to request an evidentiary hearing based on new evidence. The process to request an evidentiary hearing is not a speedy one. The defense filed their request to the court in June of 2015. The State responded in opposition to the defense petition in October, leading the defense to file their response to the opposition this past December. The next step is for the judge to make his ruling on the defense request for an evidentiary hearing. Jeff continues to wait, hopeful that he will eventually have his day in court.

Unfortunately, Jeff's good news was sandwiched between two traumatic events in his life. One month prior to the news that he may finally get a hearing, Jeff suffered the loss of his grandfather. In March of 2015, Billy and Ruby Havard set out to make the 2 ½ hour drive to Mississippi State Penitentiary to visit their grandson, Jeff. The drive had become a regular part of their lives over the past 13 years, as they cherished their visits with Jeff. Jeff's relationship with his grandparents has been a special one. Jeff went to live with them when he was 13-years-old, spending his crucial teen years gaining positive influence from two people that he cherishes. Sadly, Billy fell ill shortly after the visit and was admitted to the hospital the next day. That visit would be the last time that Jeff would see his grandfather. The man who was like a father to him was dead. Jeff was forced to mourn his devastating loss all alone in a cage. He was not there to pray for his grandfather at his wake, he was not there to attend funeral services, and he was not there to hug his grandmother to help bring her comfort and express his gratitude for all that she has done for him. Those crucial moments were stolen from Jeff by the state of Mississippi.

Jeff's second traumatic event occurred in May of 2015. During a visit with his grandmother, their conversation was shockingly interrupted when Jeff was attacked by another inmate while he was shackled to his chair unable to defend himself. The attack was a horrifying moment for his grandmother who watched helplessly from the other side of the glass.

Jeff described the moment of attack on his blog: *"I was having a great visit with my grandma, as always. We were talking about old times with my grandpa. As you can imagine, the grief we share is still very raw, even at this moment. Towards the end of our visit, I saw an inmate lunging at me out of the corner of my eye. Keep in mind that as a death row inmate, though wrongfully, I am in full restraints – both wrists and ankles chains and on top of that, the ankle restraints are chained to the stool I am sitting on. Every death row inmate is supposed to be restrained this way, except this inmate was completely out of his restraints, free of custody and barreling towards me. My first thought was to wonder if he was coming at me or someone else. A nano-second later, I realized it was me. He cocked his fist back as he was running towards me to punch me. I was a sitting duck with no range of motion, no way to defend myself or fight back, so all I could do was duck and turn my head so that I wouldn't get punched in the face. I looked up through the glass at my grandma and saw something I never want to see again. There are no words to describe the look of horror on her face mixed with her screams for help."*



## Jeff Havard Awaits Decision On Request For Evidentiary Hearing (continued)

Jeff goes on to write about the thoughts that went through his mind as he remained shackled to his knocked over chair, sustaining punch after punch. He imagined that his life may have been coming to an end when he wrote: *"I felt a calmness come over me. I thought about Pawpaw and how I may be meeting him on the other side sooner than I thought. I guessed I'd be buried right beside him in a few days. A part of me resigned myself to the situation and was accepting of it, and a huge part of me just wanted to be with my grandpa again, either in this temporal realm or the spiritual realm. I didn't want to die, but if I did, I'd see my grandpa again. I was okay with it, either way."*

Guards finally arrived to stop the beating after being alerted by screams from visitors on the other side of the glass in the visitation room. There was no reason for another inmate to be unrestrained in that area, and it was completely unacceptable for the area to go unmonitored. To date, Jeff has received no explanation from the prison regarding the unrestrained inmate or the lack of monitoring that day.

Jeff's story is one which highlights the fact that wrongful convictions cause irreparable damage. It is now crystal clear that Jeff Havard sits on death row in Mississippi for a crime that never happened. Five experts have reviewed the case who confirm that a sexual assault never took place and that the evidence shows the cause of death was a short fall. The State's only expert is also on record stating that a sexual assault never took place and that he no longer believes the prosecution's claim that the infant's death was the result of Shaken Baby Syndrome inflicted throughout the course of a sexual assault. There are currently no experts who support the prosecution's claims. Most shockingly, it is now proven that the prosecution knew before trial that a sexual assault never took place.

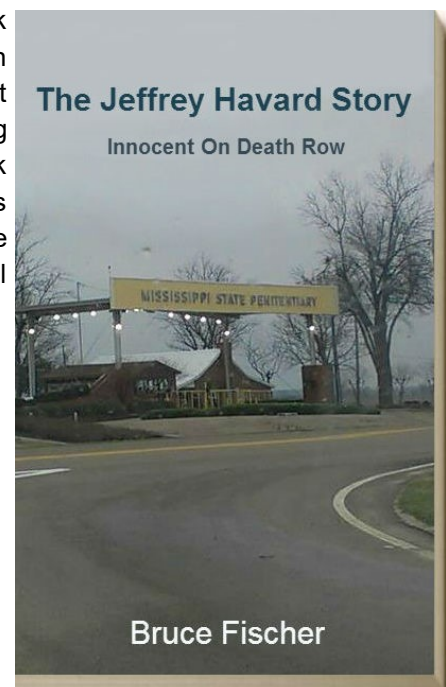
Jeff Havard has waited far too long. Jeff must be granted a new trial so that he can be given a legitimate chance to prove his innocence. The truth is that the State no longer has any case at all against Jeff, that's why they are pushing so hard to avoid a new trial. This very point should be extremely disturbing to everyone. Injustice Anywhere is hopeful that 2016 will be a very good year for Jeff Havard.

## Book Update

I have been reporting for a couple of years now that I have a new book coming out on the Jeff Havard case. Unfortunately, the project has been repeatedly delayed due to various factors. I am pleased to announce that "The Jeffrey Havard Story: Innocent On Death Row" is finally nearing completion, and I am hopeful to see it published by Summer. The book includes information from several years of research on the case as well as insight I have gained from my conversations with Jeff. Jeff's story is one which needs to be heard. I am hopeful the book will provide an additional resource to help spread the word.

### Please visit these websites to learn more about Jeff's case:

- Injustice Anywhere website: [www.freejeffreghavard.org](http://www.freejeffreghavard.org)
- Jeff's Blog: [www.savejeffreghavard.com](http://www.savejeffreghavard.com)
- Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/FreeJeffreyHavard/](https://www.facebook.com/FreeJeffreyHavard/)
- Facebook Group: [www.facebook.com/groups/237877432998032/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/237877432998032/)
- Spreaker Radio: [Will Science Free Jeffrey Havard?](#)



## The Bossetti-Gambirasio Case In Italy

By Luca Cheli

Yara Gambirasio was a 13 years old girl of Brembate, a small town in the province of Bergamo, in Northern Italy, who disappeared on November 26, 2010, and whose corpse was found in an open field in the nearby Chignolo three months later, on February 26, 2011.

The murder triggered one of the most imposing and expensive investigations in Italian history: the rumor has it that it could have been cost to the Italian taxpayer as much as 8 million euro.

This gargantuan effort led, on June 16, 2014, to the arrest of Massimo Giuseppe Bossetti, a 44 years old (at the time) construction worker living at Mapello, another small town close to Brembate.

It looked like a slam dunk case, since it had been known for years to the public opinion that the DNA of the alleged killer (at the time named “Ignoto1”, that is “Unsub1”) had been found on the victim’s corpse and all the massive investigation was finalized to give a name to the owner of that DNA.



Yara Gambirasio

The prosecution and the media (or the prosecution through the media, if you prefer) announced soon after the arrest that Bossetti’s DNA matched the sample attributed to Unsub1 on 21 markers, forensically speaking an almost unprecedented feat and a watertight identification.

The general expectation was that of a confession in face of such foolproof evidence of guilt, and some started to have doubts when this confession did not come after a few days or weeks.

### Too good to be true?

The crucial piece of DNA evidence in this case is a trace named 31G20, collected on the victim’s panties.

In various court documents and expert reports it has been defined as of being of “outstandingly good quality” and “with abundant presence of cells”.

It matches with the defendant’s DNA profile on as much as 21 markers: all those used in the CODIS plus others used in Europe.

Nevertheless, already back in 2011, the RIS (the special department of the Italian Carabinieri devoted to forensic investigations) pointed out that:

*“As it has been repeatedly stigmatized, the analytical study of the samples considered in the present investigation has been made particularly difficult by their bad state of conservation and by the objective complexity of the subsequent lab results, not always well construable because of the high level of biological degradation of the samples ... [...] on the other hand, it appears at least debatable how a possible degradation of the proteins in the trace isn’t matched by a correspondent degradation of DNA.”*

This means that the RIS were unable to positively determine the biological source of the trace (i.e. blood, semen, saliva, etc.), because they were unable to find the corresponding mRNA (messenger RNA) markers in the trace and what they are saying is “it is strange that if the trace was deteriorated enough not to allow us to find the mRNA markers, it was on the other hand possible to find a DNA match on so many markers”.

It is not the only “oddity” of said trace: the mitochondrial DNA of the defendant does not show up in the trace either.

### The Bossetti-Gambirasio Case In Italy (continued)

While nuclear DNA (nDNA) contains much more information than mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and it is the only one unique to a specific individual (except for identical twins), mtDNA is generally considered the one more able to resist degradation.

So a trace presenting a nDNA of “outstandingly good quality” together with a lack of mRNA and mtDNA is an outstandingly rare beast indeed.

And it is not all, because according to the prosecution’s case Yara’s body remained lying in open country for 90 days after her death, and while I’m not a geneticist or a forensic scientist, studies quoted during the debate on the case in Italy seem to exclude the possibility of the persistence of any nDNA for such a long time in those conditions, let alone the possibility of retrieving a sample of “outstandingly good quality”



Massimo Giuseppe Bossetti

The discussion on DNA at trial has begun on October 21st and is ongoing.

So far only the prosecution experts have been examined and while they have steadfastly maintained that only nDNA can positively identify a person, they have also given only vague explanations to the mtDNA anomaly.

Some of them have even tried to discredit mtDNA analysis, presenting it as somewhat “vintage” or “backwards” with respect to nDNA analysis, apparently forgetting that in the context of this investigation more than 500 such tests were performed in what at the time was praised as a “unique in the world” genetic investigation.

The experts from RIS also made a bad impression when they stated that producing the raw data files (as ordered by the Court) would be too difficult.

Apparently those files are now being delivered, among many controversies about their real content and their completeness.

The crucial clash will probably be the examination of the defense experts, also because it will finally allow us to understand what the defense’s strategy is and how far they will go, above all if they will dare to open talk of synthetic DNA (which would explain all the anomalies) and of conspiracy.

Hearings have been scheduled until March 2016, then there will be the closing arguments and probably a verdict in April.

Bossetti entered the trial with a foregone verdict of guilt looming on him and probably he does not have many chances of acquittal on first grade, but the case is wide open and above all it can have long ranging consequences for Italian justice and law enforcement as a whole.

Because the inescapable conclusion may only be that or Bossetti has been framed with some sort of synthetic or manipulated or, at best, misstated DNA, or he is guilty.

But the anomalies in that DNA make a framing a real possibility and if there was indeed a framing, then who did it in the most expensive murder investigation in Italy, in which so many reputations and career were, and still are, at stake?

Among the many anomalies, in July this year an Italian IT company, appropriately named “Hacking Team”, was exposed as a producer and employer of hacking tools on behalf of (among others) the Italian law enforcement and a letter from the company’s CEO made an explicit reference to the firm’s intervention in the Bossetti-Gambirasio case ...



## Injustice Anywhere Endorsed Case: David Thorne

By Sue Gless Thorne

David Thorne has been incarcerated since July 14, 1999 for a crime he didn't commit. From the beginning, David was the sole focus of detectives, despite an alibi. He was eventually implicated by Joseph Wilkes, a low-functioning associate who was bullied and coerced into confessing to a crime he didn't commit and implicating David Thorne for leniency. Joseph was the third of David's friends interrogated by hostile detectives hoping for a co-defendant, but the first willing to falsely confess in order to "save himself". By doing so he cost David, the only person who was ever kind to him, the rest of his life.



David Thorne

Each year when Christmas rolls around, we say, "This new year will be our year". Then we meet another Christmas, another 'new year', and another crushing disappointment. The disappointments have not been as surprising since David's final appeal was denied in 2011. Once that paper arrives with 'Denied' so prominently displayed, you really have no recourse other than finding new evidence or actually solving the crime. But the downside to that prospect is that no one wants to sign on to help someone with basically no hope.



In 2013, we made the decision that testing the DNA was the way to get to freedom. An enormous amount of testable evidence was collected when the crime scene was processed. There was a massive amount of blood evidence in the contained scene. The killer brazenly stepped on the victim's back, leaving a bloody footprint. They wiped the murder weapon, a knife, off on the victim's pillow. A large knife identical to a set in the victim's home was found five blocks from the crime scene the day after the murder, bearing a thumbprint not belonging to Joseph Wilkes or David Thorne. Two ashtrays, each containing two brands of cigarettes, were recovered.

No DNA testing has been done on the biological or physical evidence in State v David Thorne in the 16 years since the murder. When questioned as to why, the crime lab technician testified that no one asked them to, so they didn't.

David's wish list is short. Other than the obvious, his freedom and his family, he wishes someone would step forward to file a pro bono DNA request on his behalf. Someone they will not ignore as easily as they do him. Senate Bill 262 recently became law in Ohio, allowing inmates who had no previous DNA testing done on their behalf to petition the Attorney General's office to have testing done. In David's case, ignoring him is the way his applications have been received.



David Thorne

The answer to this case is the DNA. Testing it will show everyone what David has said all along. He is innocent.

**Please visit these websites to learn more about the David Thorne case:**

- The Wrongful Conviction of David Thorne: <http://www.wcodt.org/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/freedavidthorne>

## New Injustice Anywhere Endorsed Case: Brendan Dassey

Injustice Anywhere has added the **Brendan Dassey** case to our list of **Endorsed Cases**. We now have six endorsed cases. Other cases include: **Melissa Calusinski**, **Jimmy Dennis**, **Rodney Lincoln**, **Hank Skinner**, and **David Thorne**.

Brendan Dassey was convicted in Wisconsin on March 17, 2007, of first-degree intentional homicide, mutilation of a corpse, and first-degree sexual assault. Dassey was sentenced to life in prison, with a chance for early release in 2048. The victim was 25-year-old Teresa Halbach. Dassey's uncle, Steven Avery, was also convicted of murdering Halbach, but the two were tried separately. Avery, who was already proven to have been wrongfully convicted in a prior case in the same county after serving 18 years as an innocent man, has denied any involvement in the Halbach murder. Avery's supporters argue that the same police force who wronged him the first time, set out to frame him once again in an attempt to avoid paying out millions of dollars to settle a civil suit resulting from his wrongful conviction.



Brendan Dassey

During their murder investigation, police questioned Dassey, then a 16-year-old high school student, looking to find information on Avery, the lead suspect in their case. Interrogation recordings show that Dassey was coerced into making false statements which were then used against him to secure his conviction. The recent debut of the Netflix documentary *Making A Murderer*, which details the murder of Teresa Halbach and the controversy surrounding her death, has brought renewed attention to the decade-old case. The series has left many wondering if Steven Avery and Brendan Dassey had anything at all to do with the crimes they are charged with.

Injustice Anywhere has reviewed the Brendan Dassey case and has determined it to be a clear cut case of wrongful conviction. Dassey's interrogation recordings provide a casebook example of a coerced confession. Sadly, Dassey was horribly mistreated by his public defender as well. Dassey did not receive a proper defense, instead he was coached by his attorney to say he was guilty. The attorney even had his own investigator instruct Dassey on how to draw images of the crime scene which would support the prosecution's arguments. Dassey is seen acting clearly confused during the recorded session, which irritates the investigator, prompting him to give orders to Dassey telling him exactly what he needs to draw, providing all of the necessary details along the way.

There is no evidence against Dassey, beyond his statements to police. He was interrogated at 16-years-old without an attorney present, and he had ineffective counsel, making it impossible for him to receive a fair trial. At the very least, Dassey deserves a new trial.

As noted above, Steven Avery's claim to innocence is based on the allegation that police planted incriminating physical evidence, and that may very well be the case. Injustice Anywhere has not taken a position on the Avery case at this time, but we do find many aspects of his case to be disturbing. Research needs to go beyond information provided on a TV show to properly analyze a case. In due time, we may add Avery to our endorsed cases list as well.



Teresa Halbach

Brendan Dassey's claim to innocence is straightforward. Nothing links him to Halbach's murder except the garbled statements he made under duress, which he has long since recanted. Physical evidence proves he is innocent of the crime for which he was convicted. Dassey's recorded interrogation is available on our website, as well as the court transcripts for his trial. Dassey's case for innocence is strong.

Join the "Making a Murderer" discussion on the **Injustice Anywhere Forum**.

## Mary Jane Veloso – Human Trafficked, Forced Drug Mule

By Stuart Lyster – IA Advisory Board

The Philippines exports almost five thousand workers overseas a day. A day. Philippine nationals regard this as a mixed blessing – often trading 10 years of separation from family for sending a regular remittance back home to support them.

This reality invites abuse, all the way from reputable recruiters who suggest that such people might not want to exercise their rights as workers in the host country, all the way to traffickers who fraudulently promise passports and citizenship in the new country.

Mary Jane Veloso's story as a Philippine OFW started as many do: In The Philippines as a poor mother seeking a chance to improve their lot. Her story almost ended in April 2015 on Indonesia's infamous, "Execution Island" (island of Nusakambangan Island off central Java) where she and nine other convicted drug-traffickers faced a firing squad.



Boxer and elected legislator Manny Pacuaio visits Mary Jane Veloso in Indonesia

The others were all male, the alleged "Bali 9" which included two Australians. The Indonesian Supreme Court and President Joko Widodo denied appeals. Both Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III as well as Garry Martinez of Migrante International appealed for clemency.

In a rare display of high level, Philippine investigation in such cases, their Department of Justice had determined that instead of being a drug trafficker, Veloso herself was the victim of human trafficking at the hands of recruiters Maria Cristina Sergio and Julius Lacanilao. Sergio and Lacanilao were accused by the DOJ of duping Veloso into bringing heroin into Indonesia.

According to sources, the DOJ's statement, "is a solid and substantial evidence in favor of Mary Jane's case." It's "tangible proof that she is an innocent victim," and that Veloso was "falsely promised and abused by drug couriers."

Sergio and Lacanilao turned themselves in to Philippine authorities and Indonesia continues to stay Veloso's execution into 2016. Further info as the Sergio and Lacanilao case wends its way through the Philippine court system can be had at [#SaveMaryJane](#), or at: <http://migranteinternational.org/tag/mary-jane-veloso/>. You can also join the discussion on the [Injustice Anywhere forum](#).

## Judges For Justice Featured Case: Christopher Tapp

Christopher Tapp was convicted in 1998 of raping and killing 18-year-old Idaho Falls resident, Angie Dodge, in 1996. The only evidence in the case was a confession by Tapp which is arguably false. Tapp's confession has all the signs of an unreliable coerced confession. Many people, including the victim's mother believe Tapp is innocent of the crime. Bruce Fischer is part of the [Judges for Justice Team](#) and [Injustice Anywhere](#) is working with Judges for Justice to help promote this case. Judges for Justice has released an outstanding video detailing Tapp's false confession. The video can be viewed on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfgbjZ4Y5og>



Christopher Tapp

**Please visit these websites to learn more about the Christopher Tapp case:**

- Judges for Justice: <http://judgesforjustice.org/>
- Injustice Anywhere Forum: <http://www.injusticeanywhereforum.com/viewforum.php?f=222>



## Injustice Anywhere Mourns Loss Of Joseph W Bishop

The wrongful conviction community has been left in shock with the news of Joseph W Bishop's passing. Joe was a staunch advocate for the wrongfully convicted. He worked tirelessly to bring people together to help spread the word about causes he cared deeply about. He traveled the world to attend court hearings, conferences, congressional hearings, and various fundraisers, all in support of those he advocated for. His relentless dedication was an inspiration to all he came in contact with.

Joe's advocacy efforts were a sight to behold. He was relentless in his pursuit of the truth. His ability to properly research a topic was unmatched, and once he had the facts of a case at his disposal, all who disagreed with him were sure to be taken to school. His approach was stern but fair. He was one of few I have seen who could politely put someone in their place in the often unruly world of online comment sections.



Joseph W Bishop

Joe played a key role in the advocacy efforts to exonerate Amanda Knox and Raffaele Sollecito for the murder of Meredith Kercher in Perugia, Italy, in 2007. He was one of the early supporters to surface online shortly after Knox and Sollecito were arrested. Armed with the truth, Joe went on a mission to set the record straight. As the years went on, he played a pivotal role in introducing new supporters into an ever-growing online grassroots campaign which came together in support of Knox and Sollecito. His efforts worked to build lasting bonds throughout the innocence community.

Rumors and accusations have circulated on the internet over the years claiming that millions of dollars were spent on a public relations campaign for Knox and Sollecito. These rumors were all nonsense of course. The truth is, strangers from around the world came together to help a cause they believed in. The sheer determination and resolve of people like Joseph Bishop made it all possible. I can say that I am proud to have played a role in the effort and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Joe and many others to win a battle we so desperately wanted to win. Thankfully, the Italian Supreme Court got it right with their final ruling. We were all ecstatic when Knox and Sollecito were exonerated in March of 2015.

Joe's work on the Knox and Sollecito case led him to take on a daunting task. Joe was a big fan of Wikipedia, but he was disturbed to see the Wikipedia page dedicated to the Meredith Kercher murder being hijacked by Knox and Sollecito detractors. He wrote about his concerns in an article titled: "[The Amanda Knox Case: A Rare Failure at Wikipedia](#)." Joe put together an open letter to Wikipedia's founder, Jimbo Wales, and much to the surprise of many, he got a response. And it wasn't just any response, it was a game changer. Joe's efforts inspired Wales to get personally involved with the Meredith Kercher page. Wales challenged Wikipedia editors to clean up their mess, and as a result, the page was improved greatly.

Joe's interest in the Knox and Sollecito case also led him to seek out other cases of injustice. Soon thereafter, Joe became a strong advocate for both David Camm, and Kirstin Lobato. Camm was wrongfully convicted for the murder of his wife and two children in Indiana. He was acquitted and released in 2013, after spending 13 years in prison as an innocent man. Unfortunately, Lobato's case has not yet been corrected. She continues to fight for her freedom in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Kirstin "Blaise" Lobato was convicted in 2006 of voluntary manslaughter and sexual penetration of a corpse. There is absolutely no evidence implicating her to the crime and she has a rock solid alibi. The authorities failed to properly investigate the crime. Their negligence led to a wrongful conviction. The facts clearly show that Lobato is innocent. There is no doubt that Joe's focus in 2016 would have been to Free Kirstin Lobato.

Joe wrote two informative articles on the Lobato case for GroundReport. He presented the facts of the case in an article titled: "[The Kirstin Lobato Case: An American Miscarriage of Justice](#)." He then wrote a follow-up article titled: "[The Nevada Supreme Court Again Hears Arguments in the Case of Kirstin Lobato](#)." You can read all of Joe's articles on his GroundReport [profile](#) page.

Injustice Anywhere is grateful to have had Joseph Bishop on our [team](#). We have not only lost a dedicated advocate, we have also lost a great friend. Joseph Bishop will be missed by many.

You can view a longer version of this article on [GroundReport](#).

## Publish Your Own Articles

Injustice Anywhere now offers two resources to help advocates publish articles online:

[WrongfulConvictionNews.com](http://WrongfulConvictionNews.com) and [GroundReport.com](http://GroundReport.com).

In August of 2013, we launched Wrongful Conviction News. The website is a crowd-sourced media platform. The site's mission is to provide a wide range of wrongful conviction news while providing free advertising to help advocates promote the cases they support.



**Wrongful Conviction News**  
an Injustice Anywhere Website

## This Is A Great Opportunity For Advocates

Are you currently advocating for someone that has been wrongfully convicted? Are you currently lobbying to improve the system in order to reduce wrongful convictions? Are you an expert that would like to help educate the public? Are you a past victim of wrongful conviction that would like to tell your story? If you answered yes to any of these questions then Wrongful Conviction News is the right website for you.

You do not need to be a professional writer to contribute to Wrongful Conviction News. If you are credible, passionate, and knowledgeable about your cause, then you have what it takes to write for Wrongful Conviction News.

Wrongful Conviction News is driven by the writers that contribute content. This platform is designed to give you an opportunity to bring more attention to the cases that you advocate for.

## Free Advertising On Wrongful Conviction News

The advertisements you see on Wrongful Conviction News are posted free of charge. Our mission is to bring more attention to wrongful convictions. Wrongful Conviction News wants to help you promote your blog or website. Keep in mind that we will review your website or blog before posting advertisements. In order to qualify for free advertisements, your website or blog will need to be on topic, and free from adult content, violence, and profanity.

If you would like to submit a banner for placement on Wrongful Conviction News, please send your banner image with desired destination link to [injusticeanywhere@yahoo.com](mailto:injusticeanywhere@yahoo.com). Please put "Ad for Wrongful Conviction News" in the subject line of your email.

## Utilize The Power Of Google News

GroundReport is a citizen journalism website that has been dedicated to giving a voice to everyday citizens for over a decade. Injustice Anywhere teamed up with GroundReport in May of 2015 to work on a plan to relaunch the site with a new look and a new direction. The site officially relaunched in September of 2015. Bruce Fischer became President of Open News Platform Inc., a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation which owns and operates GroundReport, in December of 2015. We are excited about the future and we look forward to reading the wonderful content provided by GroundReport's citizen journalists.



World news and opinions from the ground

GroundReport is a vital resource for Injustice Anywhere. We feel that our involvement is well worth the investment. GroundReport articles are picked up by Google News and Bing, providing our articles with top placement on the major search engines. This is another excellent opportunity for advocates to have their voices heard.

## Injustice Anywhere Radio

<http://www.speaker.com/show/injustice-anywhere>

The Injustice Anywhere online radio program debuted on August 6, 2013, on BlogTalkRadio. We moved the show to Speaker in February of 2015 in order to reach out to a wider audience. Speaker provides an outstanding user friendly format for listeners on multiple listening devices.

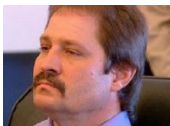
We are very pleased with our new radio home and we look forward to broadcasting new shows in 2016. The Injustice Anywhere Radio Program, hosted by Bruce Fischer, welcomes guests who come on to discuss various wrongful conviction cases. If you have an idea for a show topic, please contact us via email at [injusticeanywhere@yahoo.com](mailto:injusticeanywhere@yahoo.com).

Please watch for updates about upcoming shows on the Injustice Anywhere homepage: [www.injusticeanywhere.org](http://www.injusticeanywhere.org).



**You can listen to past shows anytime by visiting the [Injustice Anywhere Radio archive](#).**

### Recent Shows



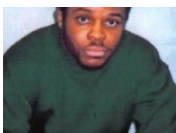
#### **The Barry Beach Case in Montana**

Guests: Dan Gengler and Joyce Ranum



#### **The Fairbanks Four Case In Alaska**

Guest: Brian O'Donoghue



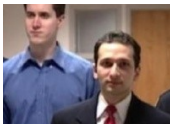
#### **The Jimmy Dennis Case in Pennsylvania**

Guests: Tonya Sneed and Darren Motise



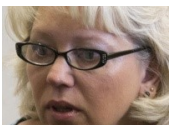
#### **The Mark Lundy Case In New Zealand**

Guests: Geoff Levick, Chris Halkides, and Mark White



#### **The Sebastian Burns & Atif Rafay Case**

Guest: Ken Klonsky



#### **Debra Milke Discusses Her Exoneration**

Guest: Debra Milke



## Who are we?

### Founding Members

**Bruce Fischer:** Executive Director

**Sarah Snyder:** Director of Operations

### Our Advisory Board

**Tammy Alexander:** Advocate, co-founder of Justice for Illinois Wrongfully Convicted

**Joseph Bishop:** Advocate, ([see news article](#))

**Luca Cheli:** Author, Advocate, Translator

**Doug Matthews:** Author, Advocate

**Jen Fitzgerald:** Attorney, Advocate

**Christopher Halkides:** Professor of Biochemistry

**Ron Hendry:** Retired Forensic Engineer

**Jim Lovering:** Advocate, Freelance Writer

**Stu Lyster:** Advocate

**Philip Mause:** Attorney, Advocate

**Steve Moore:** Retired FBI Agent

**Robert Owen:** Advocate, Financial Professional

**Michael Scadron:** Retired Senior Trial Counsel with the United States Department of Justice, Advocate

**Nigel Scott:** Author, Advocate

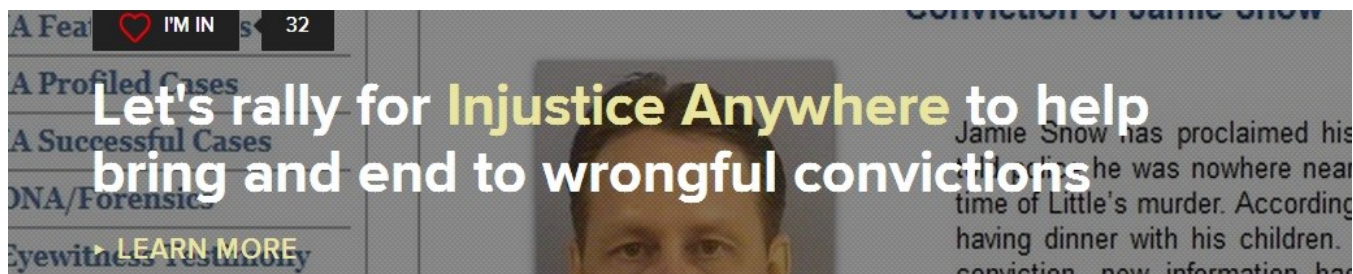
**Clive Wismayer:** English Solicitor, Advocate

**Tom Zupancic:** Molecular Biologist, Advocate

Please visit [InjusticeAnywhere.org](http://InjusticeAnywhere.org) to learn more about our volunteers. Several of our board members have provided photos and bios.

In addition to the members listed here, Injustice Anywhere also has over 2000 members on our discussion forum and over 1200 members in our Facebook group. We greatly appreciate the efforts of all involved. Several breakthroughs have been discovered by members of our discussion forum that have proven to be beneficial to the cases that we actively support.

Please keep in mind that members of our advisory board do not necessarily agree with every one of our featured cases. Injustice Anywhere understands that many cases are controversial. We welcome the input of our members regardless of personal opinion on guilt or innocence. We believe open dialogue is crucial when working to find the truth.



## Rally for Injustice Anywhere

Donate here: <https://rally.org/injustice-anywhere/donate>

Injustice Anywhere is an all-volunteer organization which was created to bring more knowledge and attention to wrongful convictions and to work to bring much needed reform. We currently have six featured cases and we endorse six others. Please visit [InjusticeAnywhere.org](http://InjusticeAnywhere.org) to learn more about these cases.

Our efforts rely on contributions from our supporters. Contributions make it possible for Injustice Anywhere to cover the operational costs of our websites, which include: [injusticeanywhere.org](http://injusticeanywhere.org), [injusticeanywhereforum.com](http://injusticeanywhereforum.com), [freejeffreyhavard.org](http://freejeffreyhavard.org), [freecharleserickson.org](http://freecharleserickson.org), [amandaknoxcase.com](http://amandaknoxcase.com), [injusticeinperugia.org](http://injusticeinperugia.org), [ingustiziaperugia.org](http://ingustiziaperugia.org), and [wrongfulconvictionnews.com](http://wrongfulconvictionnews.com).

We also operate an online radio station on [spreaker.com](http://spreaker.com), and we help run [groundreport.com](http://groundreport.com), a citizen journalism website which provides advocates a platform to help bring attention to their causes. GroundReport articles are featured on Google News.

Contributions also make it possible for Injustice Anywhere to cover the costs of managing our LLC, obtaining legal documents, legal counsel, insurance, updated media contact data, and Google and Facebook advertising to help bring attention to our featured cases. Please visit [InjusticeAnywhere.org](http://InjusticeAnywhere.org) today to learn more about supporting our cause.

## Purchasing Injustice Anywhere apparel is another great way to support our efforts!

Now is your chance to support a good cause and look great while doing it! Choose from a range of styles and colors. Choose from Haynes tagless tees, Gildan long sleeve tees, Gildan heavy blended hoodies, or American Apparel women's fitted tees.

Teespring makes it easy. Shipping is just \$3.99 for the first apparel item and \$2.00 for each additional apparel item.

**Place your order for Injustice Anywhere apparel today!**



Please only consider making a monetary contribution if you are able to do so. Much of our progress to date has absolutely nothing to do with money. Dedicated individuals that invest their valuable time to advocate for Injustice Anywhere are truly the backbone of our organization. The time and effort put forth by our members is invaluable. Injustice Anywhere greatly appreciates those efforts.