PRESS RELEASE #11: Former Jurors Support Request for New Trial After Reviewing Withheld Evidence

Former Toledoan John Ewing has asked a Jackson County, Michigan, judge to vacate his 1985 rape conviction. The motion for new trial presents evidence withheld from the defense and prosecution, discovered by Kay Anderson of Maumee, Ohio. The evidence reveals that chief investigator William Eskridge manipulated the investigation to assure Ewing's conviction for a rape he did not commit. Two former jurors who reviewed the new evidence signed affidavits in support of the motion:

"I do not believe John Chandler Ewing would have been found guilty if this evidence had been presented to the jury. The new evidence raises a reasonable doubt in my mind concerning his guilt in the June 20, 1983 rape of [the complainant]. I would have voted to find Ewing not guilty."

For years, the defense was baffled by Eskridge's ability to convince law enforcement authorities that the case was solved with Ewing's arrest. Attorney Adams summarized the unraveling of this mystery: "The public, the courts, and jurors were unaware that Eskridge's story was a fabrication -- replete with evidence tampering and perjury -- which led to the life imprisonment of an innocent man. ... The panoply of Eskridge's misconduct, which took over ten years to reveal, is truly astounding: the suspect composite linking Ewing to the rapes was a forgery; exculpatory reports were withheld; evidence was destroyed to prevent DNA testing; and the list goes on." Much of this evidence has been featured in past JUSTICE FOR JOHN press releases.

Although bitter, John Ewing has tried to remain philosophical: "While I'm thankful we were finally able to discover the truth, the fact remains that this has been a nightmare for everyone involved in this case, especially my family. I just hope that Judge Nelson puts an end to 14 years of injustice." For more information, a copy of the motion, or copies of prior press releases contact JUSTICE FOR JOHN, or call:

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