



WRONGFULLY CONVICTED OREGONIAN FREED WITH HELP FROM OREGON INNOCENCE PROJECT

DNA EVIDENCE THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN REPORTED AT TIME OF TRIAL LED TO NICK MCGUFFIN'S MANSLAUGHTER CONVICTION BEING VACATED BY AN OREGON COURT.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12.17.19

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Statement to be attributed to Steve Wax, Legal Director, Oregon Innocence Project.

"We are delighted that Nick McGuffin is being freed now that his conviction for manslaughter has been overturned and that there will be no appeal from the State or retrial. Staff and volunteers of the Oregon Innocence Project worked for five years on Nick's case, including Janis Puracal prior to her creating the Forensic Justice Project. Nick is also represented by Ryan O'Connor of O'Connor Weber. Nick's case was one of the first brought to us when we opened our doors in 2014. In particular, our researcher John Comery has shown outstanding commitment to helping Nick and has worked on the case since we took it on. Nick's release follows thousands of hours of labor by our staff and volunteers. As in so many innocence cases, it is only with dedication and tremendous effort by many people that justice will eventually be done. We wish Nick every future happiness as he is reunited with his family and friends."

Notes to Editors: 1. Nick McGuffin is the second person assisted by the Oregon Innocence Project to see his conviction overturned. Last year, Josh Horner of Redmond, Oregon, had his conviction and 50-year sentence overturned by the Deschutes County Court. Both men were convicted by non-unanimous juries. 2. The Oregon Innocence Project represented Nick McGuffin from 2014-2019 up to the decision by Judge Sullivan in November 2019 to overturn his conviction. 3. We respectfully request that you do not use the shorthand "Innocence Project" to describe the Oregon Innocence Project because that is the name of another organization.