



Junk Science and the American Criminal Justice System Keynote

OCTOBER 2, 2025
12:30 PM

M. CHRIS FABRICANT

Chris Fabricant joined the Innocence Project in 2012 as its first director of strategic litigation. In this role, he leads the Innocence Project's Strategic Litigation Department, whose attorneys develop and execute national litigation and public policy strategies to address the leading causes of wrongful conviction. Fabricant is one of the United States' leading experts on forensic sciences and scientific litigation. He has litigated in the United States Supreme Court as amicus curiae counsel in five cases and has personally been involved in the exonerations of a dozen men and women wrongfully convicted through the use of junk science in addition to playing a role in dozens of other exonerations.

Prior to joining the Innocence Project, Fabricant was a longtime New York City public defender and clinical law professor at Pace University School of Law. He frequently serves as a public speaker on law reform issues, and is widely published in both legal scholarship and in mainstream media. In his new book, *Junk Science and the American Criminal Justice System*, he examines the role that faulty scientific evidence has in continuing and strengthening an unjust and racially biased criminal legal system.



INTRODUCED BY Meredith Kennedy

Meredith Kennedy directs the Innocence Network Support Unit at the Innocence Project, a team of professionals dedicated to strengthening individual innocence organizations working in coalition to free innocent people and redress the causes of wrongful convictions. Kennedy provides capacity-building

support to innocence organization leaders around the country, helping them identify and achieve goals in the areas of strategic planning, board engagement, and organizational structure. Nothing gratifies her more than seeing the growth of the organizations that serve the wrongfully convicted and witnessing their ability to help more people every year achieve their freedom. She holds a master's degree in urban affairs from Hunter College and a certificate in nonprofit executive leadership from the University of Indiana. In her spare time, she serves as a volunteer mediator with the New York Peace Institute.

Panel - The Future of Justice: Innovation, Innocence, and the Law

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3:30 PM

JAMES AZADIAN



James ("Jimmy") Azadian is a member in Dykema's Los Angeles and Washington, DC, offices, where he leads the nationwide appellate and critical motions practice and chairs the West Coast appellate practice. He focuses on complex federal and state commercial litigation involving high-stakes business issues, constitutional law—including the First Amendment and California's Article I—and California's anti-SLAPP statute in federal court. Azadian is recognized for guiding clients through disputes with significant legal and business implications.

ANDREW MADRIGAL



Andrew Madrigal is the son of exoneree Rafael Madrigal, Jr., who was wrongfully imprisoned for more than nine years. Drawing on this experience, Madrigal's research focuses on wrongful convictions, criminal-legal reforms, and social justice, with an emphasis on policies that support exonerees and their families. His teaching inspires students to drive positive change within and beyond the criminal-legal system.

DALE F. OGDEN



Dale F. Ogden is a deputy federal public defender in the Central District of California, where he serves in the non-capital habeas unit representing individuals in federal post-conviction cases. He previously worked as an assistant federal public defender in the Western District of Texas, handling appeals before the Fifth Circuit, and clerked for the Honorable Anne T. Berton. Ogden has also taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California and earned his JD from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles.

ERIC MILLER



Eric J. Miller is a professor and Leo J. O'Brien Fellow at Loyola Law School, where he codirects the Loyola Anti-Racism Center. He teaches and writes on criminal procedure, jurisprudence, critical race theory, reparations, and problem-solving courts. A former chair of the AALS Section on Criminal Justice and coeditor of the *Cambridge Handbook on Policing in America*, he also serves as a commissioner on the Sybil Brand Commission, inspecting conditions at Los Angeles County jails.

Panel - Why Innocent People Confess: Understanding False Confessions

OCTOBER 3 ,2025
11 AM



JASMIN HARRIS

Jasmin Harris is the director of policy and development at the Innocence Center and policy director for the California Innocence Coalition. She began her work in 2014 after her brother was incarcerated for a nonviolent protest, which inspired her to pursue legislative change around innocence issues. Since then, Harris has worked closely with lawmakers and advocates, helping pass 11 groundbreaking laws that

prevent wrongful convictions, free the wrongfully incarcerated, and support their reintegration into society.



TERRILL SWIFT

Terrill Swift was wrongfully convicted at just 17 years old and spent more than 15 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Despite the injustice he endured, he emerged determined to use his experience to fight for others. Today Swift speaks across the country about the systemic failures that lead to wrongful convictions, working with advocates, students, and community groups to raise awareness. His story

is a testament to resilience, hope, and the power of transforming tragedy into purpose.



DAVE THOMPSON

Dave Thompson is a speaker, trainer, and president of Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates, where he has led training for more than 15,000 professionals across law enforcement, government, and Fortune 500 companies. He hosts the *Truth Be Told* podcast, exploring the intersection of communication, psychology, and justice. A leading voice in investigative

interviewing, Thompson is also a passionate advocate against wrongful convictions, working with courts, investigators, and legal experts to prevent false confessions and strengthen the reliability of the justice system.



The Science of Justice: Evidence, Error, and Exonerations

The Inaugural Conference
of the Quattrone Wrongful
Convictions Appellate Clinic
October 2-3 , 2025

Caruso School of Law
Pepperdine University
Malibu, California