



The Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism

Exposing injustice through watchdog reporting

Justice Brandeis Innocence Project

Experts believe thousands of wrongfully convicted persons are currently imprisoned (in large part because of race and class).

Most innocence projects look at cases with testable DNA that can determine guilt or innocence; they then use legal arguments to pursue appeals in court.

However, the vast majority of cases of potential wrongful conviction have no available DNA to test. We pursue such cases by digging into the facts; examining court documents and police records; reconstructing the crime scene and timeline; interviewing or re-interviewing witnesses; and then writing for publication and broadcast.

The Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism's **Justice Brandeis Innocence Project**

A dialogue between an exoneree and his prosecutor

Righting Wrongful Convictions

Tuesday, April 24
Shapiro Campus Center
Multipurpose Room

3 p.m.
"After Innocence"
film viewing

4:30 p.m.
Panel discussion
with Dennis Maher,
J.W. Carney,
Robert Feldman,
Bernard Baran, and
John Swomley

Refreshments
will be served

Dennis Maher spent 193 years in prison for crimes he did not commit. In 2003 he was released, becoming the 127th person to be exonerated through post-conviction DNA testing.

Bernard ("Bea") Baran served 21 years in prison for crimes he says he didn't commit. Last June a judge ruled he didn't get a fair trial and released him while the prosecutor decides whether to re-try him.

Sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Office of a Provost, Women's Studies Research Center, International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, Journalism Program, Black Student Organization, Black Student Learning Community, Student Union, Brandeis Chapter, HHSU News



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"Sunlight is the best disinfectant."

—Justice Louis Brandeis

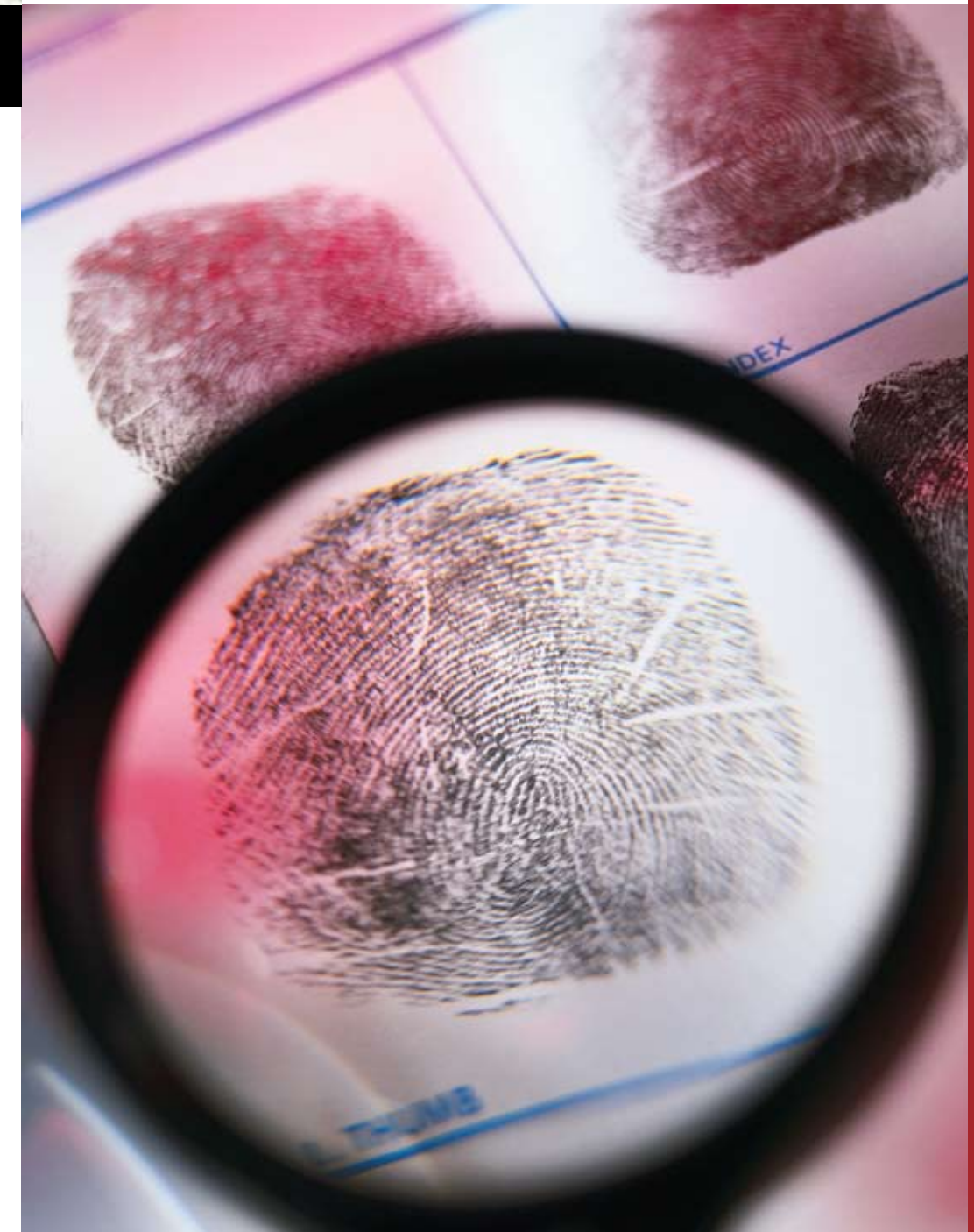
"Holding powerful interests accountable is at the core of the journalistic mission. The Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism makes such reporting possible."

—Melissa Ludtke, Editor,
Nieman Reports, Harvard University

The Schuster Institute
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www.brandeis.edu/investigate



Who?

The Institute's founding director is **Florence George Graves**, an award-winning investigative reporter and editor. For *The Washington Post*, Graves and a colleague broke the Senator Bob Packwood sexual misconduct story. Before that, Graves created and launched *Common Cause Magazine (CCM)*, an award-winning publication whose **articles resulted in almost a dozen congressional hearings and several changes in federal policies.**

What?

The Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism is an independent investigative reporting Institute—only the third of its kind in the nation, and the first and only one based at a university. **Our staff of professional journalists research suspected injustices—and then take the results public, via broadcasts, web magazines, and the mainstream and thought-leader publications that help set the public agenda.**

When?

The Institute was founded in September 2004. Since then, **our original investigative reporting has won awards, and has been reprinted or commented on** by bloggers, broadcasters, columnists, and editors around the world—from **Washington, D.C. to London, from Los Angeles to Hong Kong.**

Where?

Brandeis University, which hosts the Institute, has a longstanding dedication to social justice, human rights, and the pursuit of truth wherever that might lead. While we do not teach classes, we mentor bright and dedicated students who assist us on reporting projects.

Why?

Unfettered journalism is essential for a healthy democracy. What you don't know can hurt you—when it becomes bad medicine, dangerous products, unsafe or unfair working conditions, subverted laws, wrongful convictions, evaporated pensions, or skewed and harmful policies. But when the facts are pursued freely and thoroughly, **watchdog journalism helps keep government, non-profit, and corporate institutions accountable to all.**

How?

To counter under-reporting on issues in the areas below, the Institute selected these three initial “beats”:

- **The Political & Social Justice Project investigates corporate and government malfeasance** on a range of topics, such as airplane safety, homelessness, and health care.

- **The Justice Brandeis Innocence Project** picks up where most other innocence projects leave off. We use “gumshoe” reporting techniques to investigate **cases of potential wrongful conviction in which there is no DNA evidence to test.** These make up the majority of contested cases.

- **The Gender & Justice Project** looks into the continuing injustices and biases that are harming women and their children, and yet are not fully or accurately reported.



“The magazine you published for Common Cause was the singularly best investigative magazine in the country.”

—Bill Moyers, Managing Editor, *Bill Moyers Journal*, PBS

The Institute is “an aggressive and important new player in the expanding world of non-profit journalism.”

—Alex S. Jones, Director, Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics, and Public Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; former reporter, *The New York Times*

“Brandeis University is to be congratulated for creating in its midst the perfect symbol of Justice Brandeis’s belief in the role of an aggressive free press.”

—Bill Kovach, Founding Chairman of the Committee of Concerned Journalists; former editor, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; and former Washington Bureau chief, *The New York Times*



As a guest of the Institute, *The Washington Post*'s legendary Executive Editor Ben Bradlee expressed deep concern regarding the government's continuing power to hide the truth about public affairs.



The Mothers Movement Online

