

# PAUL J. CIOLINO & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Certified Fraud Examiner • Board Certified Forensic Examiner • Certified International Investigator

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# PJC

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**The Injustice Must End (Time)**  
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Last year I was retained to investigate the possible wrongful conviction of Efren Paredes Jr. Paredes was convicted of a brutal robbery/homicide case that occurred in March of 1989 when he was fifteen years old. The case against him was based on the words of informants and co defendants who spent the minimum time in prison while Efren got life in prison as a juvenile.

There is not one shred of credible evidence to suggest that Paredes was involved in the murder. No weapon, no eye witnesses, zero physical evidence, no motive, no prior conduct to suggest that a 15 year old student athlete, and honor role student with zero criminal background, would have planned, participated or committed this murder. The community and jury were sold a bill of goods based on the word of drug dealers and thieves.

I am the author of the textbook *In The Company of Giants*, the co-author of *Advanced Forensic Criminal Defense Investigations & Advanced Forensic Civil Investigations* as well as numerous articles published in international and national publications. I have been investigating wrongful conviction cases for over twenty years throughout the United States. I have helped exonerate and bring home five death row inmates who were innocent.

This case reeks of police and prosecutorial misconduct. The racial overtones are everywhere. Paredes (who is Hispanic) was treated as though he was a member of the terrorist group Al Quada. In reality he comes from a family where there are no criminals, no gang affiliations, nothing but law abiding, hard working, middle class productive members of society. The injustices committed against this family have reached catastrophic proportions. It is time to end this charade and bring Efren Paredes home.

I am urging people to support the campaign to exonerate Efren for many reasons. The most important being is that the next Efren Paredes may be your son, or your brother, or your Father. Enough already. Stop the torture and injustice against this man.

Paul J. Ciolino



## PAUL J. CIOLINO CREDENTIALS

Paul J. Ciolino is a lifelong resident of the Chicago area. Owner of Paul J. Ciolino Associates, Inc., and Dearborn Process Service, Inc., he specializes in complex criminal defense and fraud investigations. Ciolino has been involved in the investigation of over 30 wrongful conviction cases. His participation in wrongful conviction investigations has helped free five men from death row in Illinois and three more from life sentences in Illinois prisons. A stunning videotaped homicide confession that he obtained from a double murder suspect in February of 1999 has been seen on most major television outlets in the Western Hemisphere. He has been the subject of dozens of newspaper and magazine articles in the United States, Canada, Europe, South America and Australia. CBS News Anchor Dan Rather has called Ciolino "One of America's Top Five Investigators."

He has earned a number of professional designations such as: Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified International Investigator, Board Certified Forensic Examiner (Fellow), and Certified Legal Investigator. He has given dozens of speeches on a diverse array of investigative topics ranging from debunking experts, to investigative ethics, to child homicide, sexual abuse, repressed memories, and death penalty investigations. A seven-year U.S. Army veteran, the co-founder and former chief of the Child Homicide Unit for the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services, he is an adjunct lecturer at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and Columbia College, Journalism Department in Chicago. He has also been a guest lecturer at Yale Law School. He was also one of the co-founders and primary instructors on investigative tactics at the first Conference on Wrongful Convictions and the Death Penalty held at Northwestern Law School in Chicago, Illinois. Ciolino has been a private investigator since 1981.

Ciolino is the primary investigative advisor to the Innocence Projects at: Northwestern Law School, The Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, and DePaul University, Center for Justice in Capitol Cases, College of Law, all in Chicago.

Ciolino is the co-author of the best selling and critically acclaimed textbook *Advanced Forensic Civil Investigations* published by Lawyers and Judges Publishing Company. He is also the co-author of *Advanced Forensic Criminal Defense Investigations* which was published in November of 1999. Ciolino's most recent book, *In the Company of Giants: The Ultimate Investigation Guide for Legal Professionals, Journalists & the Wrongly Convicted* was published in 2005 by iUniverse. His articles on investigative topics have been published worldwide. He is a three-time winner of NALI's annual Editor-Publisher Award for best articles published in their educational journal, *The Legal Investigator*. He is also a regular contributor to CBS & FOX News.

He has been awarded dozens of commendations from both government and private industry. Ciolino is the 1999 "Dante Award" recipient, the first non-journalist to win this award that has been presented by The Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans in the organization's 38-year history. The award is presented to an individual, "who is fearless in his pursuit of justice". Ciolino has also been awarded the first "Advocate for Justice Award" which is presented by the Illinois Attorneys for Criminal Justice, and the 1999 "Louisiana Investigator of the Year" award. In August of 1999 Ciolino was awarded the prestigious "International Investigator of the Year" award by The Council of International Investigators.

In 1999, former Illinois Governor George Ryan issued the first ever moratorium on the death penalty in the United States after Ciolino obtained a video-taped confession in a 1981 double homicide case. As a result of that investigation and confession, Anthony Porter was released from death row in Illinois after having served eighteen years for a crime that he had not committed. In 2003, when former Governor

Ryan granted clemency and pardons to 167 Illinois death row inmates, he cited Ciolino's work as one of the main reasons for doing so.

Ciolino is a past president and life member of The Special Agents Association in Chicago, past president of the National Association of Legal Investigators, Inc. (NALI), and a two-term board member of The Council of International Investigators. He is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the American College of Forensic Examiners and the National Council of Investigative and Security Services. Ciolino holds a number of professional designations, such as Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified International Investigator and Board Certified Forensic Examiner.

You can learn more information about Paul J. Ciolino and the work he has done in other wrongful conviction cases by visiting his web site at the following address: <http://www.pjcinvestigations.com>.

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"Where I grew up, on the Northwest Side of Chicago, where cops and firefighters and thick-forearmed streets and sanitation workers lived, you often judge a guy by whether or not you'd want him watching your back.

Paul Ciolino, first and foremost, is the type of guy who has got your back.

Then we'd judge a guy's toughness with the dark alley test: whether you'd want to run into him in a dark alley. Having seen him operate up close, I can tell you, if Paul Ciolino was looking for you, and you were between him and justice for his client, the answer is an emphatic no. He'd take you down or die trying."

—Dennis Culloton, former press secretary to Illinois Governor George H. Ryan

"Paul Ciolino is not the private investigator that you see in a million series on television. He is the real deal and a lot more. Beneath a brilliant tough exterior is a tremendous heart, a feeling for people that he has the courage to help no matter how difficult or even dangerous the situations are. Having created *Kojak*, he is the real *Kojak* and more."

—Abby Mann, Oscar & Emmy Award winning author of *Judgment at Nuremburg*, *Indictment*, *The McMartin Trial*, *Kojak* television series, and the made for television movie on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Some of his critics have called investigator Paul Ciolino's street tactics 'like a bull in a china shop.' Those of us who have worked with him and respect his skill as a private investigator will tell you that there was a real killer hiding in that china shop and Paul found him. When innocent people are facing the executioner's axe, we need people like Paul who are willing to challenge a system gone haywire."

—Don C. Johnson, CLI, Past President, Indiana Society of Professional Investigators and Editor, *PI Magazine*, *the Journal of Professional Investigators*

"Paul Ciolino is old school. Right is right and wrong is wrong. With street smarts and a sixth sense for where to look, Ciolino won't let go until he's found what he's looking for, which is quite simply justice."

—Alex Kotlowitz, author of *There Are No Children Here*, *Never a City So Real*, and *The Other Side of the River*