
PAUL J. CIOLINO PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR FUND RAISER

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Internationally acclaimed private investigator Paul J. Ciolino has been hired to commence an investigation into Efren's wrongful conviction. A fund raiser to cover payment of the full price for the investigation is underway.

Ciolino has thoroughly reviewed Efren's case. An expert in the field of wrongful convictions, Ciolino believes Efren is innocent and has commenced an extensive investigation into his case to help prove his innocence. His fee to accomplish this enormous task is \$50,000.

An anonymous businessman from Illinois has provided us with a substantial \$10,000 matching grant toward Efren's private investigator fundraiser. The terms of the grant were that once Efren's family, friends and supporters raised \$10,000 for the private investigator, the businessman would match the amount with an equal contribution.

As of October 27, 2005 Efren's family, friends and supporters raised \$10,000 towards the private investigator fund. With the matching \$10,000 grant, the amount of total funds generated to date for the fund is \$20,000. We now need to raise the final \$30,000.

HOW CIOLINO CAN ASSIST EFREN

Over the past 16 years new evidence which exonerates Efren of the false charges against him has surfaced. Some of the evidence that has been revealed, and some of the causes for the revelations being delayed, are:

- the prosecutor and investigating police departments withheld and, in some instances, have outright refused to reveal potentially exculpatory evidence to Efren prior to, during, and since charges were initiated against him;
- Efren's trial attorney did not conduct a thorough investigation to properly defend and represent him during court proceedings, leaving a great deal of information and evidence unknown to Efren;
- the enormously biased, misleading and false media coverage of the crime and alleged perpetrators of the crime;
- some citizens withheld exculpatory information they did not know would be helpful to solve the case;
- technology in the area of forensic science was not as advanced in 1989 as it is today, which can now provide new, more accurate, and conclusive testing of evidence in the case;
- new research and studies have been conducted about crime scene investigations since 1989 that help explain some of the enigmas in Efren's case;
- as evidence has been revealed which points to Efren's innocence people have become more willing to speak about information they knew or heard in 1989 related to the crime;
- people have overcome their initial reluctance to reveal helpful information about the crime due to public pressure to convict those charged as perpetrators of the crime;
- information naturally reveals itself over long periods of time simply because it made its way to people working on Efren's case;

- new information has surfaced about Efren's accusers and co-defendants about their criminal activities before, during, and since the time charges were brought against him.

In recent years three persons have signed sworn affidavits stating that Eric Mui, Alex Mui, and/or Jason Williamson told them Efren did not commit the crime he was convicted of. These statements were made *after* Efren's conviction. We have also discovered additional statements made by Eric Mui and Alex Mui to various state employees—including a letter written by Alex Mui to a youth group—which each contradict previous versions of the crime they made to police and/or testified to at trial.

Efren can no longer wait for information to slowly become available. Thus far, he has waited half of his entire life, in the confines of prison cells, for information that will exonerate him. We must now aggressively seek out new helpful information related to Efren's case and educate the public about his wrongful conviction with the help of qualified experts.

We are appealing to those concerned with proving Efren's innocence and ending his wrongful conviction for financial donations to help defray the costs for Ciolino to conduct a thorough investigation into Efren's case. We firmly believe PJC can help overturn Efren's wrongful conviction and help him gain his long overdue freedom.

Our fight to exonerate Efren is not only a fight for his freedom from a wrongful conviction, it is also an effort to bring attention to other injustices in the criminal justice system, and an attempt to rescue others who otherwise may have wrongly spent the rest of their lives in prison or been executed for crimes they did not commit.

Allowing wrongful convictions to go unchallenged fosters further acts of injustice to be committed against unsuspecting, law-abiding, American citizens. As the old adage goes, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Any donation amount will assist with our efforts. No amount is too small. Together we can bring an end to the injustice in Efren's case.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFREN PAREDES, JR. PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR FUND

Anyone interested in making a contribution to Efren's private investigator fundraiser should make their donations out to [Paul J. Ciolino](#) and mail them to:

Helen Paredes
P.O. Box 858
Battle Creek, MI 49016
E-mail: eparedes@aol.com

Please put [Efren Paredes, Jr. Private Investigator Fund](#) in the subject line of any checks, money orders, cashiers checks or accompanying correspondence.

A CD which includes all Efren's court proceeding transcripts, police reports, crime lab reports, court opinions, dozens of newspaper articles, photographs of Efren at the time of his arrest, a web site about his wrongful

conviction, and several other documents, is now available for a \$25 contribution towards Efren's private investigator fundraiser. All the above mentioned documents on the CD are available in Adobe PDF format

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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