



NEW  
ENGLAND  
**INNOCENCE**  
PROJECT

*The inaugural*

*Voices of the Innocent:* **RISE**  
STILL WE

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**Tuesday, December 3, 2019**

City Winery Boston

**We rise up to face injustice**

**We keep hope, however long it takes**

**We rebuild from what we've lost**

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[NewEnglandInnocence.org/StillWeRise](http://NewEnglandInnocence.org/StillWeRise)

#VoicesoftheInnocent





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## WELCOME

### *From the Executive Director and the Board Chair*

Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to welcome you to our inaugural storytelling event, *Voices of the Innocent: Still We Rise*. Tonight, we will hear directly from people wrongfully convicted and their family members. Throughout the evening, we hope to honor and recognize the depths of their loss as well as the magnitude of their resilience, and work together as a community to free the innocent and prevent future injustices.

At the New England Innocence Project, we are motivated and inspired by these stories each day. We have learned countless lessons from those wrongfully convicted and will keep fighting – as long as it takes and with every resource we can find – for justice.

We are grateful that you are joining us in our efforts. Together, we can continue to provide free forensic testing, investigation, experts, and an experienced legal team to exonerate the innocent and bring them home to their loved ones. Because of you, we can continue to educate the public and advocate for legislative and judicial reforms to prevent future tragedies. Because of you, we can continue our life-changing work.

THANK YOU.

Sincerely,

Radha Natarajan, *Executive Director*

David Siegel, *Chairman, Board of Trustees*

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## SPECIAL GUESTS & STORYTELLERS



### **HOST**

**Rabia Chaudry**, *“Undisclosed”*

Rabia Chaudry is a partner at the Chaudry and Anwer Immigration Law Firm based in Northern Virginia, where she supervises asylum cases and immigration appeals. She is the co-host and co-producer of the hit podcast *Undisclosed* and the political podcast *The 45th*, with nearly 300 million downloads combined. She is also the author of the NY Times Bestselling book, “Adnan’s Story,” and Executive Producer of the Emmy-nominated HBO docuseries “The Case Against Adnan Syed”.

Chaudry was a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), where she researched the intersection of religion and violent extremism. Prior to this, Chaudry served as an International Security Fellow at the New America Foundation (NAF), where she focused on the empowerment of American Muslim communities in social media advocacy. She is a Vanguard Board Member of the Aspen Institute, Fellow of the Truman National Security Project, a Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute, and on the Board of the Muslim Jewish Advisory Council and the Inter Muslim Jewish Alliance.



### **Sean Ellis**, *Exoneree Storyteller*

At the age of 19, following two mistrials, Sean was wrongfully convicted in 1995 of murder and robbery and sentenced to life without parole. Police misconduct, including evidence tampering and coercion of witnesses, was a significant factor in his wrongful conviction. After serving nearly 22 years in prison, Sean was granted a new trial in 2015 and his charges were finally dismissed in 2018. Today, Sean is a fierce advocate for people who have been wrongfully convicted and is joining NEIP’s Board of Trustees in 2020.



### **Crystal Squires**, *Niece of Exoneree Bernard Baran and Storyteller*

Crystal’s uncle, Bernard (“Bee”) Baran, spent nearly 22 years in prison for crimes he did not commit before being exonerated in 2009. His wrongful convictions were a result of prosecutorial misconduct, suggestive questioning of children, and bias against him as a gay man during the height of the “daycare hysteria.” Crystal, whose family was deeply impacted by her uncle’s wrongful conviction, continues to keep her uncle’s memory alive by sharing his tragic story, and the realities of everyone affected by wrongful convictions, since his sudden passing in 2014.



**Victor Rosario, *Exoneree Storyteller***

Before being exonerated in 2017, Victor spent 32 years in prison for arson and murder, crimes that he did not commit and for which he was sentenced to eight consecutive life sentences. Victor and his wife, Beverly, have since founded an organization to help incarcerated people maintain contact with their families and provide support for returning citizens. Victor will be joining NEIP's Board of Trustees in 2020.



**Nat Cosenza, *Exoneree Storyteller***

After spending 16 years in prison for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and armed burglary that he did not commit, Nat was exonerated in 2016. Suggestive lineup procedures used by police, combined with being denied the ability to call an eyewitness identification expert, contributed to his wrongful conviction. Nat was convicted by a jury based on faulty eyewitness identification evidence despite the existence of exculpatory DNA evidence.



**Scott Hornoff, *Exoneree Speaker***

Before being exonerated in November 2002, Scott Hornoff, a Warwick police detective, was wrongfully convicted and spent 6 1/2 years of a life sentence behind bars for a murder he didn't commit. Despite a corroborated alibi for the night of the murder, and no physical evidence or witnesses placing him at the crime scene, a single and focused investigation resulted in Scott being convicted of first degree murder based entirely on speculation and conjecture. Scott was finally released from prison when the true perpetrator, the victim's boyfriend, confessed to the crime and pled guilty to 2nd degree murder.





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THE ARC OF JUSTICE AWARD WINNER

# ROPES & GRAY

The **ARC OF JUSTICE** award recognizes a New England Innocence Project partner who has demonstrated unparalleled commitment, tenacity, and courage to “bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice” for innocent people convicted of crimes they did not commit.

It is our distinct honor to present the inaugural 2019 ARC OF JUSTICE Award to **Kirsten Mayer & the Cifizzari Team of Ropes & Gray** for their fierce, compassionate, and steadfast partnership to free an innocent man from prison and effect lasting change in the criminal legal system by challenging unreliable forensic science.

Through this close partnership, Ropes & Gray demonstrated tremendous perseverance pulling the arc toward justice and succeeding.



*Photo courtesy of Worcester Telegram & Gazette*

*We are grateful for the exceptional commitment of the entire Cifizzari Team:*

Daniel Albert-Rosenberg • Kevin Angle • Christine DAuria • Roy Dixon  
Alyssa Fixsen • Cole Goodman • Yana Grishkan • Kirsten Mayer • Sarah Milkovich  
Lauren Modelski • Ioana Moldovan • Marc Roitman • Hannah Vail



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# THE RIGHT TO JUSTICE

**GOODWIN** is proud to sponsor  
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ongoing commitment to correct  
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**We're proud to support the  
important work of the  
New England Innocence Project.**

**Wishing you the  
greatest success!**



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A low-angle photograph of the Statue of Liberty, rendered in a monochromatic red color. The statue is shown from the waist up, holding the torch in her right hand. The background is a solid red color.

Foley Hoag is proud to support  
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and congratulates  
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We applaud NEIP for its continued efforts to exonerate wrongfully convicted individuals throughout New England.

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McDermott is proud to sponsor *Voices of the Innocent*, and efforts by the New England Innocence Project to fight for those who have been wrongfully convicted. Thank you for your inspiring contributions to the legal profession.

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