

## **Statement from Tim Howard and the Howard family**

The Howard family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our unsung heroes who have worked tirelessly in helping to overturn this wrongful conviction and alternatively lent support to our family in our time of need. We know that there are a vast number of you who have contributed to this enormous effort that we may never get the pleasure to know or thank in person. To all of you, please accept our sincerest gratitude.

To our loving family and loyal friends and your church families that continually kept us in your thoughts and prayers and showed concern and action beyond just mere words, we earnestly thank all of you.

We had asked that, in your prayers, you simply pray for the truth to be brought forward, that someone that could and would present the truth would come into our lives, and that when the truth was presented, that someone in a position to recognize the truth would do so. Thanks to God and all of our heroes, our prayers have been answered.

To our known superheroes, Joanna Sanchez, Joe Bodenhamer, Mark Rooks, Sarah Kosmos, Bill Mooney, and the Ohio Public Defender Wrongful Conviction Project's students, interns, and volunteers, past and present, as well as the entire Innocence Network: Words cannot capture just how much your diligent investigation and tireless pursuit for the truth has meant to our family. Thank you for believing in me, for seeking out the truth, presenting the truth through litigation, and bringing the truth to the forefront so those that are willing to pay attention would clearly see and understand that this was indeed a wrongful conviction.

And to the guys that some have given up on; the inmates that I spent time with, some of whom are not much different than our own sons, fathers, brothers, uncles, and best friends; the guys that were willing to feed me when I was hungry, help with legal work when a deadline was near, and help when I just didn't know what to do next; the guys that fully understand firsthand how harsh and unfair our pursuit for justice can be, yet are willing to cheer for and celebrate your good fortune despite what their fate may be: We salute you.

With that in mind, we look forward to finding new ways of highlighting to the public the plight of the "old law" inmate, many of whom are classified as minimum security, low risk inmates, yet labeled "the worst of the worst." These "old law" inmates generally have arbitrary indefinite sentences and have no recourse other than the mercy of the Parole Board, which often adds more time ("flops") without considering the individual's rehabilitation path, and instead considers only factors such as "remorse" and "nature of the crime," making it nearly impossible for rehabilitated inmates to receive favorable relief.

We also look forward to finding ways to help support others and to seek help for others like myself who have been falsely accused and wrongly convicted. Friends like Angela Garcia, Kim Hoover-Moore, Raymond Warren, Octavius Williams, Kenny Phillips, Hector Alvarado, Benson Davis, and Eric Misch, as well as many others—including personal friends of mine—who

continue to seek help in overturning their wrongful convictions. We invite interested parties to examine these cases and the cases of others that find themselves and their families lost in an unjust maze.

We all can do something, whether it's a card or letter, a prayer, or a call to your local innocence organization, to see if you or someone you know may be of service in helping those falsely accused and wrongfully convicted in their fight for justice.

Again, we thank you all, as we now look forward to resuming friendships, making new memories, and celebrating family.

Sincerely,

Tim Howard  
and the entire Howard family