



Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted

WRONGFUL CONVICTION DAY: FRIDAY OCTOBER 2, 2015

Former Canadian Football League (CFL) linebacker Orlando Bowen, a victim of police brutality and drug planting, will give the keynote address. He will be available for interviews after 6:30 p.m.

New York Exoneree, David McCallum will present the first annual *Rubin Hurricane Carter Champion of Justice Award* at the Reception.

The Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted (AIDWYC) is hosting events in recognition of the second International Wrongful Conviction Day, October 2, 2015. The purpose of International Wrongful Conviction Day is to bring awareness to the need to prevent and remedy wrongful convictions around the world.

Media are encouraged to cover Wrongful Conviction Day. AIDWYC's pro bono lawyers, Board Members and several Exonerees are available for interviews at or before the following events:

Continuing Professional Development Lecture: Wrongful Convictions – Who is at Risk and Why?

Law Society of Upper Canada, Lamont Learning Centre

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Faculty: **Jonathan Rudin** – Program Director, Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto
Kent Roach – Professor of Law and Prichard-Wilson Chair of Law and Public Policy,
University of Toronto Faculty of Law

Reception: Marginalized Communities and Wrongful Convictions

Law Society of Upper Canada, Convocation Hall

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Special Guests: **Orlando Bowen** former Canadian Football League (CFL) linebacker, a victim of police brutality and drug planting, will give the keynote address. Mr. Bowen will speak to the devastation and horrifying consequences of a false accusation.

David McCallum exonerated in 2014 due in large part to Rubin Hurricane Carter's advocacy. Mr. McCallum will present the first annual Rubin Hurricane Carter Champion of Justice Award to Dr. Carter posthumously.

John Artis Exoneree, co-accused and close friend of Rubin Hurricane Carter, will accept the award on Dr. Carter's behalf.

John Honderich Chair of Torstar Corporation, will present the first annual Tracey Tyler Award to Ms. Tyler posthumously. This award was created to honour the late Toronto Star reporter, Tracey Tyler, who had a passion for reporting on civil and criminal justice matters and covered many cases of wrongful conviction in her 25 year career.

The Tyler Family will accept the Tracey Tyler Award on her behalf.

Jimmy Coffin whose father, Wilbert Coffin, was hanged in Quebec in 1956.

Gordon Wood Exoneree from Australia.

Quotes:

Professor Kent Roach offered the following explanation as to the importance of this particular topic, *“Wrongful convictions raise important and often disturbing questions of professional responsibility for all actors in the criminal justice system.”*

Orlando Bowen said: *“I felt it imperative to be part of Wrongful Conviction Day, because I have a message to impart. I want to put my voice with others to ensure that no other person has to suffer as I and my family did because of a false accusation. A false accusation which could have all too easily lead to a wrongful conviction and even more devastating consequences to me and my family. I believe it is crucial that every member of the public and especially those involved in the criminal justice system should do everything they can to prevent innocent persons from being convicted of crimes they have not committed. I am glad to take part in such an important and necessary day. It is vital for the public to realize how frail our criminal justice system is and to insist that all involved in the process do their jobs properly, honestly and openly to avoid future wrongful convictions. Let my story be a testament that wrongful convictions can happen to anyone!”*

David McCallum shared the following, *“We need a Wrongful Conviction Day to remind us all of how badly flawed our criminal justice system continues to be and why the work to exonerate the wrongly convicted is necessary. Wrongful Conviction Day should be a time to remind everyone of the significant number of people languishing in prisons for crimes they did not commit. To present the Rubin Hurricane Carter Champion of Justice Award in honour of Rubin is significant and will always have a special meaning for me because I was the beneficiary of Rubin's last work. The award is significant because it acknowledges Rubin's selfless commitment of seeking justice for those who are wrongly convicted and I am very excited to know that Wrongful Conviction Day will acknowledge and highlight his work and many achievements.”*

John Honderich said, *“I am delighted to present the very first Tracey Tyler Award. Tracey always embodied the finest in court and judicial journalism and her passion for the rights of all, particularly the wrongfully accused, was without limit.”*

About AIDWYC:

The Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted is a Canadian, non-profit organization dedicated to identifying, advocating for, and exonerating individuals convicted of a crime that they did not commit and to preventing such injustices in the future through legal education and justice system reform. The group's volunteers have reviewed hundreds of cases, leading to the successful exoneration of 20 innocent individuals, who together have spent 190 years in prison for crimes they did not commit.

AIDWYC's pro bono lawyers are currently reviewing 89 cases of claims of innocence and annually contribute more than \$3,400,000 in pro bono work.

- Website: www.aidwyc.org
- *Conviction*, the AIDWYC Blog: www.aidwyc.org/blog
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/aidwyc
- Twitter: @AIDWYC
- Instagram: @AIDWYC
- Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGD2PA2HLLQ>

About Wrongful Conviction Day

In 2014, approximately 80 organizations representing eight countries supported/participated in Wrongful Conviction Day programs. The momentum has grown as more countries and organizations are involved in Wrongful Conviction Day 2015.

- Website: www.wrongfulconvictionday.com
- Twitter: #IWCD2015

Media Contact and RSVP:

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