

PRESS RELEASE
February 22, 2008

FROM: CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE FAIR
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CONTACT: Gerald F. Uelmen, Executive Director
Tel. 408-554-5002
Fax 408-554-5026
Email guelmen@scu.edu

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE FAIR ADMINISTRATION OF
JUSTICE ISSUES REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
REMEDIES FOR THE EXONERATED.

The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, created by the California State Senate to examine the causes of wrongful convictions and make recommendations and proposals to further insure that the administration of criminal justice in California is just, fair and accurate, released its seventh report and recommendation today, addressing the problems of remedies for the exonerated, and reintegration into society for all those released from custody after their convictions have been set aside. The Commission made eight recommendations, to eliminate obstacles faced by the innocent in achieving exoneration and obtaining compensation for their wrongful incarceration, and to provide reintegration assistance to all those, whether innocent or not, who are released after their convictions are invalidated.

The Commission recommendations gained the full support of all twenty-two members of the Commission. The Commission is chaired by former California Attorney General John Van de Kamp, and includes a broad spectrum of prosecution, defense, police and victim representatives.

The Commission conducted a public hearing addressing these issues at Santa Clara University on October 17, 2007. The Commission heard testimony from innocent persons who were erroneously convicted, as well as the lawyers who have represented them and organizations that have assisted them.

The Commission will continue its deliberations, preparing forthcoming reports related to the funding of defense services in California and policies governing compliance with constitutional requirements for the availability of exculpatory evidence. The Commission is currently examining the administration of the death penalty in California, having conducted hearings in Sacramento on January 10 and Los Angeles on February 20. Its final public hearing will be at Santa Clara University on March 28. The Commission is scheduled to issue its final report in June, 2008.