

Episode 6



Season 1 : E6 - Snitch Parade with Special Guest Paul Ciolino

Date April 14, 2020

Speakers: Bruce Fischer, Jamie Snow, Tammy Alexander, Lesley Pires

Episode Description: Famed private investigator, author and president of The International Association of Forensic Criminologists (IAFC), Paul Ciolino, who was instrumental in the overturning of the death penalty in Illinois, joins the show to discuss his expertise with wrongful convictions in Illinois. And gives the lowdown on jailhouse informants.

Music Intro: Injustice Anywhere presents Snow Files: The wrongful conviction of Jamie Snow and how they got away with it.

(From recording)

Paul Ciolino: I can't sugarcoat this bullsh... Jamie Snow is perhaps the most innocent guy in the Illinois Department of Corrections right now, with one of the most serious charges hanging on him. The only thing that saved him, he didn't get a death penalty, and they couldn't kill him. So now they're just trying to kill him slowly. And they did it with all informants because they didn't have any other evidence. There was no evidence. He wasn't there. They waited years to indict him... years.

(End recording)

Bruce Fischer: Snow Files, Episode Six - Snitch Parade - with a special guest, Paul Ciolino. The mission of the Snow Files podcast is to expose the misconduct of the State's Attorney's Office under Charles Barnard. It is not our intention in any way to disparage the current State's Attorney's Office or the Bloomington police department.

Jamie Snow: Hey everybody. I just want to send y'all a quick message and let you know that we're gonna try to do something a little different. We're gonna try and change it up a little bit. We have a friend of ours, that's gonna come along. We're so glad that he's gonna take the time to come on and do this for us. He's very good people...he's a bit of an expert on what we're getting ready to get into with some of the jailhouse informants and stuff. And, you know, he's done a lot of work. He's an investigator, private investigator, he's done a lot of work for...on wrongful convictions, name's Paul Ciolino. He wrote a book, I love the book, it's called In the Company of Giants; it's about wrongful convictions. And, you know, Paul's got one of the biggest radio shows in Chicago called The Popo Report. So we're really excited to have him come on here. I think he's to be able to add a little bit of insight, personal insights and his own experiences with the types of people who testify in return for some sort of a benefit. I'm really excited to have him come on and, you know, I really hope that you guys are going to enjoy hearing what he has (unintelligible) to be very important. We appreciate you all and we're glad to have you, and let's see where this goes.

Bruce Fischer: Paul Ciolino is a lifelong resident of Chicago. Over the past 25 years, Paul has appeared in hundreds of news programs on every major cable television network in both the United States and Canada. Paul has done incredible work to free the innocent. To date he has secured the freedom of 11 death row inmates who are wrongfully convicted. His accomplishments are far too long to list. Paul now works as a consultant, and he is the co host of the Chicago Popo Report podcast on WLS 890 AM. We are pleased to have Paul Ciolino as our special guest for this episode. Hi, Paul. Welcome to Snow Files.

Paul Ciolino: Hi, how you doing?

Bruce Fischer:We're doing well.

Paul Ciolino: Great.

Bruce Fischer:This week we're going to talk about jailhouse informants

Paul Ciolino: I love the subject.

Bruce Fischer: Absolutely. You know jailhouse informants are a leading cause of wrongful convictions nationally. This topic has been controversial for decades. But from what we can see nationwide that remains mostly unregulated. A few states have passed legislation, but it's few and far between. Ironically, in 2018, Illinois passed legislation enforcing what are now considered to be the toughest informant regulations in the country. Sadly, that comes far too late for Jamie. So let's start with this... what are the current regulations in Illinois? And are they strong enough?

Paul Ciolino: They're a joke, okay? It requires a pre trial inquiry into the truthfulness of whoever is going to testify. Now, the only one that's making that judgment is the judge, who in my experience is usually the third prosecutor in the room. So it's almost guaranteed, they're going to let them testify. But I suppose it's better than nothing. Texas has got some kind of rule as well. Not nearly as strong as Illinois, and that's not saying much. But listen, they've been using informants to put people in prison for as long as they've had "heater cases", which is forever, And when I say heater- murder, robbery, rape, etc. Right. So in Jamie's case, of course, we just have a bucket of informants running down to the jailhouse, running to the cops running to the prosecutor to cut deals to save their ass on long sentences or even short sentences for that matter are even for some money.

Bruce Fischer: Just for listeners to know. I mean, current laws that are passed now they're really irrelevant on appeal for Jamie, correct?

Paul Ciolino: Yeah, it's ex post facto, you can't use a new law to go back and bootstrap something. It's helpful in the respect that you couldn't make an argument that these laws weren't available to Jamie at that time. They should have been they weren't. There's no constitutional issue there, I don't think, although I'm not a lawyer, but I've sat in as many courtrooms as most have. I would tell you that, you know, listen, Jamie is on jail on perjured, bought testimony. Period.

Bruce Fischer: Exactly. As far as it goes, over the years, how many cases have you seen where informants are part of the case? I mean, how often does that occur?

Paul Ciolino: Well, listen, whenever you don't have any physical evidence, a confession of -legitimate confession - a gun, a knife, a nice crime scene that's been

worked up properly, and or you know, scientific evidence that comes into play, i.e. DNA, fingerprints, blood, semen, etc. When you see a case without any of those issues, or evidence, you're usually going to see a whole bunch of informants show up, because they don't have a case. They're making one up. And they do that in complete knowledge that they're making it up... the police and the prosecutors. And by the way, let's not blame the police, okay, because the prosecutors the general in these cases, and guess what guys, the prosecutor makes that decision. He's the ultimate authority in that case. He knows he's using perjured testimony. He doesn't have any problem with it, morally or legally, and he usually gets away with it because jurors are knuckleheads, and they don't get it. And the judge is going to protect the prosecutor and not really let you jump on most informants.

Bruce Fischer: Is it just the lack of knowledge over the years throughout the country? Why we haven't seen legislation? You know, reforms on this?

Paul Ciolino: No, of course not. It's- everybody knows it's been going on. We've been watching it happen. We've seen disaster after disaster, wrongful convictions involving informants, but the system is corrupt and they allow this nonsense to continue on. It is never ending. I've been doing this as a civilian since 1981. I worked for the government from '74 to '81. We didn't use a lot of informants back then, of course, I wasn't sort of more or less doing this kind of work, but from 1981 to today's date, okay, 2020 they use them and they use them gladly and they use them silly Willie in every jurisdiction state, federal, county and in between...they'd use them in traffic if they could get away with it.

Bruce Fischer: It's just off the rails.

Paul Ciolino: It's always been off the rails. Listen, I can't sugarcoat this bullshit. Jamie Snow is perhaps the most innocent guy in the Illinois Department of Corrections right now, with one of the most serious charges hanging on him. The only thing that saved him, he didn't get a death penalty, and they couldn't kill him. So now they're just trying to kill him slowly. And they did it with all informants because they didn't have any other evidence. There was no evidence. He wasn't there. They waited years to indict him. Years. Okay. He wasn't even a suspect. He wasn't on anybody's radar, mostly because he didn't do anything. Until someone said, you know what we better we got to solve this crime down here in Bloomington and solve it they did...on Jamie Snows back. And the travesty continues as we speak today on Easter Sunday.

Bruce Fischer: Unfortunately, it does. Let's talk about how these investigators obtain these statements from jailhouse informants. How do they go about getting informants to speak? Is it all deal based?

Paul Ciolino: Hey, listen, the great thing about jailhouse informants, they come to you! Okay, because everyone's looking to make a deal. Everyone's looking to shave some time off their shitty sentence. And let's face it, jailhouse informants are the lowest of the lowest scum. Okay? They are cutting a deal to save their ass or somebody else's ass, or to get some time shaved off, or to get some money. All right, they're making shit up to put some innocent dude in jail usually. And if he's not innocent, they're making stuff up anyways, just so they could get a deal for their own self.

Bruce Fischer: So it's generally just all voluntary lies.

Paul Ciolino: Yeah, it's all voluntary. They do it gleefully, with, with,with joy in their heart, a song on their lips. They do it.

Bruce Fischer: Do you ever see situations where there's pressure put on an inmate to give testimony?

Paul Ciolino: Well, sometimes you will. Let's say you have a really cagey inmate, okay who is known as a reputation for not talking to anybody, especially not about his case, or their case for that matter. Because jailhouse etiquette, folks, generally is you don't talk about people's cases in jail. All right, unless you're asked directly, otherwise, you keep your mouth shut or you get your ass beat or a knife stuck in your ribs. Okay, but informants do not play by them rules and they don't care because they're cagey little animals who lie, cheat, steal, swear, make up stuff... usually use a lot of drugs, and they're involved in everything else. Anyway, they could get any kind of advantage in any way, shape, or form, they show up. So the cops just have to sit by the phone basically, it's a it's even. It's a great lazy detective way. You're sitting there and Ring ring, the phone rings. Hi, Detective Jones. Hey. Hey, I'm locked up here in the county jail. And I know this dude named Jamie Snow and I understand you guys are going to trial soon. And you know what he talked to me? Gee, all right. Well, look, who was there? Let's let me come down and see you. Let's, let's check out the veracity of that.

That almost never happens. Okay. And certainly in Snows case, it didn't happen, right? They're not checking... these people have reputation for being truthful, what are they in jail for? What have they done? Are they looking for a deal? These are the things you should look for if you're a good investigator, what is this person's motivation for coming forward to testify, right? Because let's say- I've been doing this forever, alright, and I will tell you, most people do not want to testify. They don't want to be involved. They don't care. They're like, I don't want to be bothered, my maids here now. I've heard 'no' more than any human by and large, probably, okay? Knock, knock, knock. Hi. "So I'd like to talk to you about this homicide you may have witnessed." 'Get out of here. I don't want to talk to you. I can't talk to you. I'm afraid to talk to you. The gang is going to kill me. The police will hate me', alright. But the informants own have any of those problems, okay. Most witnesses are like, man, I don't want nothing to do with your case. Period.

Bruce Fischer: Right. And we've seen that with Jamie's case.

Paul Ciolino: Some people have enough common sense to mind their own business and stay out of these things. Listen, the problem with talking now is you have to tell the truth. Okay? or someone's gonna hold your feet to the fire about this ridiculous statement you made that supposedly happened in some prison at some unknown time with unknown witnesses available.

Bruce Fischer: Across the country over the years, you see defense attorneys getting blindsided by informant witnesses. Now, I'm looking at the Illinois law and it says that defense teams need to be notified 30 days in advance. What options does defense team have? Can they go question these guys?

Paul Ciolino: Well, you could try. He doesn't have to talk to you. No witness has to speak to you. They're under no obligation to speak to defense investigator or defense lawyer. Now, let me give you a great for instance, Washington State, state of Indiana, pre criminal trial. You got a right to depose every witness in the case; now there you can make some headway with this stuff, okay? Of course, I would tell you Washington state in the state of Indiana don't have near the problem with wrongful convictions that we have in Illinois, okay, because of that kind of open discovery, so to speak. So if you're name hit's a witness list in the great state of Indiana, I get to sit your ass down in a conference room somewhere and question you to the cows come home...and I've done it. Same in Washington state. When a court reporter is sitting

in the room, on the record under oath, guess what? You short circuit a whole bunch of bullshit with laws like that.

Illinois, no one's got to talk to you, they don't have to see you, they don't have to do anything till I hit the witness stand. Now, to be fair to the prosecutors, defense witnesses have that same option but I will tell you, when two or three Chicago cops or Cook County Sheriff's officers banging on your front door at midnight, and they got the ability to whistle up the SWAT team and throw your ass on the ground and handcuff you and take anywhere they want you generally going to speak to those folks. You could say no, you better be a bad dude if you do say no and you've got to be ready for some repercussions.

Bruce Fischer: Lesley, I know you had a question for Paul about jailhouse informants.

Lesley Pires: There was one informant in particular, who made a striking comment saying that he did it because he never thought it would be believed. And since so many people are piling on his story shouldn't have had any significance at all. In your experience, is that a common thought process with the informants or do you think that they're, that's something they say later on to distance themselves to make themselves feel better?

Paul Ciolino: Well, I think your latter statement will be more true to distance themselves or minimize the damage they did. The problem is you have juries and or judges- almost always juries are who are listening to these people talk and the prosecutor and the judges protect them as much as they can. And you could take a part an informant pretty good on a witness stand, but they're gonna, they're gonna put it in such a way that a- by the way, almost never is the deal they made going to come to light when they're testifying. Because deals always cut in this manner, are you going to testify and you'll testify truthfully, and if you don't, we're gonna charge you for it.

Lesley Pires: In this particular man's testimony, the lawyer had started going... the defense attorney started going at him and saying, well, isn't it true that when you were sitting with this detective Barkes, you told him that as long as you're in state custody, you'll say the story that you want, but when I get out of state custody, I'm never gonna say anything harmful against Jamie Snow, isn't that true? And his response was, yes, that all that stuff is said, but you know, what... who is this

detective Barkes? And he has nothing to do with it. And I don't want to talk about him. And the questioning just stopped there. It didn't, you know, they weren't able to get into it anymore about that conversation.

Paul Ciolino: Why? Because the lawyer just quit doing it or the judge instructed him not to go any further into it. Do you know?

Lesley Pires: He kind of just got hostile he kept saying, he just kept denying it and saying that...he said, "You know why I'm here. You know, that's exactly why they pulled me into court right now." That was his response and the lawyer didn't, you know, just keep following up with it ended it right there.

Paul Ciolino: Well, that's poor lawyering, in my humble, but yet accurate opinion. And I've seen this a million times over the years, inexperienced lawyers, lawyers who don't care, lawyers who are intoxicated or inebriated in some way shape or form, lawyers who are overworked, underpaid, and just don't give a shit sometimes. There's a fallacy out there that, you know, you have these hard edged, brilliant defense attorneys representing people in big murder cases or organized crime cases. And sometimes you do not. Sometimes you have a whoever, whoever agreed to show up for five grand or \$2500. And now that they're there, they're pissed and they haven't really been reading the case or not familiar with the discovery. I think what you're describing is perfect opportunity to keep this idiot on the witness stand for about a day and a half and destroy them.

Lesley Pires: Yeah, and it's It's funny you mentioned that because the Frank Picl, Jamie's defense attorney was described previously as a bulldog and the guy you want to defend you if you're ever arrested for murder, and then he turned into a drunk... a divorced drunk shortly before Jamie's trial and he did not..he admitted that he did not do any research that he was fascinated with himself. Like he could be at the bar all day and then show up and go to court and interrogate these people on the fly and other lawyers thought he was great for it.

Paul Ciolino: I'm guessing the legal talent wasn't the cream of the crop in Bloomington at that time.

Lesley Pires: Apparently not.

Paul Ciolino: Because I sure wouldn't want him defending me. You know, listen, I, the great criminal defense lawyer is rare find and often are found in public defender officers because that's what they do. And they're passionate and they're dedicated and they have time to do those sorts of things. The hired gun that shows up often is totally unqualified be doing what he's doing has no business doing it, and is more responsible for getting this client put in jail and his client is, often. So there's, listen, there's a lot of things that you don't win often a trial folks, I mean, about 10% of the cases that go to trial revert, end in not guilty. 10%. Now that's 85% of the criminal cases that are charged, are pled out before they ever get there. Alright, so you got a 90% chance of being convicted if you're sitting in front of a judge or a jury on a murder case. 90%.

Lesley Pires: So with that being said, Do you know of any judges or prosecutors who vehemently do not accept informant testimony when it's not backed up?

Paul Ciolino: I have never heard of one not accepting it. Ever.

Lesley Pires: Wow.

Paul Ciolino: Now, I- when I worked for the state, I would have, I've worked- there were prosecutors I worked for who said get that shit out of here, I don't want to hear it. As far as I'm concerned, he's got no credibility, not interested. I could try this case without him. A good prosecutor understand that he's taken a risk especially if there's talent on the other side and motivation that, to destroy this informant. They'll understand putting informant or perjured testimony on the witness stand is risky, because some jurors might find that offensive. Most of them don't, but there are rare ones that will get their back up and not be too happy about it. The ideal situation is you get one on a witness stand and the judge starts reading them his constitutional rights because it just caught them lying like a dog, but then that that movie scene almost never happens. Very, very-

Bruce Fischer: Are there laws and regulations in place about the the gifts, the money the deals that are given to these informants. Is there anything to stop?

Paul Ciolino: I want to explain this to listeners. Okay. Prosecutor can do whatever he wants to do, who indicts, who charges criminals in whatever county or jurisdiction you're in? Who does that?

Tammy Alexander: The state - prosecutor.

Paul Ciolino: But the chief prosecutor, the elected State's Attorney, or the assigned US Attorney, okay. He's at the top of the food chain. He can decide to charge or not charge in any given case and he don't have to give a reason for doing it or not doing it. That's that's how it works, guys, all right. He could bring it to a grand jury or he could ignore it. He could put it on his desk and look at it for the next 20 years and not do a thing about it. So I would tell you police misconduct, police perjury, snitch testimony, that's a straight up lying and perjury. Prosecutors not going to prosecute those folks. Never do it almost never happens. It's so rare when it does. I mean rare, like frontline news when it happens, because it almost never happens. So whatever they want to put on they can get away with, they're gonna do it.

Bruce Fischer: Now is the defense team allowed to tell the jury what the gifts were, what the deal was?

Paul Ciolino: Well, if the judge lets him, all right, if the judge says, Yeah, I can assure you that the prosecutor is going to want to try and keep that out, all right, and/or delay it so it doesn't happen during the course of the trial or pre trial, right. We're going to give you a reward after this guy is found guilty and now becomes an appellate court issue that will be investigated for the next several years, hopefully, with some success, but often with none. So they're smart enough not to give anybody anything until the trial is over with. If you think anything but a dude like Jamie snow walking in the courtroom, sitting in a jumpsuit and or a bad button down shirt frayed at the collar sitting next to a lawyer, if you think anyone in that room thinks this dude is innocent when he walks in there, you're living in a fantasy world. There's not a dud in that room, including the jurors who think if he's innocent, he wouldn't be sitting there next to that guy.

Bruce Fischer: You have a defense attorney, though has the option to say, Have you been offered any promises? That guy says no, and now you've just given them credibility?

Paul Ciolino: Well, it's not helpful, but you got to put it on the record, because maybe you could prove he's lied, right, at some point later on in the appellate proceeding. And mostly, we're going to say, no, I haven't been given anything. I'm here because I'm a good citizen. The problem is you can't compel them in any way, shape, or form. All you can do is appeal to their humaneness and say, listen, you

know, and I know Jamie Snow didn't commit this crime. You also know that you lied while under oath in his trial. Now it's time to come clean. This is your opportunity to be a good person that helps somebody who shouldn't be in prison. And 90% of them don't give a shit. They don't care about Jamie Snow. They ain't their problem. Not my kin, not my problem, okay? There's, there's no way to compel them to be a truthful and honest person.

The problem, though, is really much larger than that, right? There's no evidence. There's no real witnesses. There's no confession. Anyone who looks at this case understands that this dude is innocent. They understand it, they get it. If you went down to Statesville and you talked to 50 guys who were seasoned criminals and convicts, 48 of 'em's telling you that Jamie Snow's innocent dude. Why? Because they know; they know who's innocent. That this is something I've experienced in prisons all across the country. They, they just know who's innocent. They know what a good case is. They know the dude's character because they been locked up with them for so many years. Right?

So the secret is not that Jamie's innocent everyone knows he's innocent. The judges know it, the appellate courts know it, the appellate attorneys working on it, the prosecutor's working on the case, know, he's innocent. The trick is, how do we get them out of there? And, and these cases, and I will tell you, you're in miracle territory when you get somebody out of prison. The time the beat-win these cases is at trial. Anything after that is Hail Mary miracle stuff. I've gotten 11 people off death row, or doing life sentences,...they're miracles. Every one of them. Miracles. And they require years of work and sticking to it and working it and working it and keep working it. It's almost impossible to keep that up for anyone. Right?

Lesley Pires: So, how many who have life sentences have you gotten exonerated or just commuted?

Paul Ciolino: A few of them were commuted. By George Ryan... I talked to him into commuting a guy named Mario Flores who was a Rivera victim- a detective Rivera victim; Flores is an interesting case, because he got commuted instead of pardoned, and he was the youngest of five and the only kid in the family who wasn't an American citizen. And so, but he was raised on the north side of Chicago and never spoke a word of Spanish. Although his parents and sisters were fluent, he was the baby. They spoiled him and only spoke English to him because he's educated in Chicago schools. So when Mario got deported to Mexico, his parents had go live

down there with him for about a year and a half because he didn't speak a word of Spanish. He's still down there, by the way, married to supermodel, works for the president's office. They've he's got a great life.

But he was a great person...he should have never been convicted. But Flores was one of the guys we got commuted. And that's very unusual, but there was a problem...he had a lawyer that at one point, unbeknownst us, wrote the governor a letter and a prior petition saying listen, I just want the sentence his co defendant back, who testified against him, which kind of indicated he was guilty, right? I had him pardoned. But I the day before, I got a call from the governor's office, Governor Ryan's office, they said, Listen, got problem with Flores. We can't pardon him. So I begged and pleaded and they commuted him. And he got out, but uh, he's an innocent guy who's got a murder conviction... should have been cleared. That- by the way, never had a traffic ticket before that.

Lesley Pires: Can he still put forth a claim of actual innocence?

Paul Ciolino: Yeah, he could, but good luck getting one of these weak sisters to sign it now or look at it. He's out of prison. And that's another thing once you're out of jail, no one gives a shit. People call me all the time. I was convicted of murder, I did 20 years, I'm out. I never did it, I'm innocent. Will you help me? And I go, no. A. you don't have any money usually and B. no one cares. No one's gonna listen. No one's gonna look at it. So the people have done their time that are out, almost have zero shot at ever exonerating themselves and clearing their name.

The first big judgment we ever got was the (unintelligible) four case I was involved. I got Jerry Spence as their lead attorney on that who was at that time, the most successful personal injury attorney in the world, Okay? And he got the four of them 18 million bucks for- and they did 18 years a piece. So they had this- four of them split 18 million, they wound up with about 6 million. It was higher than that, but they went out with about \$6 million for 18 years in prison, and they all went away when they were 17-18 years old. And it was horrible...these guys did hard time. I mean, two of them were on death row, two of them were doing life without parole. They had been tried three or four times because the appellate court kept kicking this case back... bad lawyers, drunk lawyers, no evidence, making up evidence...this was a nightmare case, but clearly they were innocent. I found the guys who actually did do it, got confessions from three of them. I would have got a fourth but he was dead...he

died of alcohol poisoning, up in Minnesota, we had DNA evidence. First time ever multiple offenders were cleared on the same DNA evidence.

And the guys who actually committed the rape, murder, their DNA tested positive. And this is a Cook County case. And had I not had a Chief Judge named Sheila Murphy, who was out in Markham who smelled bullshit. And Sheila was an old defense lawyer, who I had worked for long before she was a judge. She took over this case, and made sure the state did the right thing eventually, right? Because they fought it...they fought it tooth and nail. But that, that was a nice judgment. And that's probably one of the better ones I've seen. And that judgment happened back in the '90s. So that's over 20 years ago.

Lesley Pires: So I'm from Connecticut, and here, you know, we treat exonerees a lot differently. We recently had a man who was, by DNA, exonerated from a rape and murder. And our governor went as far as to give him millions and millions of dollars to make a public statement about how disappointed he was and how he was innocent and then gave him a job as the head of the parole and pardons board making \$100 grand a year after that.

Paul Ciolino: (Unintelligible) that governor. I like the way he thinks.

Lesley Pires: Yeah, and we're also a blue state, a democratic state. So you know, I know Illinois too. So when I hear these things, I feel so... I just can't believe it myself being from somewhere else.

Paul Ciolino: Hey, you're in Connecticut, you don't have a lot of wrongful conviction cases. Illinois is the leading state and the country, okay? And so they would go broke paying these guys, and my attitude is tough shit... too bad. You screw up somebody's life like that you should write a check. A huge check. Anthony Porter did 18 years never got a penny... lost at trial. He got \$250,000, which is the maximum benefit he could get from the state. And that was it. Never saw another nickel.

They have a policy now of fighting you. They don't care if you're wrongfully convicted. The city of Chicago will go out and spend millions on private attorneys defending these cases, they defend the indefensible. They do it routinely. They do it in every case almost because they do not want to pay these guys. They take the attitude as- ah it's bullshit, wasn't a wrongful conviction, he did it. Now you can do that in a civil trial, right? That's coming in...that's their theory of the case. They could

accuse you of anything they want, and nothing can be done about it. And the city will pay these dudes more money-the lawyers defending it, than they would have paid the guy who was wrongfully locked up for 15, 16, 20, 30 years. Okay. That's how they deal with it. They don't care. That's how they roll.

Lesley Pires: So what can be done for the people of Illinois who are listening who don't agree and don't know these things? How can they be educated to make a difference when they're on the jury?

Paul Ciolino: Well, listen, I and I've written books and articles about this very subject, you, you have to, you have an innocent client, you got to go to war against the government when they charge them, and they indict them and they're getting ready to try em. And you have to get your word out there. You got to influence jury pools, that's your job. You have to do it. That sit- being quiet and being a gentleman or a lady and not talking bad about the police or the prosecutors does not work. Because you got to educate the judge in a manner that he understands, which is this guy is innocent. And I don't wanna hear any bullshit because we're going to we're going to fight a war over it, and I don't care if you like it or not. And if you get in my way, Judge, I'm going to embarrass you every night on the courthouse steps. And when you come up for reelection, I'm going to let everybody know you tried to convict the guilty- innocent man.

But see, most attorneys are not willing to put that fight up. And most investigators aren't allowed to put that fight up by the attorneys. Now, I don't work like that. I don't care what the lawyer wants, if I'm involved. Usually, unless there's a very good reason for me not to speak. I'm going to speak early and often. Consequently, my guy's guilty, I'm not going to say shit, we're going to try and do the best job we can and hopefully we get lucky. But I'm not going to hold press conferences talking about how innocent he is. If he's in fact guilty or involved. You know what I'm saying? But if you get that innocent, dude, you you need you got to do it. That's the only way you educate people back.

Lesley Pires: In Jamie's case he was doing all that. But writing letters to the judge speaking out about it. He confronted every single snitch on the stand. He took the stand in his own defense. But he was the only one doing it. So if somebody else finds themselves in that position and their lawyers not doing their own job, you would recommend that they get their family or they get more supporters to go like this.

Paul Ciolino: I'm reminded of a case right now it's going on in Oklahoma this police officers get convicted of raping a bunch of black women it's total bullshit case, no science, no evidence, didn't happen. They hook this cop up, Daniel Hollowitz [sic], I think is his name. Yeah, burnt him up. Scientists have gotten involved, Brent Turvy, George Shiro from Mississippi, a whole bunch of folks... Craig Cooley. He's one of the attorneys involved who's a big wrongful conviction guy used to work for the Innocence Project in New York was a great appellate investigator before he became a lawyer. His family's done a magnificent job of getting the word out publicly and Oklahoma's in the dark ages folks, okay, you get convicted of murder out there. They don't give a shit. Okay? Them judges lie, cheat. They- I've seen cops shoot dudes on videotape, withhold medical treatment, getting them to make a statement in murder cases, and they've been allowed to get away with it.

There's like two badass public defender female lawyers out there in Oklahoma who are fighting the fight. And they're not winning, right? Who expose this kind of behavior and misconduct. It's a bad place to get hooked up on a bad charge. And but the Hollowitz [sic], case Daniel Hollowitz [sic], which is a, I think, Oklahoma City patrol officer, high school football star, good cop, a college football player. I think he's half Hawaiian or Philippine or Vietnamese, something like that. There's not one DNA one rape kit, one prior when it allegedly happened. It's all bullshit. None of it ever happened. And he's doing like an 80 year sentence. Right? It's horrendous case. And I think he'll come out but probably not for several more years.

Bruce Fischer: The media made him look guilty as hell...they really did.

Paul Ciolino: And actually Fox News and Michelle Malkin a, uh, you know reporter-activist got involved in the case and she's had several hour specials on it. She's really carried the water on this thing media wise. But nationally not a lot of other people have picked it up. I mean, it's big on Facebook and it's big on social media. Listen, I have a client out in Las Vegas I've been working for for over 10 years her son's wrongfully convicted on a murder conspiracy case out of New Hampshire it's a total horseshit- bulls- terrible case. She has spent millions. It's no guarantee you're going to get out. None. None. So that the stars going to be lined up perfectly, you got to have a lot of stuff happening to bounce someone out of the penitentiary after they've been convicted.

Tammy Alexander: Have you ever seen a case with this many jailhouse informants?

Paul Ciolino: Probably not 12, No, no, it's ridiculous. I listen. Even a jury at that point, you know, but prosecutors more is better, right? Ah, we got 12 that's great number. Even if you think of 10 of them are scumbags. Maybe two of them aren't lying, right? So there is there is safety in numbers. I've seen two and three and four. But generally we'd have tapes, right? They'd wired a cell up, right?

Tammy Alexander: No tapes, no, nothing. I mean, they all have just stories, Paul.

Paul Ciolino: Prosecutors act like, tape recordings have been unavailable for the last 50 years, right? a wire on a guy doesn't work. Okay. You got man, you can wire anything for the last 30 or 40 years.

Lesley Pires: So actually, during one of the police interviews where they said Jamie was asking about what if he was involved in this murder? What would happen to him... he was really asking about if he had information on a robbery eight years later if he would get some help with that. So they change the word to murder and on the stand... they get the detective on a stand. They say, well, didn't you have a tape recorder? Yes. Why didn't you use it? Oh, I I just didn't use it that day. You know, isn't that standard protocol? Oh, it's not standard protocol. It's an option and we just didn't use it.

Paul Ciolino: Yes, you see that, that, that's another thing. There are very few rules or procedures concerning recording of statements and interrogations. And my favorite of course is in Illinois, any murder confession has to be videotape recorded, right? Guess what? Chicago is still not videotaping a lot of them. The video machine was broke, out of... they don't wear body cameras. Someone else was using the tape recorder... it just, it continues on because why? Who's gonna punish them? Prosecutor and or the judge, guess what? They're not gonna punish them. They're gonna let it slide. So the very best thing you're going to get, they could be punished by not allowing it in. The judge could say that that's not gonna happen. Right?

Lesley Pires: Right.

Paul Ciolino: There could be sanctions or fines. It could be all kinds of things for not doing it but they, they still often do not. And there are national standards, but give me give me the perfect Yep, the FBI red tape records nothing. They don't tape record statements. They always have to agents show up data allegedly. Don't take notes. Ask an FBI agent. How do you write that 30 page report? Well, I left the

interview and I sat down and I wrote it. It's called a 302. from memory, yes. Why didn't you record it? We have a policy. We don't record statements.

Lesley Pires: So what do we do when the prosecutor says, I- there were no notes taken? Everybody agrees there's no notes taken. But now 20 years later, we have somebody say I saw them take the notes. There's just no repercussions?

Paul Ciolino: Yeah, there's no repercussions because the people that need to punish them are the people that are trying to keep them in prison, they're not going to punish their own people for breaking the rules. They do it routinely everywhere, okay? So this- this is an age old problem, we're not going to solve anytime soon. Because no one's solved it yet, right? If this has been going on for as long as I've been in this business, and, in wrongful conviction cases, almost always more egregious, almost always bigger informants, bigger lies, bigger rewards, bigger deals cut, right, because it's a heater case. It's a homicide. It is the World Series of the criminal justice system, right? And guess what? The same shit that was going on 30 years ago is going on today. That doesn't, it doesn't change. What'll change our tactics and being smarter, and hopefully better trained on talking about defense personnel who could expose this stuff and do the job that needs to be done. But there's so many things-

I teach this stuff internationally in law enforcement, I teach to defense people, you could teach them until the cows come home. We've written...there's dozens of books on how to do this stuff properly. The proper protocol, the National Institute for Justice standards... no one's reading that shit, no one's paying attention....you know what...listen crime scenes, more egregious issues around crime scenes than any single thing. Right? Mishandled, contaminated, people lying about stuff at the crime scene, omitting stuff that was found at the crime scene. There's all kinds of national standards, and you put the crime scene guy in the witness stand and you're going down the list and he's going "nope, didn't do that. Nope, nope, didn't do that." Have you had any training? "Nope, not not much...just experience, been doing it for 20 years." Right? How many crime scenes have you done officer? "I don't know... a couple thousand."

Well, I'm the kind of guy I, want to Okay, let's go through that couple thousand. Let's talk about it because I'm in a town like Champaign, Illinois, well how many goddamn crime scenes do you have every year? Really. 30? 40? How'd you do a couple thousand? Nobody else works there? You work in 24 hours a day, seven days a

week? There's another crime scene people? You see, you start exposing these lies and holding their feet to the fire on this stuff.

As a scientist, you understand this, if you put something on your resume, and it's not true, somebody like me is going to find it. And we're going to light you up on a witness stand. And that judge is going to be all indignant about you fibbing- let's say, you take credit for writing an article. And actually someone else published that article but you were student working on it. Perhaps you may even a wrote 90% of it. But your idiot Professor took the credit for it. But you decide when you're doing your resume one day that jerk off didn't write shit. I wrote that article. My name's on it. I'm going to take credit for it. That insignificant Fact could destroy your reputation. Now, let's take that same scenario with a crime scene investigator or fingerprint analysis who has required no kind of formal or legal training, okay, just as experience and air quote marks and they could lie and get caught 100 times and people generally aren't gonna judge not gonna punish them like he would punish you as an expert.

Lesley Pires: So what does it cost to get you to sit at the defense table when somebody thinks they're lawyers not up to asking those kind of questions?

Paul Ciolino: I could tell you, it costs a lot of money. And Jamie Snow, I would do it for free. Okay? If Jamie gets a three week trial again, I will sit there if whoever his criminal attorney allows that and the judge allows it and I will make sure this thing goes right. I'm assuming I know John Lovie very well. John Lovie would probably want to try this case. And I would not say no. If he wanted to do it and I don't think you would require my presence there if John was trying this case because John knows how to try a case. Ask Curtis Lovelace, a former prosecutor who got wrongfully charged with a murder in Southern Illinois a few years back and John wound up trying that criminal case on a retrial, and he won and now he's getting ready to do the civil suit...would have started already, but this whole Coronavirus thing is put a stop to all cases in Illinois. So it's rare when you got a lawyer who is passionate, knows what he's doing, hits all the right buttons, well funded, and or independently wealthy and put on a good case. And these are the problems we see.

You look at Jamie's case, reading a transcript, which is all we have right now. Right? And Jamie, you think how did these knuckleheads lose this case, man, there's no evidence, right? But these cases are lost every day, like this is not something that's really rare or unusual... It's a little rare because Jamie's a white guy, but, but if you start looking at the demographics, okay, now you're in Central Illinois where it's

almost all white guys, right? In that county, there's not a- there's some blacks because you got Illinois State University there, and so so there's some minorities that live there. But generally it's a farm land community. So any white guys are sort of like the black guys of that town, if you know what I mean, right? They're the- Jamie, you know, was not upper middle cla- he didn't belong to the country club in Bloomington.

Tammy Alexander: I thought it was interesting when you said that you when you were talking about public defenders and how, you know how great because initially, he had a public defender who was over the public defender's office, and she came up and she was like, okay, Jamie, I don't know where all these people came from, but we're going to court and I'm gonna, I'm gonna, you know, she asked for money. She's like, I'm going to get, we're going to interview every one of these people because this is crazy. Where do they come from? We're going to investigate them, we're gonna do this. And they had her recused. A week later, they had a motion to recuse her. And because she was over the PD's office, they were accused the entire PD office and then hire the dude with a stroke. And the dude with an alcoholic, you know, the dude who was an alcoholic, we know, they knew that you know that these people have these issues.

Paul Ciolino: Yeah, listen, and DuPage County where I live, has a magnificent public defender's office, well funded, well educated, well trained. They're so good. I married one of them. And at one point she had won seven felony jury trials in a row into DuPage County, which is a record still standing today. And it got so bad Joe Birkett, who's now an appellate court justice, used to come sit in the courtroom tried to intimidate her when he was a state's attorney, right? Or have people in their watch her like she was you know, bribing witnesses or something. She's a PD kicking their ass. And so I've seen this in state of Illinois, we're lucky, because we have some really good public defender officers that work hard and do a good job.

You get to North Carolina where they grab a real estate lawyer who's happens to be in court that day, evicting somebody and the judge goes, Hey, I'm appointing you to this homicide case. And you're going to do it, or you're never going to get appointed to anything again, and these people are these lawyers are income depends on appointed cases, right. 25 bucks an hour. And so you got a real estate guy trying a murder case. I mean, that used to happen in Cook County, too in the old days, by the way that would happen.

Tammy Alexander: She fought tooth and nail. I mean, I've read the transcript and she wanted to be on that case. She said, you know, there's no reason- she defended one of the dudes who, who was testifying against him- one of the informants, but she had she had represented him 10 years before. But that's a small county, you know, they had represented probably all of those, you know, I mean-

Paul Ciolino: Yeah, and they know the players and they're familiar with all the police departments and who's a, who's a piece of shit who's an honest, honorable guy or woman. And so they are formidable sometimes and they're, they're well paid and well compensated are almost equal to State's Attorney, never quite as equal, but often they make a good living and, and a lot of public defenders practice for the pure joy of practicing law and their advocates to the nth degree for their clients.

Tammy Alexander: They didn't want her on this case.

Paul Ciolino: Didn't want, they don't want anyone going to give them a fight or be to tough, right? Because they know and listen prosecutors... there's so many politics in these, in every criminal case, right? There's a lot of politics involved. And I have seen lawyers...listen, I'm not going to screw up the rest of my career, I'm not going to screw up my standing at The Country Club...the judges and the prosecutors who belong there. Bloomington...all the judges and lawyers belong to this country club, the Bloomington Country Club. They eat together there, their kids get married there, their wives play tennis together there and guess what? Most lawyer, criminal defense lawyers are not going to get a major pissing contest over Jamie Snow from the trailer court. Okay. It's hard to find an advocate who's going to go down here and kick ass and take names.

Now, as a matter of routine, those people should be falling out of trees on defendants, right, but that's just not the case. Bloomington is the home the Allstate Insurance, who is the largest employer in town has more lawyers working there than they do in the entire county. And a lot of these people wind up on juries, I might add ,they all belong to the country club and they're all pals with the prosecutor and judges, Okay? So I've had wealthy, well heeled criminal defendant clients who belong to that country club down there, and I've gotten a lot of breaks. And we usually win those cases, because they know everybody, everybody likes them. They don't mind they're a major drug dealer on the side of their a funeral home or car dealership, they know, all right. It's a very political town. And very, it's almost old, southern genteel type operation down there, right?

I mean, I just had an older guy convicted of a sex case down here involving his grandchildren total bullshit, totally made up all about money. And he did not have the right trial attorney. And he got rung up. It was all about money. But he was a farmer, and he really wasn't part of the social network. He just happened to be a very wealthy farmer. And he lived in Iowa, so he wasn't on there at all but his grandchildren lived there. They made up a case. It all revolved out of a divorce case, but that's neither here nor there...

There's a lot of injustice everywhere. The stars got to be lined up to win a case... really does. You need a lot of help, and a lot of good things happening at that moment. And when you try to win the appellate courts it's Mission Impossible. I'm 63 years old guys, I am tired. All right. I don't get involved in these cases anymore, unless there's a lot of money or I have passionate about the case for some reason or another, all right? They're too difficult or too hard or too time consuming. I don't want Jamie... I don't want to sit here every night, thinking about Jamie Snow, all right?

Because it is it is not good for your mental health, all right, it wears on you, it ages you. I've had a lot of clients like Jamie and I don't like livin' like that anymore, this is a young man's game or a young woman's game, okay, who can burn all that energy and passion? If Jamie got a new trial, I'm first in line to do whatever I can. Okay. But I got involved with Jamie many, many years after the damage had been done. And really, I would have gotten involved a long time ago, if there was something I could have contributed that would have helped. But everything had been done that could be done. And, and if it wasn't, it was so screwed up, it was unfixable, in my humble opinion.

I think he's in a pretty good place right now legally. I'm hopeful. I think Jamie's coming out of there for two reasons. A. He's innocent, he didn't do it. All right, and B. They've been beaten on this case long enough, and it's been around long enough where he's due for a good break right?. I'm not sure he'll ever get exonerated. But I do think he's going to get out. And i think it'll be soon... it's going to be sooner rather than later, you know. And so, I mean you tell- Now listen, I'm not minimizing this because every day in a maximum security prison is like walking down the Kennedy expressway at rush hour dodging cars doing 70 miles an hour. You might get away with it every, every day for, you know, how many days, months eventually some dude ain't gonna see you and he's gonna run you over. And if that's like being in a maximum security prison, you might be the greatest guy in the world...no problem, no trouble, everybody loves you...but there's a lot of psychopaths in prison and a lot

of lunatics and a lot of evil guards...and a lot of people who don't like you for a number of reasons- they don't like your girlfriend because she's pretty, they don't like you because you get too much mail, they don't like you because the guard talk to you nice one day- Never mind that guard has known you for 20 damn years, okay? All right. There's a lot of ways to get killed or hurt in prison. Never mind if you're sick... you're screwed because, because medical treatment in prisons let's- it's generally non existent. Any serious illness it's gonna kill you... you're gonna die. So it's risky, risky being in jail... locked up in the state of Illinois. State of Arizona is much worse, the state of Texas is worse, Florida's worse, West Virginia is worse...so it could always be worse. Right?

But it's just it's hard and not to mention, the stress level of being locked up for crime you didn't commit is just off the charts. It's off the charts. Guys like Jamie Snow, and I don't- Jamie, I think has learned how to manage this and he's okay. But I have seen guys have slowly gone insane. Just cumulative damage it has done for over 15, 20, 25, 30 years. If you don't have coping skills, if you don't have an outside love interest, a love for reading, for knowledge... if you don't have a way to self entertain, you don't know-in other words, you don't have to do time it'll get you...it usually will kill you. You won't outlive it. That's what'll happen to most inmates who are not... most of them aren't-listen, if they're middle class, college educated and very bright, ah, the worst thing you could do to somebody like that is throw them in prison, because that's so out of the realm of their experience... street smart guys who have done some time before, who are familiar with the criminal justice system. Who learn how to do time, who learn how to entertain themselves, who learn how to self educate, get better, work on their case, find a mission, a reason to live... they do much better, but it's still a dangerous, dangerous place.

You know, these are the problems and these, these-that's the stuff that bothers me. I know Jamie's innocent, I know he's coming out of there, but God forbid what happens, something happened before that, right? And and that's a possibility. I mean, that's like, that's something you'd want to put money on- that something will happen, something bad will happen, right? Because generally, he's in Statesville, which is top two or three toughest prisons in the state. Now, he's a smart, cagey guy who, who manages situations very, very well, but that doesn't make it any less dangerous.

Tammy Alexander: Yeah. Every day is a risk.

Paul Ciolino: Yes.

Tammy Alexander: Now on that positive note.

Paul Ciolino: That's reality and that's what people...they don't understand that nobody getting rehabilitated in jail. Jail's not fun, that you're not having sex, you're not watching HBO, you're not lifting weights and... all that shits gone, man, it- Trust me. You are being punished day in, day out 24/7, and you're being punished and cruel and unusual ways. You're not getting medical treatment... if you got a cavity, tough shit. If you got impacted wisdom teeth, tough shit, get in line. We'll get to you in about two years, live with the pain. You got cancer, here's some Tylenol for your problem, pal. Alright-it medical treatment is almost non existent, they don't care. They don't care if you're sick, they don't care if you're dying.

So being wrongfully convicted, it's one thing now you put up with all of this on top of it. I live in the area. The local hospitals are loaded with inmates who got the virus... now the good news is most of the inmates are younger. They'll go in, they'll survive it right. The older guys they're not gonna survive it they're gonna get sick and die. I think we've lost two older inmates so far, right. Both of them were pretty bad guys, no loss to the world I'm guessing, but but they're getting sick. Here's the problem. And here's the bad news. The more guards gets sick, the more oppressive it's going to become for the inmates, and administration isn't taking care of the guards. And here's the problem. What happens when you got not enough guards? Well, administrative people start acting like guards like they know what they're doing. And then they just start locking you down 24 hours a day really making your life miserable, because you don't have enough guard personnel that manage the inmates. So they better get their shit together because the prisons are like nursing homes. Let's face it, these guys are on top of each other.

I'm all about being fair. And that's what my criminal defendant clients want. They want a fair trial. I don't want a third prosecutor sitting in the bench in a row. I want an even break. I want to start on a level playing field. And I want to stay there when we're trying these cases and we have that 90% of these wrongful convictions would not occur... would not happen. So what can you do vote these bums out of office, these judges in Illinois are all elected, okay, every six years they come up for retention which is... but if they're bad get rid of them, get your friends, get your family, get some, get some lawyer to run against him, make him spend a couple hundred thousand dollars to beat ya, okay? That's how you punish these people. And if a

prosecutors bad, fire his boss. All right? That's, that's these people are politicians this is what they understand.

Brent Survey and I are writing a book right now reformation of the criminal justice system... got two chapters on bad prosecutors and bad judges and what to do about them okay? This is a problem that's nationwide it's not getting any better. Because people don't get active until they got a dog in the fight. All right, especially white people, white people don't give a shit because they're making money and they got their 401(K) and their kids are all going to college and junior college and are working for the family business. It's not until someone in the family get jammed up on a criminal case, everyone, all of a sudden concerned about how the criminal justice system works.

We should all be care because this is how this country functions and the criminal justice system is the biggest business in this country. And you have to treat it like that. It's a business. It employs more people, it spends more money than anything more than pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies more than anything. Think about it, that the jobs that would go away if there was no criminal justice system tomorrow. Just think about it for a second. So it is huge. And so you have to treat it like a financial entity. And if the boss isn't performing, you've got a fire him. And the board of directors would be the people who elect him to make their lives uncomfortable, make them do their jobs. Be an activist; be tough, do not play games, make everyone get treated right, the same way. Not because you're rich or you're white, or you got a big fancy lawyer that you could pay 50 grand a month to, okay? That that's not a guarantee, by the way for justice, but it helps.

So you have to make these people play by the rules. And the only way you do that you get them unelected, you fire them. That's the only thing they understand, because you're sure enough aint going to get them prosecuted for misconduct...not gonna happen. Accountability is what they determine is accountability, okay, you and I have accountability as a defense advocate or person working for the defense. We're held accountable. We're held to a set of standards and laws, regulations and rules that they do--they they hold themselves to whatever they feel like holding themselves to. That's the problem.

Bruce Fischer: The question is, how do you get the public interested? If they're not if they're not dragged into into a nightmare? How do you get them interested? We're not the norm here.

Paul Ciolino: Get some chick with a nice ass name Kim Kardashian, who is that got access to the president is able to get people's front from the penitentiary on a pretty regular basis. So if you're hot, and you're famous, maybe you get somebody like that to become a public figure spokesman for you okay? Because that's what they understand. And really, I'm not negative on Kim Kardashian. She has done magnificent work. She's gotten a whole bunch of people out of jail who shouldn't be there. And she's done it on her fame. That is what I think a Hollywood person use more fame for a very good thing. Right? So it's been a great thing to watch from afar. And I'm like everybody else. Kim Kardashian, Kim Kardashian, as you know, about you would think initially, not a very smart person, not very bright. Let's face it. You made a porno to get famous, okay? With an old boyfriend Well, now she's a billionaire. But she's taken her fame and her wealth and she sprung a whole bunch of dudes in jail, including Rob Blagojevich. He went to bat for with Trump. Okay, so that's nice access, if you can get it, if you could get a famous person interested or involved or a wealthy person, but listen, our president, he likes famous people, and if a famous dude could get him on the phone or a golfer, so if you know, a professional golfer, you know, and if your, your boyfriend or husband or friend's locked up on a federal crime, you got a shot. All right.

Bruce Fischer: It's pretty sad that that has to be one of the options. So the bottom line is there's no immediate hope for reform.

Paul Ciolino: Nah, no, not gonna happen.

Lesley Pires: So with Jamie, he always says he's the luckiest man in Statesville because he's got the three of us...he's got people like you. He's got his exoneration project. He had Bob Ruff at the whole Truth and Justice Army, and that there are so many guys who wish that they had what he had, and you're telling us that, you know that's such a small thing to have. What can the rest of the guys in there do who maybe they only have a mom or a girlfriend. Where can they start?

Paul Ciolino: Let me tell you my experience. One dedicated, hard charging person is often all it takes to get it done, all right? Jamie's very correct in saying what he says... he is very fortunate. He is very lucky that he's got Tam and the rest of you pushin and shovin and fighting and carrying on. That's sometimes all it takes. I want to close with this as an example because this guy's coming out of prison.

In 1989 or so I was putting on a death penalty investigation seminar at Northwestern University in Chicago. And a woman by the name of Nan Webb jumped in her car and drove up from Mims, Florida. Where- right outside Orlando, about 40 miles outside Orlando and she was a religious person, the Catholic Church, who was corresponding with an inmate on death row by the name of Crosley Alexander Green, who was charged with a murder down there. And she got to know Crosley and believed him to be innocent. She was writing me letters, and I was ignoring her. And she was calling me and I wasn't talking to her, so she got in a car and drove up to Chicago, and grabbed me at Northwestern. And wouldn't let me go until I made her promise I'd read transcripts, all right.

And Nan Webb was a voice in the dark in the woods. And I read the transcripts. And guess what? I'm like, son of a bitch. This dude did not do it. I think he's innocent, probably, based on the trial transcript. So I got CBS News and 48 hours and an investigator from Boston and one from Denver and one from San Diego and we went down there and we tore this shit up. And make a long story short, we got him off death row. He's still alive and he should be coming out of that prison in Florida, within the next three or four months, the state has to try him or kick him loose...they're not going to try this case, folks. But that case was really...now we started working on it in 1999, okay, if not for Nan Webb, Crosley Green would be dead today, okay. That's the point. Crosley does know how to do time. He's an African American had been the prison before many of his family members have been there. Not a strange place to him, all right. He's a survivor. He's- I believe he's about my age. He's 63 or 64. Within a year of my age, Crosley coming out of there, he's going to have a life again. But it was because of Nan Webb and her passion and her drive to try and get something done.

She had no idea how to do it. She had no tools that she taught typing at a junior college, okay, and went to church every Sunday and Friday night. That was Nan did. Nan's still alive; most of the family dead. I just I'm hopeful Nan's alive to see Crosley come out of that penitentiary. Okay? Because really, we did all the work and we got all the publicity and we brought-we were in a war with the Broward County prosecutors and Broward County Sheriff's Department over this thing. I mean, I was threatened at gunpoint at two o'clock in the morning on backstreets. All right, so, we fought a war down there for Crosley Green, a Washington DC law firm got involved a big one bunch of African American lawyers made a pet project and 21 years later, he might be coming out of there finally, he's been in for about 31. So I'm telling you is

you never know where that person is going to come from that that turns the corner on their case. But none of it's never gonna happen quick.

Bruce Fischer: The lost time is incredible. You'll get- some trials take two days and it takes 30 years to fix it.

Paul Ciolino: That's right, Bruce. It's, it's, and I always say this the defendants man, call me before you're ass goes to trial because once you're in that penitentiary, brother, it's going to be years or decades. Okay? We got Anthony Porter out of jail about six months after we got involved, but I mean, the stars lined up, it was lightning in a bottle kind of shit. And we had CBS network news and Dan Rather behind us on it. And I got a confession from the guy who actually did the crime. It was kind of a miracle type case, but he had been in prison for 18 years at that point. But we only worked on a case for about six months. All right.

Tammy Alexander: That's crazy.

Paul Ciolino: Yeah, yeah. That was the lightning in the bottle type case. So I would tell you, I'll keep doing what you're doing because you're doing great. You're doing God's work, man. I mean, you'd got a dude in jail who did not do this, all right...and he's a very capable kind of guy. But they got to have people on the outside doing this, all right. And don't discount podcasts and articles, and anytime you could talk about this case in any forum, you do it, right...because you know, listen, you just got to be persistent...sign of a great investigator is he or she is persistent. And keep at it, they keep at it, they keep hammering, they keep going. It's easy to get discouraged, because all you hear is no in this business. Fuck you, and no, that's what you hear all the time. You say that to me? I just, you know, it just goes right through me. I don't even think about it. I don't care. I'm going to keep talking to you.

Bruce Fischer: You're used to it after all these years.

Paul Ciolino: I'll tell you man, I'm used to hearing it, right, and I just keep going and I just keep calling you and keep bugging you and sometimes it works... more often than not it does not but you never know when it's gonna work. You're never gonna know the magic door you open. So y'all keep doing what you're doing, man, for Jamie Snow... Jamie Snow is coming out...I'm telling you. Jamie Snows coming out of that jail because he's innocent. Period. And he's got a bunch of activists working on his

behalf. Now he gets out, I'll take all the credit...don't worry about I'll push you all the side.

Bruce Fischer: If he gets out, we'll let you have it.

Paul Ciolino: Go ahead Tam.

Tammy Alexander: What's what you said was and I've always said this to in reading the the wrongful convictions, the exoneration's, I've always it was persistence that that was it. Yeah, I mean, every case, there was years and years and years of persistence, no giving up and that's always kept me going. As far as, you know, I know if you just if you just keep at it, because it's...

Paul Ciolino: Depressing. It's depressing, and it's hard. It's back breaking. It's stressful. It-listen, and it just never ends. It's setback after setback after setback, but there's always someone like one of you all involved in the successful cases. I know what doesn't work, nobody doing anything.

Tammy Alexander: Nothing's gonna happen if nobody tries.

Paul Ciolino: If you wait for the appellate court to rule in your favor, you're gonna die waiting, okay? You got to push and shove and manipulate and do whatever you got to do to get this to the attention of people who can affect a positive decision. So often activists like yourselves who are only ones that are being the truth tellers. I'm all I'm big about being a truth teller. Right? And listen, I've taught this stuff for 35 years or more, and I always- this is my advice to guilty clients, shut the fuck up...don't talk to newspaper reporters because it's not going to help you. They're not going to lie for you. Okay? If you're innocent, you want to be talking everybody. I would never tell Jamie, for instance, he couldn't talk to somebody. Fuck that. I'm talking everybody I want his voice heard. Because you want to humanize these people.

And let's face it, a lot of your clients are idiots. You don't want them talking to anybody...because they're are morons and or mental defectives or they're crazy, right, so I get a client like Jamie Snow up front and center... he could string two sentences together and he knows this case. One of the Fordyce four defenders, Dennis Williams- Dennis new his case inside out and told the truth. We, we put Dennis out front all the time. You gotta guy like Jamie, man, run him out there because he's smart, knows the facts of the case, and he's innocent, and he comes off as being

innocent. Listen at Chicago Popo report. Okay, and WLS AM 890. Also podcast on all those platforms where we take nothing seriously. I mentioned because we're gonna do a feature when we get back. Jamie's gonna be a contributing guest every week. I'm putting him on there live from Stateville, Jamie Snow every Popo Report.

Bruce Fischer: Sounds great.

Tammy Alexander: Oh my gosh, Paul, thank you so much. We always appreciate you. Everything you've done.

Paul Ciolino: Listen, it was fun, happy Easter to everyone my pal Jamie Snow who's coming out of there- not as soon but when he's coming, I'm sure of it.

Bruce Fischer: I like the optimism.

Paul Ciolino: And I'm, I'm not generally an optimistic person but I believe Jamie Snow will come out of prison.

Tammy Alexander: I agree.

Lesley Pires: In this episode we talked with homicide investigation expert Paul Ciolino to break down the absolute power snitches hold over a defendant. In Jamie's case, numerous people took the stand and just simply said he told me so all the different stories of his alleged confessions that they share more in common. The majority received time shaved off their own sentences in return for their testimony, and many have since recanted and admitted they did it in return for a sweet deal. But Jamie still waits for others who wish to come forward today. If you have any information that may help Jamie, please call the tip line at 888-710-SNOW. There's a \$10,000 reward for any information leading to a new trial or the exoneration of Jamie Snow. You heard what Paul thinks about the snitches who lied to put Jamie away and how it was incredibly reprehensible. And now we have new evidence that suggests equally reprehensible behavior in local authorities who threatened these people with prison time and consequences for their women and children. How did they get away with it? That's next time on Snow Files.

Transcribed by: Cathy McElhaney