
FEDERAL COURT ORDERS NEW TRIAL FOR HILDER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. CLIENT ON DEATH ROW

Firm counsel James Rytting has successfully argued for the release of Ronald J. Prible, a Firm client convicted of capital murder in 2002. Mr. Rytting has been challenging the conviction of Mr. Prible for over a decade. On May 20, 2020 Judge Ellison granted relief and ordered the release of Mr. Prible in 180 days should the State decide against bringing new proceedings. Mr. Prible is also represented by Firm counsel Philip H. Hilder.

NEWS RELEASE

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UNRELIABLE JAIL HOUSE INFORMANT TESTIMONY

Mr. Prible was convicted of the slaying of a family of five with the use of an unreliable jailhouse informant in 2002. Previously, investigators did not have enough evidence to charge Mr. Prible of the murders. No trace evidence was found. In 2001 after the case had gone cold, the prosecution used jailhouse informants, with fed information, to charge Prible with the murders. These informants testified at an evidentiary hearing held in 2019 about their various communications with the prosecution and the hope for time off their sentence for their aid in Prible's case and conviction.

The use of jail house informants to convict is problematic at best. According to the Innocence Project Jailhouse informant testimony is one of the leading contributing factors of wrongful convictions nationally, playing a role in nearly one in five of the [367 DNA-based exoneration cases](#). Jailhouse informants are people in prison who are incentivized to testify against a defendant in exchange for a benefit, which can include receiving leniency in their own case.

SUCCESSFUL HABEAS CORPUS RELIEF IS EXTREMELY RARE

Successful habeas corpus relief is considered extremely rare, especially in the State of Texas. The Firm has secured three habeas victories in Federal Court and was successful in reducing capital punishment to life in prison for one.

According to a study [published by UCLA](#) examining reversal rates in Texas from 2000-2020:

Of 151 completed federal habeas proceedings, inmates were ultimately successful in a single case. (In one additional case, the inmate was successful in the Fifth Circuit, but the court of appeals subsequently granted the government's petition for en banc review, and the full court has not yet resolved the case.) *Source: Reversal Rates in Capital Cases in Texas, 2000-2020* By David R. Dow & Jeffrey R. Newberry

Mr. Rytting is a post-conviction and habeas expert. He and the Firm, Hilder & Associates, P.C. also focus on white collar criminal defense matters related complex

civil and administrative litigation, corporate compliance programs, grand jury investigations, attorney grievance defense, qui tam false claims, whistleblower representation, internal corporate investigations, trials, and related parallel administrative and civil litigation appeals. Contact the law firm of Hilder & Associates, P.C, to speak with a knowledgeable attorney and start building a strong defense.