



**INNOCENCE PROJECT OF TEXAS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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On Tuesday, April 7 at 1:30pm in the 299th District Court in Travis County, Judge Charlie Baird will hold a hearing in the tragic case of Timothy Cole.

Mr. Cole was convicted of sexual assault in Lubbock County in 1986, and he died in prison 13 years later. Innocence Project of Texas (IPOT) clinical students at the Texas Tech School of Law investigated his case and obtained a detailed confession from the actual perpetrator. A DNA test now proves Cole's innocence. His family and the original victim in the case joined together in an effort led by IPOT to clear his name in court. On April 7, he will likely be legally exonerated in a detailed opinion that is expected to be read aloud in open court by Judge Baird.

This will be the first time any court in Texas has cleared the name of someone who died in prison serving time for a wrongful conviction. Judge Baird is likely to give a detailed analysis of the case and show exactly how this injustice happened- another potential first in a Texas court. Judge Baird may also address the Texas legislature and call for significant changes to the legal system to ensure that tragedies like the Cole case are not repeated.

Dramatic hearings in this case, which featured nationally known experts and the testimony of the man who actually committed the crime, concluded on February 6th of this year. Tuesday's hearing will be attended by members of Mr. Cole's family; Michele Mallin, the victim of the rape which Tim Cole was falsely accused of, and lawyers and activists who have been involved in the case.

According to Jeff Blackburn, Chief Counsel for the Innocence Project of Texas and lead counsel, "This case has already broken new legal ground in Texas. We expect this hearing to take matters further and show, in clear terms, what went wrong in this case and what is wrong with our system."

For more information about the Tim Cole case or Tuesday's hearing, please contact Jeff Blackburn or Natalie Roetzel at the phone numbers listed above. Cole's family members, Michele Mallin, and IPOT attorneys will be available following the hearing to answer questions from the media.