

Innocence Project of Texas

'Justice Is Truth in Action' - Benjamin Disraeli



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charles Chatman: The 15th Man Exonerated by DNA Testing in Dallas County

Contact: Innocence Project of Texas

Executive Director, Natalie Roetzel

(o) 806.744.6525 (c) xxx.xxx.xxxx

Natalie@innocenceprojectoftexas.org

The Innocence Project of Texas (IPOT) is pleased to announce that Charles Chatman is the 15th man to have his name cleared by DNA testing in Dallas County. Chatman was wrongfully convicted of Aggravated Rape in 1981 and sentenced to life in prison. DNA testing now proves that Chatman was innocent of the crime. Incarcerated for the past 26 years, Chatman is expected to be released tomorrow (January 3, 2008) at 10:00 a.m. in Dallas Criminal District Court No. 4. Chatman was represented by Innocence Project of Texas President and public defender, Michelle Moore, and IPOT Chief Counsel, Jeff Blackburn, on his motion for DNA testing.

With 15 exonerations since 2001, Dallas County continues to have more verified wrongful convictions than any other jurisdiction in the Nation. The Innocence Project of Texas is working with the Dallas County District Attorney's office to review more than 400 cases where post-conviction DNA testing was previously denied. For more information about our organization or the previous 14 Dallas County exonerations, please visit www.innocenceprojectoftexas.org.

A press conference about this development will take place outside of the courtroom immediately upon the conclusion of Chatman's 10:00 a.m. hearing.
