

# RENO LAW GROUP

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Re: Bill in favor of exoneration

Dear committee members:

As an attorney for over 40 years and an author for the last few, I have had an opportunity to reflect on the justice system, its successes and failures. One of the most relevant and devastating failures is the rate at which persons who are innocent of the crimes charged and convicted are incarcerated. These persons are usually poor, unable to afford adequate representation and are ground to grist in a justice system that favors those who can afford to defend themselves.

In the case of Nolan Klein, the subject of our book, ***To Prove His Innocence***, poverty, lack of bail, inadequate and dishonest legal representation and a prosecution team that withheld exculpatory evidence was at the heart of his wrongful conviction. The police took his property without cause making him unable to make bail. The public defender assigned to his case did little to assist him at trial, misunderstood the case and proceeded to lie under oath in the post trial process. The Judge was prejudiced and impaired the jury's ability to reach a just and fair decision. The appellate process was a joke.

Exoneration is a process that most States have now embraced because of the number of cases where prisoners have spent a large portion of their lives in confinement for crimes they did not commit. The Innocence Project has been illustrative of this situation and is highly regarded as the savior of many wrongfully convicted prisoners.

Consider the facts of ***To Prove His Innocence*** and Tonja Brown's testimony before you as well as her supporting evidence provided to this Commission over the years. There must be changes to ensure that everyone is entitled to receive a fair trial and the innocent are not wrongfully convicted.

Brown's 5 recommendations to this commission will provide this procedure. The

innocent persons in Nevada deserve a process that will prove their innocence.

*//Trevia J. Hearne// aka Mary Elizabeth Morgan*