

## All Rise: Standing Up for Justice in Criminal Cases

Thursday, October 20, 2022  
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM



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Barry Scheck, co-founder of the Innocence Project, and Wayne County Prosecutor, Kym Worthy, whose office was the first in Michigan to assemble a conviction integrity unit, will discuss their critical work. While they represent different sides of the ‘v’ in case captions, Attorney Scheck and Prosecutor Worthy share the mutual goal of ensuring that the US criminal justice system is fair, equitable, and compassionate for the accused and for crime victims.

At the end of the session, participants should be able to understand:

1. History and rationale for Innocence work nationwide and in Michigan
2. Criminal investigations and prosecutions predicated on unreliable science can result in wrongful convictions
3. Lessons learned/take aways for judges and practitioners
4. Meeting the needs of crime victims and exonerees

### Speakers:

**Barry C. Scheck, Co-Founder of the Innocence Project and Professor of Law, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City**



Barry C. Scheck is the Co-Founder and Special Counsel of the Innocence Project and for the past forty-four years a Professor of Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City. He is a past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers where he currently serves as a Trustee of the NACDL Foundation.

Mr. Scheck and Peter Neufeld began the Innocence Project as a law school clinic in 1992. It is now a large independent non-profit organization affiliated with Cardozo that frees the innocent, prevents wrongful convictions, and fights for fair, compassionate and equitable systems of justice for everyone.

The Innocence Project works with criminal justice stakeholders to pass state and federal legislation to reform the criminal justice system. In its thirty years of existence, 375 individuals have been exonerated in the United States through post-conviction DNA testing. The Innocence Project also serves as the

headquarters of the Innocence Network that consists of 57 innocence organizations within the United States and 12 abroad.

Mr. Scheck is also a founding partner at Neufeld Scheck & Brustin, LLP, a firm specializing in civil rights and constitutional litigation. The firm pursues civil rights claims and often secures compensation and institutional reform for victims of police misconduct.

Mr. Scheck has published extensively in the areas of civil rights and criminal defense including a book with Jim Dwyer and Peter Neufeld entitled, *Actual Innocence: When Justice Goes Wrong and How to Make it Right*.

Mr. Scheck received his undergraduate degree from Yale University ('71) and his law degree from the University of California at Berkeley ('74).

### **Kym L. Worthy, Prosecutor, Wayne County**



Kym Worthy is the elected prosecutor for Wayne County—Michigan’s most populated county. She is the first woman and the first African American to hold this position.

Before becoming the Wayne County Prosecutor, Worthy was a judge on the Detroit Recorder’s Court. There she presided over hundreds of serious felony cases.

Worthy’s bold leadership has resulted in numerous improvements in her office and in the community. These include adding an elder abuse unit to handle all cases involving elderly and vulnerable adults, obtaining funding to be used solely for the protection of witnesses, designing and implementing a “Change the Culture” initiative that focuses on educational training and community policing to reduce gun violence, and working on resolving a massive backlog of unprocessed rape kits that was discovered after she took office.

Recognizing that “service is the rent we pay for living,” Worthy participates in numerous nonprofits and founded the Alexandra Simone Fund for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Henry Ford Hospital to provide services to the parents of prematurely born infants.

Worthy has been an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit Mercy. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame School of Law and the University of Michigan.