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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2008

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Thomas McGowan is Dallas County's 16th Wrongfully-Convicted Man

DNA results prove him innocent of 1985 sexual assault and burglary after 23 years in prison

WHAT: Hearing to announce finding on post-conviction DNA testing results of Thomas McGowan.

WHEN: **Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. CDT**

WHERE: 291st Judicial District Court, Judge Susan Hawk presiding
Frank Crowley Courts Building, 7th Floor
133 N. Industrial Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75207

BACKGROUND: Thomas McGowan was convicted for aggravated sexual assault and burglary which arose out of the same incident. He received life sentences in both cases which were then stacked by the trial judge, which means he had to serve one life sentence before he could start serving the second life sentence in prison. The facts of the case reveal that the victim was sexually assaulted when she arrived at her apartment in Richardson, Texas, and discovered an unknown perpetrator burglarizing her residence. Mr. McGowan, who is represented by the Innocence Project based in New York, has consistently maintained his innocence for 23 years.

The District Attorney's (DA) Conviction Integrity Unit first received an inquiry on Mr. McGowan's case in August of 2007. Upon review of the circumstances of the offense, the DA's Office located the evidence to be tested at SWIFS, Dallas County's crime lab, and agreed to post-conviction DNA testing.

**INTERVIEW
REQUESTS:**

District Attorney Craig Watkins and Special Fields Bureau Chief Mike Ware will be available for interviews immediately following the hearing.

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