

PROGRAMME

MONDAY MAY 20

2:30 - 2:40PM	Introduction of Tara Whelan, Martin Tankleff & Making an Exoneree Class
2:40 - 3:00PM	The Structure of the Court System in the US Generally and in NY Specifically
3:00 - 3:20 PM	The Difference in the Practice of Law Between Trial Attorneys and Appellate Attorneys and the Limitations of Each
3:20 - 3:45PM	Examples of Types of Cases and Clients Tara Has Represented & The Range of Dispositions Available
3:45 - 4:00PM	Question & Answer Period
4:00 - 4:15PM	15 Minute Break
4:15 - 4:40PM	Marty Discusses Appellate Cases & Strategies of Practice (Investigation, Different Kinds of Experts)
4:40 - 5:00PM	Marty Discusses His Case
5:00 - 5:15PM	Begin Introducing Legal Concepts That Will Be Explored Tomorrow
5:15 - 5:30PM	Questions and Answers
5:30PM	Close for the day
5:30 - 6:30PM	Meet with anyone who has private questions

TUESDAY MAY 21

2:30 - 2:35PM	Re-introduction of Martin Tankleff and Tara Whelan for those who weren't there the first day.
2:35 - 3:00PM	Marty Discusses the Appellate Court System & the Appeals Process in NYS
3:00 - 3:15PM	Discussion of the Appellate Court System in the Federal Government and the Interaction with State Cases
3:15 - 4:00PM	The Appeals and Post-Conviction Litigation in the Martin Tankleff Case
4:00 - 4:15PM	15 Minute Break
4:15 - 4:45PM	Interactive Zoom Conversation with Steve Braga and Martin Tankleff on Representing the Innocent Client – A Lawyer & His Client's Perspective
4:45 - 5:15PM	Zoom with Exonerees Adnan Syed and Amanda Knox
5:15 - 5:30PM	Questions and Answers
5:30PM	Close for the day
5:30 - 6:30PM	Meet with anyone who has private questions



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The seminar "From Wrongful Arrest To Rightful Exoneration", presented by Marty Tankleff Esq. and Tara Whelan Esq., offers a unique opportunity to explore the complexities of the criminal justice system, especially the American one, and the impact that a wrongful conviction can have on an individual.

Marty Tankleff, a visiting professor at Georgetown University and lawyer, was wrongfully sentenced to two consecutive 25-year prison sentences for the murder of his parents. His innocence was proven 17 years later and, since then, he has become a world reference in the fight against miscarriage of justice.

Tara Whelan is an American lawyer with extensive experience in criminal defense. Together with Marty Tankleff, they will explore topics such as the judicial structure, advocacy and the State and Federal appeals system in the United States; shedding light, in an eminently practical way, on the challenges faced by those seeking to prove their innocence.

The seminar will also feature special guests such as Amanda Knox, Adnan Syed and Washington, DC based Attorney Stephen Braga.

Seminar

From Wrongful Arrest To Rightful Exoneration

20 & 21 may 2024



ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Martin Tankleff

Martin Tankleff is Special Counsel at Barket Epstein Kearon Aldea & LoTurco, a boutique litigation firm with several locations in New York as well as the current Peter P. Mullen Distinguished Visiting Professor at Georgetown University and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown Law Center.

At Georgetown, Marty teaches a class alongside his childhood friend, Professor Marc Howard, called Making an Exoneree. In the class, undergraduate students reinvestigate potential wrongful conviction cases. In the past seven years, with the help of the class, Marty and Marc have walked seven men out of prison. In 2023, Marc and Marty expanded their class to Princeton University and Georgetown Law Center. Through the work at Georgetown, Marty and Marc are co-counsel or advisory team members on cases in several different states.

Marty's zealous advocacy for those who have been wrongly convicted stems from his own personal experience. Marty was wrongfully convicted on June 28, 1990, for the murder of his parents, Seymour and Arlene, two years earlier. At the time of his arrest, Marty was a 17-year-old student, embarking on his Senior year of High School. In the blink of an eye, his life changed. After being sentenced to two consecutive terms of 25 years to life, Marty filed a 2003 appeal with new evidence of his innocence from almost two dozen witnesses which led to his exoneration.

Marty also works with various organizations, including the Innocence Project, and he regularly speaks to audiences of judges, politicians, lawyers, and students about criminal justice issues. He has also testified in several states seeking changes to laws in an effort to protect young people being interrogated.



Tara Whelan

Tara Whelan is a criminal defense attorney practicing in the State and Federal Courts of New York. She graduated magna cum laude from Boston University School of Law in 2009 and opened her own law practice immediately upon becoming a lawyer in 2010.

Tara represents clients at the trial court level who are being investigated or have already been charged with a crime. In over 14 years of practice, she has represented clients at trial for crimes such as Murder, Assault, Gun Possession, Sex Trafficking, Rape, Conspiracy, and many others. She also has negotiated dispositions before trial on dozens of cases related to financial fraud, theft, drug possession and sale to name a few.

Tara loves to travel, and her favorite food is prego.



Amanda Knox

Amanda Knox is an exoneree, journalist, public speaker, author of the New York Times best-selling memoir, *Waiting to Be Heard*, and co-host, with her partner Christopher Robinson, of the podcast *Labyrinths*. Between 2007 and 2015, she spent nearly four years in an Italian prison and eight years on trial for a murder she didn't commit. She has since become an advocate for criminal justice reform and media ethics. She sits on the board of the Frederick Douglass Project for Justice.



Steve L. Braga

Stephen Braga chairs the firm's national Government Enforcement & Investigations practice. He has over 40 years of experience representing individuals and companies in their most important government enforcement matters. Whether it be handling sensitive criminal investigations or litigating the fall-out from such investigations in court, Steve has the sound judgment clients need to guide them carefully through such difficulties.

Over the course of his career, he has played a leading role in many of the most high-profile white collar cases and investigations in Washington, DC. This work has included the representation of numerous Executive Branch and Congressional officials in addition to private individual and corporate clients. In the course of this work, as exemplified below, Steve has represented numerous Executive Branch and Congressional officials in addition to private individual and corporate clients. Other career highlights include acting as lead counsel in securing the release in two separate high-profile representations of men who had spent decades in prison for wrongful murder convictions: Marty Tankleff, who was exonerated on an appeal argued by Steve, and Damien Echols, a member of the "West Memphis Three," who was freed from death row on a deal negotiated by Steve.

Steve was elected a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2008.



Adnan Syed

Adnan Syed was wrongfully convicted at the age of 17 and sentenced to life in prison. While incarcerated he was fortunate to receive mentorship and guidance from older individuals who taught him the importance of striving to better himself and helping others. In 2022, Adnan was selected for the initial cohort of the Georgetown Bachelor of Liberal Arts program at the Patuxent Institution. With the help of his dedicated professors and fellow students, he successfully completed two semesters. In September 2022, he was released and the charges against him were dismissed. He is listed on the University of Michigan's National Registry of Exonerations.

Through his current role at PJI, Adnan supports the organization's mission to offer education and job training for incarcerated people and returning citizens and to advocate for other wrongfully convicted individuals. PJI has played such an important role in his reintegration into society, he hopes to help provide others assistance in their reentry back into their communities.

