

Timothy Cole passed away in 1999 while he was serving a 25-year sentence for a crime he did not commit. Nearly 10 years after his death he was posthumously exonerated through DNA evidence making it the first posthumously DNA exoneration in Texas history.

Staff:

David Slayton, Administrative Director,
Office of Court Administration
david.slayton@txcourts.gov

Wesley Shackelford, Deputy Director,
Texas Indigent Defense Commission
wesley.shackelford@tidc.texas.gov

Alejandra Peña, Research Specialist, TCERC,
Office of Court Administration
alejandra.pena@txcourts.gov

Terri Peirce, Judicial Information Data Analyst,
TCERC, Office of Court Administration
terri.peirce@txcourts.gov

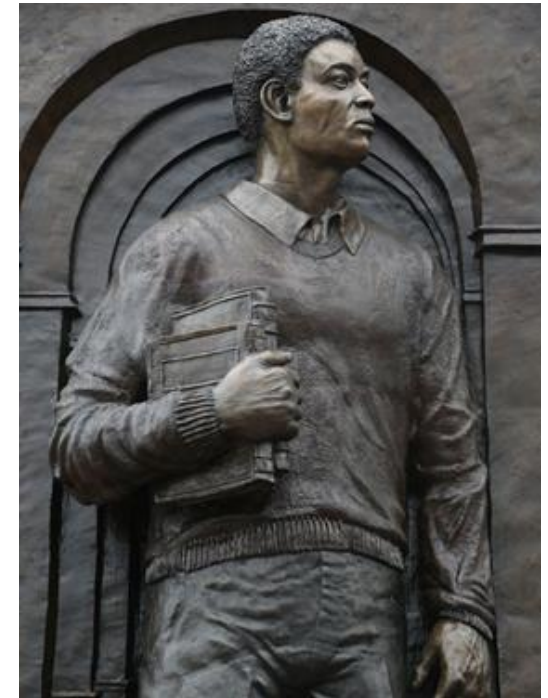
Office of Court Administration

205 W. 14th St., Suite 600
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 463-1625

www.txcourts.gov



Timothy Cole Exoneration Review Commission





House Author:
Representative Ruth Jones
McClendon, et al.

House Bill 48

The Timothy Cole Exoneration Review Commission (TCERC) was created by House Bill 48 which passed by the 84th Texas Legislature. It became effective June 1, 2015 upon Governor Abbott's signature.

The TCERC was created under but independent from the Texas Judicial Council, and is administratively attached to the Office of Court Administration.



Senate Sponsor: Senator
Rodney Ellis, et al.

The TCERC is a study commission charged with the following:

To review cases in the State of Texas in which an innocent defendant was convicted of a crime and then, on or after January 1, 2010, was exonerated.

To consider potential implementation plans, costs, cost savings, and the impact on the criminal justice system for each potential solution identified through the work of the commission.

To review and update the research, report, and recommendations of the Timothy Cole Advisory Panel on Wrongful Convictions established by the 81st Regular Session.

Commission Members:

Presiding Officer – Representative John T. Smithee, District 86, Amarillo

The Honorable Sharon Keller, Chair, Texas Indigent Defense Commission

Senator Joan Huffman, District 17 Houston
Senator John Whitmire, District 15 Houston

Representative Abel Herrero, District 34, Corpus Christi

John Beauchamp, General Counsel, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement

Sam Bassett, President, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Dr. Vincent Di Maio, Presiding Officer, Texas Forensic Science Commission

Charles Eskridge, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, Houston

J. Staley Heatly, Chairman, Texas District and County Attorneys Association

Carol Vance, Retired, Houston



Advisory Members:

Tiffany J. Dowling, Director, Texas Center for Actual Innocence at the University of Texas School of Law

Anthony S. Haughton, Executive Director, Innocence Project at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University

Cassandra Jeu, Director, Texas Innocence Network, University of Houston Law Center

Mike Ware, Executive Director, The Innocence Project of Texas