

# TexasMonthly Live

Event Summary  
The Exonerated  
November 2008  
SMU Campus | Dallas

## BACKGROUND

It is the hottest topic in the world of criminal justice: using DNA tests to free people convicted of crimes they didn't commit. Texas has recently seen 37 such exonerations, with 20 in Dallas County alone. Leading the charge is first-term Dallas County district attorney Craig Watkins, who has staked his political capital on righting old wrongs from flawed (and sometimes reckless) prosecutions. But while we have heard a lot about the process, we haven't heard much about the victims—until now.

For the November 2008 issue of TEXAS MONTHLY, senior editor Michael Hall and photographer Randal Ford set out to interview as many of these men as possible. The result was a one-of-a-kind photo essay that told the story behind the story of the innocent men who were unfairly swept up in the system and what their lives are like today.

## EVENT

TEXAS MONTHLY joined Southern Methodist University to host a panel discussion on the subject. Panelists included:

- Michael Hall, TEXAS MONTHLY senior editor
- Craig Watkins, Dallas County district attorney
- James Waller, Dallas resident who was exonerated after spending 11 years in prison for a rape he did not commit
- Rick Halperin, Director of SMU's Human Rights Education Program
- Tony Pederson (moderator), SMU's Belo Distinguished Chair of Journalism

## DATE | TIME

Thursday, November 6, 2008  
7:00 p.m.  
Panel followed by a reception

## PLACE

Southern Methodist University  
McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall

## ATTENDEES

- SMU students, faculty, and guests
- TEXAS MONTHLY advertisers, subscribers, and other associates
- Media
- Community leaders
- Sponsor guests

## SPONSORSHIP

Key Media/Texas Super Lawyers sponsored the post-event video presentation on [texasmonthly.com](http://texasmonthly.com).

Benefits included:

- Logo identification on the pre-roll of the panel discussion video housed on [texasmonthly.com](http://texasmonthly.com) (right).
- Logo identification on custom e-mail, produced by TEXAS MONTHLY, encouraging recipients to log on to [texasmonthly.com](http://texasmonthly.com) to view the taped panel discussion (below right).

