

## Bio

Martin H. Tankleff, Special Counsel at Barket Epstein Kearon Aldea & LoTurco, a boutique litigation firm with locations in Garden City, Huntington, and Manhattan.

Marty Tankleff is the current [Peter P. Mullen Distinguished Visiting Professor at Georgetown University](#) (previous recipients include Ron Klaine, Seth Waxman, Paul Clement, Maureen Mahoney, and others). At Georgetown, Marty teaches a class alongside his childhood friend, Professor Marc M. Howard, called [Making an Exoneree](#). It is an undergraduate class where students reinvestigate potential wrongful conviction cases. In the past five years, Marty and Marc have walked three innocent men out of prison. Through the work at Georgetown, Marty and Marc are either co-counsel or advisory team members on cases in several different states.

At Barket Epstein, Mr. Tankleff will focus on wrongful convictions, prisoner and civil rights while working hand in hand with other members of the firm on criminal defense, civil matters, and related legal matters.

Marty's zealous advocacy for those who have been wrongly convicted stems from his own persona 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, Mr. Tankleff 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, Mr. Tankleff filed a 2003 appeal with new evidence from almost two dozen witnesses.

Represented by [Bruce Barket](#), [Stephen Braga](#), Jennifer O'Connor, [Brent Gurney](#), [Barry Pollack](#), [Dawn Murphy-Johnson](#), [Roberto Gonzalez](#), [Sheila Kadaguther](#), Micah Meyers, [Courtney Gilligan-Saleski](#), [Mark Pomerantz](#), [Warren Feldman](#), [Scott Splittgerber](#), and many others, his conviction was overturned, and Marty was released after nearly 17½ years in prison on December 27, 2007. He is a nationally recognized exoneree and is on the [National Registry of Exonerees](#).

After Marty was exonerated, he was admitted to the New York State Bar in 2020. Since Marty's admission, he has obtained favorable results on behalf of his clients.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Contact Mr. Tankleff today by calling (888) 779-0267.**

Email: [mtankleff@barketepstein.com](mailto:mtankleff@barketepstein.com)

## EDUCATION

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- A.A. Clinton Community College, Plattsburgh, NY 1993
- B.A. Hofstra University, Hempstead NY 2009
- J.D. Touro Law School, Central Islip, NY 2014

## PRACTICE AREAS

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- WRONGFUL CONVICTION
- CIVIL RIGHTS
- PRISONER RIGHTS
- CRIMINAL DEFENSE

## BAR ADMISSIONS

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- New York State Bar, 2020
- Eastern District of New York, 2021
- Southern District of New York, 2021
- District of Columbia, 2021
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, 2021
- D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, 2021

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **Touro Law School**

Adjunct Professor of Law

Taught a class on Wrongful Convictions

August 2018

## **Georgetown University**

Peter P. Mullen

January 2022-Present

Distinguished Visiting Professor

Adjunct Professor of Government

January 2018-2022

Teaches a class with Prof. Marc Howard called *Making an Exoneree*, where undergraduate students reinvestigate cases of incarcerated men/women who claim to be innocent where the students create documentaries and social media campaigns based on their investigation.

- Teaches Making an Exoneree ([www.MakinganExoneree.com](http://www.MakinganExoneree.com)) for past 5 years, an undergraduate five-credit course focusing on wrongful convictions.
- A full-length award-winning documentary about the 2018 class. ([www.MakinganExonereeTheFilm.com](http://www.MakinganExonereeTheFilm.com))

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Books**

Burton-Rose, Pens and Wright, "*The Celling of America An Inside Look at the US Prison Industry*," Common Courage Press (Monroe, Maine 1998) – contributing section on Televisions in Prisons

### **Journal/News Publications**

[Lying to Suspects Must Stop Now, Newsday, March 19, 2021](#)

[I Spent 17 Years Wrongfully Incarcerated, Here's Why I'm Worried About COVID-19 in Prisons - There is no way to "social distance" in prison. Published, April 1, 2020.](#)

[Amanda Knox Interviews Exoneree Wrongfully Convicted of Killing His Parents By Amanda Knox with Christopher Robinson - May 10, 2020](#)

[Preserve and protect discovery reform, NY Daily News, March 15, 2020](#)

[Adnan Syed deserves a new, and fair, trial, 42 wrongly convicted men and women say, Baltimore Sun, April 18, 2019](#)

[Not all teens who confess are guilty, CNN, June 12, 2018](#)

[Prison Legal News](#), Vol. 5, Issue #9, September 1994, “Prison TV: Luxury or Management Tool?”

## **PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

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Marty regularly speaks at colleges, universities, and high schools. He has lectured at the NYPD training academy and spoke at former Suffolk County Police Commissioner Richard Dormer’s criminal justice college classes. He was the keynote speaker at the Nassau County Bar Association, the New York State Defenders Association and have spoken at Cardozo Law School, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Georgetown University, Boston University School of Law, Nassau Community College, Touro Law School, Williams College, University of Buffalo School of Law, and several others. The following are a sampling of some of his speaking engagements and presentations:

- [A true story about false confessions](#) - A discussion with Marty Tankleff, exoneree, lawyer and former client of DLA Piper partner Courtney Saleski – March 2021
- Spoke to 1L’s at Touro Law School, Central Islip, NY – August 2017
- “Ensuring Accurate Convictions,” NYPD Executive Development Section, March 2013
- “Wrongful Convictions,” Nassau Community College, 2013
- “Wrongful Convictions,” St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY, 2013
- “Wrongful Convictions,” Hofstra University, 2011
- Lawline, The Martin Tankleff Case, April 2010
- “Wrongful Convictions,” Symposium on Wrongful Convictions and the Tankleff Case Touro Law Center, 2009
- “Wrongful Convictions,” Nassau Community College, 2009
- “Wrongful Convictions,” John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 2009
- “Wrongful Convictions,” Williams College, 2009
- “Conducting Investigations into Wrongful Convictions,” New York State Bar Association, 2009
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers – CLE Video, Washington, DC – February 2009
- Northwestern University School of Law’s Center on Wrongful Convictions for Juveniles, Chicago, IL – October 2009
- Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project, Washington, DC – July 2009

- Ropes & Gray, Pro Bono Presentation, New York, 2009 and 2010
- Miller & Chevalier, Pro Bono Presentation, Washington, DC – July 2009
- “Conducting Investigations into Wrongful Convictions,” New York State Senate, 2008
- “Wrongful Convictions,” Nassau County Bar Association, 2008
- “Wrongful Convictions,” Nassau Community College, Garden City, NY November 2008
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice – Professor Saul Kassin’s graduate Classes, New York, NY 2008 – present
- Williams College – Professor Saul Kassin’s Undergraduate Class, 2008 – 2015
- Keynote Speaker, New York State Defenders Association, Saratoga Springs, NY – July 2008
- The Leonard Lopate Show, New York, NY – July 2008
- New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, Huntington, NY – September 2008
- North Shore Hebrew Academy, Tolerance Center, New York, NY – 2008
- The Innocence Project, New York, NY – 2008 – present
- The Vanguard High School, New York, NY - 2008

## **TESTIMONY**

Colorado Legislature, Committee on Criminal Justice, testified about the need to stop lying to youthful suspects. March 2022.

Utah Legislature, Committee on Criminal Justice, testified about the need to stop lying to youthful suspects. February 2022. Click [here](#) and [here](#).

Oregon Legislature, Committee on Criminal Justice, testified about the need to stop lying to youthful suspects. June 2021 Click [here](#) and [here](#).

Testimony before the Maryland State Senate on the need to pass legislation regarding a juvenile interrogation bill, February 19, 2020 (video: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B8005J9nWEU/>)

Testimony before the New York City Council, Committee on Courts and Legal Services Jointly with the Committee on Public Safety, September 23, 2016

NYS Assembly Standing Committee on Codes, Assembly Standing Committee on Judiciary, NYS State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus, “Criminal Justice Reform,” March 11, 2015

NYS Bar Association, Task Force on Wrongful Convictions Hearing, February 24, 2009

NYS Senate Democratic Forum on Preventing Wrongful Convictions, Public Forum on Preventing Wrongful Convictions in New York State: Systematic Reforms to Convict the Guilty and Protect the Innocent, July 2, 2008

NYS Senate Task Force on Criminal Justice Reform, “Preventing Wrongful Convictions in New York State: Systematic Reforms to convict the Guilty and Protect the Innocent,” April 11, 2008

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
American Bar Association  
New York State Defenders Association

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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<a href="#"><u><b>The Frederick Douglass Project for Justice</b></u></a> Board Member	August 2021-Present
<a href="#"><u><b>The Innocence Project</b></u></a> Exonerree Advisory Policy Group	August 2019-Present
<a href="#"><u><b>The Innocence Project</b></u></a> Exonerree Advisory Board Member	March 2016-August 2019

## **WRONGFUL CONVICTION TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP**

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New York State Bar Association Wrongful Conviction Task Force, 2018-2019 – a [Report of Task Force on Wrongful Convictions](#) February 8, 2019, was issued and posted on the NYS Bar website. (See also, <https://www.fklaw.com/newsroom-news-244.html>)

## **TELEVISION AND RADIO**

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Mr. Tankleff has appeared on several major television stations and radio shows, such as CBS 48 Hours, Dr. Phil, Wrongful Conviction with Jason Flom, Generation Why podcast, Unjust & Unsolved podcast, American Justice with Bill Kurtis, ABC, WPIX, Channel 55, News 12, NBC, WBAI, WNYC, NY1, and others.