

William Michael Dillon

William (Bill) Michael Dillon spent twenty-seven years and eight months in prison, as an innocent man. In 2008 he was exonerated by the State of Florida, when DNA testing proved that he could not be attached to the key piece of evidence that was originally used to convict him. Bill spent the prime years of his life in Florida's harshest maximum-security prisons and experienced the horrors of life behind bars. Florida State prison was widely recognized as one of the top five most dangerous penitentiaries in the nation and the young twenty-two year old was brutally attacked within his first hour of incarceration. During the better part of the next three decades, he would fight for his own survival as well as his freedom.

William Michael Dillon was convicted of first-degree felony murder shortly after he and his brother coincidentally pulled their car into a beach parking lot, adjacent to the murder scene. Police investigating the homicide spotted the boys and began questioning Bill.

Witnesses for the prosecution included: a jailhouse snitch, a fraudulent dog handler, a half-blind eyewitness, and an admitted perjurer who later disclosed she was having a sexual affair with the lead investigator on the case.

Today, with the help of the Innocence Project, a persistent public defender, and DNA testing, William Michael Dillon is a free man.

As a singer/songwriter, William Michael composed hundreds of songs while living behind bars. Now, thirty years after the murder that turned his life into a nightmare, he has released a CD of original songs titled, "**Black Robes and Lawyers.**" The title track was written on toilet paper, in Florida State Prison, in 1985.

It is available on I-Tunes and Amazon.com.

Championed by **The Innocence Project of Florida, Florida Governor, Rick Scott, Florida State Senator Mike Haridopolos**, and former **Florida State University President and Florida Bar Association past President, Sandy D'Alemberte**, Dillon's story has caught the attention of the national media and he has been featured **on Fox News, CNN, The Today Show, The Discovery Channel, The Chicago Tribune and others.**

On July 18, 2012 William Michael Dillon sang the National Anthem at Topicana Field as the Tampa Bay Devil Rays took on the Cleveland Indians. Afterwards, William kicked off the game by throwing out the first pitch.

William Michael Dillon continues to be a voice for The Innocence Project and the many wrongfully incarcerated men and women still behind bars all across our nation. Now living in Chapel Hill, NC, Dillon is set to embark on a tour all across America to promote, "**Black Robes And Lawyers**" and share his "Songs Of Injustice And The Flame Of The Human Spirit."