

MARTY TANKLEFF

EXONEREE LAWYER



BIOGRAPHY

Martin H. Tankleff, a native New Yorker, is the seventh exoneree to pass the bar exam, pursuing his career as an attorney, advocating criminal justice reform and wrongful convictions. **Mr. Tankleff** 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 had changed. After being sentenced, two consecutive terms of 25 years to life, Marty filed a 2003 appeal with new evidence from 20 witnesses. Represented by Attorneys **Stephen Braga, Jennifer O'Connor, Barry Pollack, Bruce Barket, Mark Pomerantz, Warren Feldman, and many others**, his conviction was overturned and Mr. Tankleff was released after nearly 17 years in prison on December 27, 2007.

Despite his incarceration, **Marty** studied and earned his Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts while incarcerated at the **Clinton Correctional Facility** in 1993. Upon his release, he immediately enrolled at **Hofstra University** in Long Island, earning his Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. Determined to continue his work in helping other innocent individuals in their pursuit for justice, **Mr. Tankleff** earned his J.D. in May of 2014 from **Touro College**. After graduation, Marty and his wife Laurie, established the Marty and Laurie Scholarship.



Marty's drive and passion is prevalent in all aspects of his life and career. After passing the New York Bar Exam in early 2017, he continues his efforts to give a voice to the wrongfully convicted by serving on numerous Boards and Committees. He currently holds positions as an **Innocence Project Exoneree Advisory Group Board Member** and **CURE NY Advisory Member**. In addition, he is a registered **NYS Exoneree** and Nationally Recognized Speaker.

From the time of his release, he has been a zealous and vocal advocate for those who have been wrongfully convicted. He testified before the **New York State Senate** and **New York State Assembly** regarding wrongful convictions with the goal of making electronic recording of interviews and interrogations mandatory in New York State.

Mr. Tankleff regularly speaks at colleges, universities and high schools. He has lectured at the **NYPD Training Academy** and 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 has spoken at **Cardozo Law School**, **John Jay College of Criminal Justice**, **Nassau Community College**, **Touro Law School**, **Williams College** and several others.

Since his release, **Mr. Tankleff** has been featured on **Oprah**, **48 Hours**, **Discovery ID Network**, **American Justice with Bill Kurtis**, **ABC**, **WPIX**, **Channel 55**, **News 12**, **NBC**, **WBAI**, **WNYC**, **NY1** and more, in addition to countless online and print interviews. He currently holds a position with **Metcalf & Metcalf, PC** in Manhattan while he seeks admission in New York, New Jersey and the District of Columbia. Previously, he was employed at **Quadrino Schwartz** and **Barket Marion Epstein & Kearon** in Garden City, NY.





As a survivor from a wrongful conviction, I know all too well the harm done to those directly impacted from a criminal justice failure. The wounds are deep and wide, yet Marty has taken the pain and trauma from a horrific experience and turned it into something powerful and redemptive. The world could learn a valuable lesson from Mr. Tankleff

JENNIFER THOMPSON CO-AUTHOR OF "PICKING COTTON: OUR MEMOIR OF INJUSTICE AND REDEMPTION"; FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF HEALING JUSTICE

AS FEATURED ON



I have known Marty Tankleff since 2003, when he was a jailhouse lawyer working tirelessly to prove his innocence and regain his freedom after being wrongfully convicted in 1990 based on a false confession. That he succeeded in his quest against all odds is an inspiration to anyone who advocates for justice, and that he has recently passed the bar and dedicated himself to helping others in similar circumstances is a testament to his character.

ERIC FRIEDMAN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION

I have watched Marty Tankleff overcome tremendous odds and utilize the terrible injustice he suffered to help those who are facing similar circumstances. He experienced firsthand the flaws in our criminal justice system and used that gross miscarriage of justice as a driving force to become an attorney as well as a member of the Innocence Project Exonerée Advisory Group. The unimaginable ordeal he endured has undoubtedly given him a unique perspective, making him a powerful advocate for those working to prove their innocence.

MADDY DELONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INNOCENCE PROJECT

Marty is a generous, genuine force for good. He always puts his hard-earned knowledge and training to the service of others, and he does so with incredible warmth. I'm honored to stand with Marty, not just as a fellow survivor of injustice, but as a friend

AMANDA KNOX, EXONEREE



“I’ve been struggling to find the right words to express the respect and admiration I have for Marty Tankleff and the truth is that I can’t but I’ll try anyway. Marty is steadfast, loyal, resilient, brilliant, empathetic, generous, humble, dedicated, kind, optimistic, focused, idealistic but realistic and he is a person who inspires me to do my best. Marty has lived through a nightmare that is something out of a Greek tragedy and rather than allowing it to make him bitter and cold he has emerged with courage and grace and I’m proud to call him my friend.”

JASON FLOM, FOUNDER AND CEO | LAVA

“I’ve known Marty Tankleff since we were 3 years old, and I’ve stood with him through ‘thick and thin.’ He is the most courageous, resourceful and inspirational person I’ve ever met. He is one of the most powerful and effective advocates for justice because he has personally experienced injustice so deeply himself.”

**MARC MORJÉ HOWARD, PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT AND LAW,
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY**

You would think that someone who had 17 years of the prime of his life wrongly stolen from him by the state of New York would be deeply embittered, but Marty is not like that at all. Marty worked very hard to overturn his wrongful conviction, get through law school, and become a member of the bar. After all this, he has emerged a positive, supportive individual who simply wants to help others who, like him, have been wrongly convicted of a crime they did not commit. Our society needs many more Marty Tankleffs.

PETER DAVIS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW EMERITUS,



I have had the pleasure of collaborating with Marty on wrongful conviction reforms for more than a decade. This past year, at long last and due in large part to Marty's advocacy, New York passed two major wrongful conviction reforms, that changed statewide police practice on two of the leading causes of wrongful conviction - eyewitness misidentifications and false confessions. Marty is a brilliant advocate, a phenomenal speaker, and a dear friend. He inspires me to do better each day.

REBECCA BROWN, POLICY DIRECTOR, INNOCENCE PROJECT

I met Marty when he was a first year law student. I am sure that I learned more from Marty than he did from my lessons on contract law. I learned about poised and tireless advocacy, undying optimism and unshakeable bravery. In short, until meeting Marty, I had only read about his experience of harrowing injustice and, yes, watched his interview with Oprah. It was the good fortune of getting to know Marty that inspired me to be a more enlightened and compassionate lawyer, citizen and human being.

MEREDITH R. MILLER, PROFESSOR, TOURO LAW CENTER

Allow me to reintroduce the soon-to-be newest shining star to the bar in New York, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia - Martin Tankleff. To say that Marty is an inspiration to all those he reaches in the legal community is an understatement because words cannot describe his passion and dedication to the law. Everyday, I learn from Marty and am touched by his humbleness, achievement, and tenacity. Aside from knowing Marty on a professional level, I also consider Marty a dear friend, which is truly a privilege.

STEVEN METCALF, METCALF & METCALF, PC

I have had the pleasure of knowing, and working with, Marty Tankleff since 1995. He is smart, industrious and fearless. He is also a rock in times of conflict, and an eternal optimist who works his tail off to make that optimism become reality. I cannot think of a better teammate to tackle any problem. I have had the great pleasure of practicing law with, and against, many of the finest lawyers in the country over the course of my career. Marty is one of my true legal heroes!

STEPHEN L. BRAGA, THE LAW OFFICE OF STEPHEN L. BRAGA



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Martin H. Tankleff

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"I have known Marty both personally and professionally for many years. Words cannot express the admiration I have for him. His "never give up" attitude and positive personality astounds me, especially considering what he has been through during the course of his life. Many people would have given up hope. However, despite the adversity, he continues to thrive both personally and for the greater good. The fact that he can be so caring, open, trusting, focused and compassionate amazes me and helps motivate me to overcome obstacles in my own life that seem impossible. I am proud to call Marty a friend and colleague."

JONATHAN BELL, BELL LAW GROUP, PLLC