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Kunta Gable and Sidney Hill, Incarcerated as Teenagers for a Murder they Did Not Commit, Sue City of New Orleans and Orleans Parish DA's Office Over Three Decades of Wrongful Incarceration

New Orleans, Louisiana (October 16, 2023) -- Kunta Gable and Sidney Hill filed suit against the City of New Orleans, the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, and infamous NOPD officers Len Davis and Sammie Williams over the 28 years that the men spent wrongfully behind bars.

In 1994, Mr. Gable and Mr. Hill were framed for the murder of Rondell Santinac by New Orleans police led by the notorious Len Davis, currently on death row for murder, and Sammie Williams. Mr. Gable and Mr. Hill were just 17 years old. Despite multiple eyewitness accounts that placed them at another location at the time of the shooting, the teenagers, along with 18-year-old Bernell Juluke, were convicted and sentenced to life without parole.

In 2022, the three men's convictions were finally vacated after the new OPDA Civil Rights Division reviewed their cases. As Judge Tracey Flemings Davillier stated, "Your lives were taken from you in the manner in which it was done, that should not have happened." She added, "It's painful to look at the fact that it took 28 years," and called the men "the real heroes."

The lawsuit seeks accountability for a broken police force that ignored rampant corruption and the criminal activities of members of its own force, and a District Attorney's Office under Harry Connick's leadership during the early 1990s that hid evidence pursuant to its derelict policies. City leaders knew of the risks of wrongful conviction inherent in a broken criminal legal system in crisis from 1990 to 1995.

Today's lawsuit also names NOPD officers and detectives who falsely accused the teenagers, coerced witness identifications and testimony, and withheld evidence of their innocence.

"During the early to mid 90's, there was no basic supervision or oversight in the New Orleans Police Department," said Mr. Gable. "In order to remedy the wrongs committed by the NOPD, there needs to be an accounting for the people who suffered because of those deeds."

Mr. Gable and Mr. Hill are represented by New Orleans based firm, John Adcock Law, LLC, and the Chicago law firm Kaplan & Grady LLC.

“Today’s lawsuit seeks justice for everything Kunta and Sidney have had to endure,” said attorney John Adcock. “This legal action is a testament to their resilience, and seeks a measure of justice they so rightly deserve and has been so long delayed.”

“Kunta and Sidney’s experiences highlight the lasting effects and harms of corruption in our government entities,” said attorney Sarah Grady. “There were failures across multiple law enforcement agencies to uphold the rights and due process owed to each and every resident of New Orleans. We will forcefully enforce our clients’ constitutional rights through this lawsuit.”

A press conference will be held at 2 pm Central Time on Monday, October 16 at the United States District Court (500 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130).

"I'm glad to have my freedom but I lost most of my life behind something I did not do and I should be compensated for that," said Mr. Hill. "I hope my case can serve as a warning sign so that what happened to me does not happen to anyone else."

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John Adcock Law, LLC, based in New Orleans, Louisiana, represents clients across the fields of civil rights, immigration, housing, and criminal defense. [Linkedin.com/in/john-adcock-53909813](https://www.linkedin.com/in/john-adcock-53909813)

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