

Hosted By: Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice

Once Bitten, Twice Shy: Why Bite Marks Are Not Science

2018 Quattrone Center Exoneree Fellow Talk

February 27, 2018

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Eastern Time



Fitts Auditorium, University of Pennsylvania Law
School

3501 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104
USA

5:00 pm: Reception

5:45 - 6:00 pm: Introduction, John Hollway, Quattrone Center

6:00 - 6:45 pm: Keith Harward, Exoneree

6:45 - 8:00 pm: Panel Discussion and Q&A

Speakers will include:

Mary Bush, Associate Professor, SUNY at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine

**Peter Bush, Director of the South Campus Instrument Center at the SUNY
School of Dental Medicine
Chris Fabricant, Joseph Flom Special Counsel and Director of Strategic
Litigation, The Innocence Project**

On March 6, 1986, Keith Harward was convicted of murder, robbery, burglary and rape despite a strong alibi and many supporting witnesses. A substantial factor in his conviction was expert testimony that compared bite marks on the body of one of the victims with a mold of his teeth.

Since that time, more than 20 individuals have been convicted due to bite mark comparison testimony, despite the fact that the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) have sharply criticized the practice and argued against its scientific validity. In 2016, the Texas Forensic Science Commission recommended a moratorium against the use of bite mark testimony in Texas courts unless and until the comparisons could be scientifically validated.

In April, 2016, Keith Harward was conclusively exonerated by DNA evidence. He spent a total of 33 years in custody for a crime he did not commit. We invite you to hear Keith Harward tell his unforgettable story, and participate in a conversation about the scientific and legal concerns with bite mark comparison. What is the science behind bite mark comparison? How did bite mark comparison become an accepted subject for expert testimony in American criminal courts? And why, given the above criticism, is it still considered admissible evidence?

This program has been approved for 2.0 substantive CLE credits for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should bring separate payment in the amount of \$80.00 (\$40.00 public interest/non-profit attorneys) cash or check made payable to The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Register Now

Enter your information below to register for this event.

* **First Name**