

THE SAN DIEGO DNA PROJECT

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The San Diego County District Attorney’s Office "DNA Project" was begun in June 2000 to proactively examine the cases of defendants who were prosecuted by the San Diego District Attorney’s Office in 1992 or earlier. 1992 was selected based on the fact DNA testing was commonly available and routinely applied in criminal cases in San Diego after that time.

The review focused on whether, in each case, biological evidence still existed, whether the defendant consistently maintained his or her innocence based upon mistaken or wrongful identification, and whether current DNA technology could provide exonerating evidence. The project included review of more than 600 cases.

The program received national attention for its innovation, was recognized by Time Magazine, and honored by the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. This presentation will review the procedures employed in the project, describe its implementation, and detail the results of the process.