

# SETON HALL | LAW

Seton Hall Journal on Legislation & Public Policy Symposium  
*An Innocence-Centered View of New Jersey's Post-Conviction Jurisprudence*  
Friday, March 1, 2024

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## **Tiffany Murphy**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law*

University of Arkansas School of Law

*Former Director*

Oklahoma Innocence Project

Panel: 3

Tiffany Murphy is the University of Arkansas Law School's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. She holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. She is an expert on the problems involved in protecting federal Constitutional rights and actual innocence while pursuing post-conviction remedies. She joined the University of Arkansas Law School's faculty in 2014 after teaching at the Oklahoma City University School of Law as a clinical professor and directing the Oklahoma Innocence Project. Her work at the Oklahoma Innocence Project included the case of Malcolm Scott and De'Marchoe Carpenter, who were wrongfully convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. They had served more than 20 years when Judge Sharon Holmes declared them actually innocent and ordered their release in 2016. The Oklahoma Court of Appeals rejected the prosecutor's appeal.

Dean Murphy has also represented Karl Fontenot for many years. Fontenot was convicted in Oklahoma in 1984 of murder, kidnapping and robbery. In December 2019, U.S. District Judge James Payne ordered Fontenot to be released, citing newly discovered evidence that provides "solid proof of Mr. Fontenot's probable innocence." The case against Fontenot and his co-defendant, Thomas Ward, is the subject of the books "Dreams of Ada" by Robert Mayer, and "The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town" by John Grisham. The prosecution decided to re-try Fontenot, and the case is ongoing as of the preparation of this program.

Before her work in Oklahoma, Dean Murphy was a clinical professor and legal director of the Midwestern Innocence Project at the University of Missouri Kansas City. Before that, she practiced at the Federal Defender's Office Capital Habeas Units in Philadelphia and Las Vegas.