



Photo: ACLU files

## ***Gloria Killian: Biography***

Gloria Killian was released from prison on August 8, 2002 after serving a total of 17 ½ years on a sentence of 32 years to life for a crime that she did not commit. Originally, she was charged with the death penalty. Throughout her trial and incarceration she always maintained her innocence.

In March 2002 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals determined that her conviction was based solely on perjured testimony and overturned her conviction. In 2008, Christopher Cleland, the District Attorney who prosecuted her, was tried by the State Bar of California and found guilty of unethical conduct in her case.

As a former law student, Ms. Killian was assigned to the prison law library where she worked for 15 years, providing legal assistance to other inmates. She worked extensively with battered women, as well as others, and developed specialized legal services for many different areas of the prison. She was instrumental in the founding of the USC Law Project at the California Institution for Women.

During her time in prison, Ms. Killian published several articles including two that were featured in the USC Law Review, entitled Equal Justice for Some and Justice: One Woman's Perspective. The second article was co-authored with Brenda Aris, the first battered woman to be granted clemency in the State of California. Ms. Killian also drafted the media and outreach campaign that led to the release of Ms. Aris.



Photo: CBS New Files, 48Hours Mystery.

Since her release, Ms. Killian has been tirelessly advocating for the humane treatment and release of the women that she left behind. She works as a consultant for agencies in the criminal justice and public policy fields, and has been the keynote speaker at several symposiums.

She has testified for Select Committees of the California Legislature, appeared before the United States Congress, and spoken extensively about the issues and concerns of incarcerated women. She has lectured at USC Law School,

Loyola Law School, Southwestern Law School, Vanguard University, and Arizona State University, among many others.

Ms. Killian is now the Executive Director of her own non-profit organization, the Action Committee for Women in Prison (ACWIP). Along with public education and advocacy work, ACWIP provides Christmas gifts for the inmates at the California Institution for Women and in the Fire Camps, in conjunction with All Saints Episcopal Church. ACWIP also provides toys for the children of women in prison, when they come to visit their mothers.





She is a member of the Girls Collaborative, which works with at risk teen-agers, AKA Angels and ALL of Us or None. She serves on the California Nursing Association, Correctional Medicine Taskforce, the National



Commission on Crime and Delinquency Taskforce on Incarcerated Women, the Advisory Panel for the Center for the Study of Political Graphics, the steering committee of Free Battered Women and the Women in Criminal Justice Network.

Pictured above by Scott Smeltzer, Special to the Press Enterprise shows Gloria Killian, Herman Atkins (center) and Greg Wilhoit who were all exonerated after being wrongfully convicted and sent to prison.

She is a member of the California State Gender Responsive Strategies Commission. Ms Killian is the co-director of the Prison Ministry at All Saints Episcopal Church. Ms. Killian was recently nominated for a Minerva Award as an outstanding woman in California.



Ms. Killian's experiences with the criminal justice system and the advocacy work that she is doing were featured on "48 Hours" and the "Montel Williams Show". She was also profiled in "Paths to Freedom" by Alexis Powers, and appears in **Hard Time at Tehachapi** by Kathleen Cairns. Ms Killian has appeared on numerous radio shows and commentaries. She is the co-host and co-founder of the weekly web cast, "**Women Behind the Walls**", the only show in the country that is by, for and about incarcerated women.

A movie is currently being developed about Ms. Killian's life and she is writing a book about her journey to justice.

---

**Photo Media Credits:**

Top Photograph from ACLU Exonerated files. <http://www.ACLU.com>

48Hours Mystery Correspondent Peter Van Sant By Rebecca Leung. Sept. 13, 2003, "Wrongfully Accused? Gloria Killian Served Time For Crime She Says She Didn't Commit" <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/08/26/48hours/main570187.shtml>

[ACWIP Logo from actual website](#)

"Wrongfully convicted, he now rights wrongs" By MEGHAN LEWIT. [Press Enterprise](#) w/photo by Scott Smeltzer (300x193- 18k – jpg) - [www.pe.com/.../2006/04-24/exonerate21\\_05\\_300.jpg](http://www.pe.com/.../2006/04-24/exonerate21_05_300.jpg)

**Bottom picture:** From <http://opinionatedoldfart.wordpress.com/2008/12/05/wrongly-accused-guardian-angel/#comments>