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**Point Park University's Innocence Institute on "Bear Rocks Murder Case"
*Convicted Killer to Get Third Trial***

PITTSBURGH, PA. -- Rebuking Fayette County prosecutors for numerous constitutional violations and stating David Munchinski "has prevailed in his gateway claim of innocence," a federal judge has ordered a new trial in a 1978 double-murder for which the former Latrobe man has been imprisoned for 25 years.

In an 80-page opinion filled with stinging admonishments of the practices of state police, Fayette prosecutors and judges on Pennsylvania's Superior Court that has not been covered by regional media, Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Lisa Pupo Lenihan of the Western District of Pennsylvania listed a litany of unconstitutional actions in the case — known as 'The Bear Rocks Murders' — that compelled her to reverse the convictions of Munchinski, which she said were "unworthy of confidence."

That ruling came after more than a decade of investigative reporting by the students of the Innocence Institute of Point Park University, an award-winning investigative reporting organization that has written about the case since 2003. The recent judicial ruling is documented in a story published at www.innocenceinstitute.org. In his story, Bill Moushey, director of the program where students investigate and write about allegations of wrongful convictions, writes that Judge Pupo Lenihan wrote "no reasonable trier of fact could have convicted David Munchinski."

Munchinski has been imprisoned since the mid-1980s for the killing of James Peter Alford, 24, and Raymond Gierke, 28, who were found dead in a Laurel Mountain cabin in December 1978. Police were frustrated in the case for almost five years until a vagabond, drug and alcohol-addled misfit from Greensburg was caught in petty crimes and implicated Munchinski for a deal,

The Munchinski matter was the first investigation surrounding allegations of wrongful convictions undertaken by the Innocence Institute, which Moushey started in 2001. The new article can be found at: <http://innocenceinstitute.org/blog/convicted-killer-to-get-third-trial/>. A long list of other detailed stories about the case also can be found at the web site.

If you are interested in an interview with Professor Moushey, publishing the article, or additional information about the Munchinski matter, please contact him at the Innocence Institute, Point Park University at [412-765-3164](tel:412-765-3164).

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Bill Moushey is a Professor in the School of Communication at Point Park University and Director of the Innocence Institute, an investigative reporting program at Point Park where graduate and undergraduate students research and write about allegations of wrongful convictions. He can be reached at Bmoushey@pointpark.edu or 412-765-3164. For more information visit, www.innocenceinstitute.org.

The Innocence Institute of Point Park University is a nonprofit investigative journalism program dedicated to providing students with journalistic fundamentals and understanding to examine, write and broadcast allegations concerning wrongful convictions within 100 miles of Pittsburgh. It has been involved in 17 cases where cases have been reopened or convictions reversed. In 2010, The Innocence Institute's Justice Magazine was the winner of the national and regional awards from Society of Professional Journalist's (SPJ) for it's story, "No Remorse." It also was named a finalist in the Investigative Reporter and Editors Assn. Tom Renner national award, as well as a design award from Graphic Design USA. For more information visit, www.innocenceinstitute.org.