



## FIRST US DEATH ROW DNA EXONEREE TO VISIT PORTLAND NEXT WEEK

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### NEWS ADVISORY

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- WHAT:** Visit to Oregon of Kirk Bloodsworth, the first person in the US who spent time on death row to be exonerated through the use of DNA evidence. Kirk spent nearly a decade behind bars in Maryland for a horrific murder although he protested his innocence from the start. He was released and pardoned in 1993. Kirk is now a campaigner on behalf of the wrongfully convicted and against the death penalty. He is visiting Oregon as the special guest of Oregon Innocence Project (OIP).
- WHEN:** Wednesday, May 11 – Thursday, May 12
- WHO:** Oregon Innocence Project
- WHERE:** **Screening of movie, “Bloodsworth: An Innocent Man”,** Wednesday, May 11 at 7pm at Living Room Theater, 341 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland. The movie will be followed by a Q&A with Kirk. This event has already sold out.
- THIS IS INNOCENCE: a benefit for Oregon Innocence Project,** Thursday, May 12 at 5.30pm at Urban Studio, 935 NW Davis St., Portland. Speakers will be Kirk Bloodsworth, House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson, OIP Co-Founder & Staff Attorney pro bono Janis Puracal and OIP Legal Director Steve Wax. Tickets are available online at <http://ojrc.info/oregon-innocence-project-fundraiser-with-kirk-bloodsworth/>
- WHY:** Kirk Bloodsworth’s true story of wrongful conviction, imprisonment on and off death row and eventual release and exoneration is a fascinating insight into the American justice system. Since his release two decades ago, he has become a national campaigner for innocence and against the death penalty and was part of the successful campaign to end the death penalty in his home state of Maryland in 2013.
- WEBSITE:** <http://ojrc.info/oregon-innocence-project-fundraiser-with-kirk-bloodsworth/>
- BACKGROUND:** Oregon Innocence Project is the only program in our state whose sole mission is to aid the wrongfully convicted in proving their innocence, campaign for reforms that prevent and address wrongful convictions and train law students. Founded in 2014, OIP provides free assistance to people who have been convicted in Oregon and are making a claim of innocence.

\*\*\*\*\*Interviews are available with Kirk during his visit. Contact us for more information.\*\*\*\*\*