



## Montgomery McCracken Associate Rachel H. Jacobson Assists Pennsylvania Innocence Project in Obtaining New Trial for Pittsburgh Man

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**Attorneys:** Jacobson, Rachel



**PHILADELPHIA AND PITTSBURGH--**Montgomery McCracken associate [Rachel H. Jacobson](#), as a key member of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project during her third year as a student at Temple University Beasley School of Law, assisted on a pro bono case to obtain a new trial for Greg Brown, who was 17 years old when convicted in 1995 of arson and second degree murder and sentenced to life without parole for a fire that killed three Pittsburgh firefighters. Last week, Judge Joseph Williams ordered that Brown's conviction be vacated and a new trial held.

The judge's decision was based on evidence tracked down by Jacobson and other members of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project which showed that key witnesses in the trial against Brown testified expecting thousands of dollars in reward money from federal investigators--and that neither the jury, the judge or Brown's trial counsel were informed of the arrangement. In ordering a new trial for Brown, Judge Williams ruled that the government intentionally withheld information critical to the jury's verdict: that the only two witnesses to inculcate Brown did so while expecting to receive thousands of dollars in cash for their testimony. The judge called this an "egregious lapse in judgment" that made Brown's trial "so unfair the Court does not have confidence in the guilt determination."

Jacobson is an associate in the Philadelphia office of Montgomery McCracken. As a member of the firm's Litigation Department, she concentrates her practice on [white collar](#) defense. Jacobson graduated, *cum laude*, from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 2011, where she served on the *Temple Law Review* and was a member and officer of the Jewish Law Student Association, Women's Law Caucus and Temple Student Animal Legal Defense Fund. She graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 2007.

### **About the Pennsylvania Innocence Project**

The Pennsylvania Innocence Project is a nonprofit corporation that works to exonerate those convicted of crimes they did not commit and to prevent innocent people from being convicted. Its mission is to secure the exoneration, release from imprisonment, and restoration to society of

persons who are innocent and have been wrongly convicted; provide clinical training and experience to students in the fields of law, journalism, criminal justice and forensic science; collaborate with law enforcement agencies and the courts to address systemic causes of wrongful convictions; and strengthen and improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania through public education and advocacy. Law students from Temple University Beasley School of Law, Villanova Law School, Earle Mack School of Law at Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania earn credit while working for the Project investigating applicants' cases. For more information, visit [innocenceprojectpa.org](http://innocenceprojectpa.org).

### **About Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP**

Montgomery McCracken is a multidisciplinary law firm with more than 120 attorneys in offices in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware. Its attorneys provide legal services to clients in a wide range of industries both nationwide and internationally.

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