

## Quick to Convict; Slow to Correct

It's a sad state when it takes mere days to convict, yet it takes several years to correct an error caused by the legal system.

While researching post conviction remedies, I found out that I have two convictions for the same offense.

In 2001, I was granted relief on a Voluntary Manslaughter conviction. However, in 2003 I was re indicted for the same offense under Murder, tried, convicted, and received a life sentence with parole, which superseded the vacated conviction.

However, my file is still showing the vacated conviction as if it's separate from the current conviction. I wrote to the Clerk of Courts and requested that a copy of the Nolle Prosequi be forwarded to the Department of Corrections, and it was done. I was given credit for time served on the vacated conviction, toward the new sentence as required by law; however, I was told that the vacated conviction could not be removed. I find that odd when there is a court order to vacate. Webster's definition of vacate is ... to remove, to empty. So it's difficult for me to understand why it can't be removed.

I am also told I have to file a Mandamus, which will cost me about \$300.00 to file. I can't understand why I need to pay the state to correct an error that is their fault.

So it leaves me with the question; why does it take days to forward documents that convict, but years to forward documents that correct.

The judicial system is clearly quick to convict and slow to correct.

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# Trapped



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# *Caged Butterfly*