



# Symposium

## Wrongly Convicted Based on a DNA Analysis That Ignored Proof of His Innocence

### Christopher Payne

Saturday, 5 July 2025

2:00~5:30PM (Doors open: 1:30PM)

Virtual screening available • RSVP required • Free entry

※ This event will be conducted in Japanese.



#### ○ Our Goal ○

In the middle of the night in July 2018, a woman in Ichikawa City, Chiba Prefecture, was attacked while walking home. Her attacker forced her to perform oral sex. The woman spat out his semen, went home, gargled, then reported the crime to the police. This resulted in only a trace DNA sample that was further diluted by being mixed with cells from her mouth. This trace and mixed sample made analysis difficult; from the outset, the police were unable to isolate the sperm's DNA.

Despite that, 3 years and 4 months after the attack, Christopher Payne (born in 1991 to an African-American mother and Greek father) was arrested and charged on the grounds that his DNA type was "consistent" with the attacker's. Chris asked the court for a second, more accurate analysis, but the party tasked with performing the test also reported that the DNA types were consistent, this time claiming there was only a 1 in 17 trillion chance (2,099 times the global population!) that Chris was not the perpetrator.

But at the time of the attack, Chris was in Shibuya, Tokyo, and texted his then-girlfriend just 5 minutes after the incident.

At the first trial, the Chiba District Court ruled that "According to the analysis, the defendant is the only person on earth with the same DNA type as the perpetrator. The text message he sent is not inconsistent with being the culprit," and sentenced Chris to 8 years in prison.

Ahead of the appeal trial at the Tokyo High Court, Chris' defense team requested to see the raw data from the DNA analysis. They discovered the data had been falsified; forged in order to make it look like the DNA types were consistent. Furthermore, the location data from Chris' text messages -- an air-tight alibi -- is being disregarded.

Chris was wrongly convicted based on a DNA analysis that ignored proof of his innocence. This symposium will attempt to shed light on Japanese criminal courts' inability to correctly evaluate scientific evidence.

#### ○ Program ○

**Opening Remarks** Kana Sasakura (IPJ Executive Director, Konan University)

**Explanation of the Case** (Chris' Legal Team)

- Overview and Arguments Hiroshi Sato
- DNA Analysis in the Hakamata Case Kiyomi Tsunogae

**Additional Commentary**

- Simon Ford (Lexigen Science and Law Consultants, San Francisco)
- Hikaru Tokunaga (Dokkyo University)

**Messages of/ Calls for Support**

- Tomoki Takemae (Chris' Lawyer)
- Chris' supporters
- IPJ student volunteers

**Closing Remarks** Akio Ishizuka (IPJ Chairman, Lawyer)

#### ○ Venue ○

AP Tokyo Yaesu 10F W Room



〒104-0031  
Tokyo-to Chuo-ku  
Kyobashi 1-10-7 KPP  
Yaesu Building

- 6 min walk from JR Tokyo Station
- 5 min walk from Ginza Line Nihonbashi Station
- 4 min walk from Ginza Line Kyobashi Station

#### 【Organizers】

General Incorporated Association Innocence Project Japan (IPJ)  
IPJ student volunteers

Please visit our website for details. →



RSVP here →  
Please register in advance to help  
determine the room set-up

