Delve Deeper into Presumed Guilty
A film by Roberto Hernandez and Geoffrey Smith

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Paul A. Bareño of the San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming POV documentary Presumed Guilty.

Imagine being picked up off the street, told you have committed a murder you know nothing about and then finding yourself sentenced to 20 years in jail. In December 2005 this happened to Toño Zúñiga in Mexico City and, like thousands of other innocent people, he was wrongfully imprisoned. The award-winning Presumed Guilty is the story of two young lawyers and their struggle to free Zúñiga. With no background in film, Roberto Hernández and Layda Negrete set about recording the injustices they were witnessing, enlisting acclaimed director Geoffrey Smith (The English Surgeon, POV 2009) to tell this dramatic story. A co-presentation with Latino Public Broadcasting.

ADULT NONFICTION

Mexico


Judicial Justice in Mexico


Finkel, Jodi S. Judicial Reform as Political Insurance: Argentina, Peru, and Mexico in the 1990s. South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2008. Using the examples of Argentina, Peru and Mexico, this book suggests that while ruling parties can be induced to initiate judicial reforms, they often prove unwilling to implement these changes by enacting required legislation.


Wrongful Conviction

Dwyer, Jim, Peter Neufeld and Barry Scheck. Actual Innocence: Five Days to Execution and Other Dispatches from the Wrongly Convicted. New York, NY: Doubleday, 2000. Scheck and Neufeld run the Innocence Project which seeks to exonerate the wrongly convicted through DNA evidence. This book, written with journalist Dwyer, takes a look at ten of the cases the Innocence Project has freed.

Eggers, Dave and Lola Vollen, (eds.) Surviving Justice: America’s Wrongfully Convicted and Exonerated. New York, NY: McSweeney’s, 2005. This compilation of stories about wrongfully convicted Americans illustrates the alarming number of innocent Americans currently behind bars.


ARTICLES

Justice in Mexico

Archibold, Randal C. "Mexican Prosecutors Train in U.S. for Changes in Their Legal System." The New York Times, 25 April 2009, p. A12. Mexico is gradually abandoning its centuries-old Napoleonic system of closed-door, written inquisitions. For the first time, defendants will be presumed innocent until proved guilty and courtroom doors will be thrown open to the public for oral trials.

Taylor, Michael C. "Why No Rule of Law in Mexico? Explaining the Weakness of Mexico’s Judicial Branch." New Mexico Law Review, 10 April 2010, pp. 141-166. A recently published article about the current state of Mexico’s judiciary system.

 imaginary being picked up off the street, told you have committed a murder you know nothing about and then finding yourself sentenced to 20 years in jail. In December 2005 this happened to Toño Zúñiga in Mexico City and, like thousands of other innocent people, he was wrongfully imprisoned. The award-winning Presumed Guilty is the story of two young lawyers and their struggle to free Zúñiga. With no background in film, Roberto Hernández and Layda Negrete set about recording the injustices they were witnessing, enlisting acclaimed director Geoffrey Smith (The English Surgeon, POV 2009) to tell this dramatic story. A co-presentation with Latino Public Broadcasting.

ADULT NONFICTION

Mexico


About Presumed Guilty

Lengthy article about lawyers/filmmakers Negrete and Hernandez and the subject of their documentary, Presumed Guilty.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

12 Angry Men. A film by Sidney Lumet. Orion-Nova, 1957. TRT: 96 min. This classic film portrays a poignant drama where a dissenting juror in a murder trial slowly manages to convince the others that the case is not as obviously clear as it seemed in court.
www.amazon.com

Juan Meléndez - 6446 tells the incredible, true story of Juan Meléndez, who was sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit. A Puerto Rican migrant farmer raised in New York City, Meléndez was accused of murder in the state of Florida.

This documentary profiles Rosa Jimenez, a teenage Mexican immigrant who is accused of committing murder in Texas.
http://www.mividadentro.com/

Presumed Innocent. A film by Alan Pakula. Mirage, 1990. TRT: 127 min. After his former girlfriend is killed and he becomes the prime suspect, D.A. Rusty Sabich (played by Harrison Ford) goes on a search to find the real killer.
www.amazon.com