# Wrongful Conviction

# Wrongful Conviction

# Law, Science, and Policy

### SECOND EDITION

## James R. Acker

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY

### Allison D. Redlich

Professor, Department of Criminology, Law and Society, George Mason University



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#### Dedication

To Jenny, Elizabeth, Anna, Ethan, and Andy. "Innocent: 1. free from moral wrong; without sin; pure. 2. freedom from legal or specific wrong; guiltless.... 11. a simpleton or idiot." *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* 695 (New York: Random House 1991). You embrace the first meaning. May this book make some small contribution so that those allied with the second category are not wrongly convicted. To the third definition I plead guilty and can only hope that justice is tempered by mercy.

—JRA

To John, Isaac, and Lucie. Thanks for continuing to understand how important my work is to me and for knowing that when I cannot be with you, I still wish that I was. To all those who have been exonerated, those waiting to be, and those who work tirelessly to right the wrongs of our criminal justice, words cannot express my admiration for your courage, perseverance, and heroism. To those who stymie the factually innocent becoming free, I hope that you find this book enlightening.

—ADR

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