When Justice Fails
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Causes and Consequences of Wrongful Convictions

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To Saundra Westervelt, who sparked my interest in wrongful convictions as an undergraduate student a decade ago, and to Kirk Bloodsworth, who cemented my passion for justice. May this work and these stories do the same for others.

—RJN

To Mom and Papa Bear and to the Albany Four.

—CLB

To three generations of family—
Jenny, Elizabeth, Anna, Andy, and Ethan—and to the continuing quest for justice in the courts and well beyond.

—JRA
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We must also acknowledge those whose stories are covered in this volume. The wrongly convicted withstand nearly unimaginable suffering, yet they manage to survive and endure with grace and dignity. We hope this book will help educate students, scholars, practitioners, advocates, and the public, and be a small contribution toward improving the justice system and reducing further injustices. And to those who advocate on behalf of the wrongly convicted and are in the trenches advocating for an improved justice system, we continue to admire your work and hope this volume will help accelerate needed reforms.

RJN, CLB & JRA