

## Entrepreneur Mitchell E. Finlay Releases His Detailed Strategy to Positively Impact Miami-Dade County

Balanced Justice Network has confirmed that Mitchell E. Finlay has a detailed plan to make significant contributions to the Miami-Dade County community.

PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, July 9, 2024 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Balanced Justice Network - Changing the System has confirmed that currently incarcerated entrepreneur Mitchell E. Finlay has a detailed plan to make significant contributions to the Miami-Dade County community after his release from Florida prison.

"I believe in a nation as wealthy as ours that it is ridiculous that so many people don't have quality, safe, affordable housing and too many kids go hungry right here in Miami-Dade County. After I am released from prison, I plan as an entrepreneur and businessman to build collaborations and networks with other Miami-Dade entrepreneurs and business people to bring together ideas and private resources to solve these issues. After 22 years in prison, I am determined to help as many people as I can. I believe the private sector is much better suited to solve these important matters compared to the government."



Partially handcuffed wrist symbolizes the border between freedom and incarceration



Logo arrow shows the path forward.

Finlay envisions like-minded entrepreneurs, business people, civil society and influencers within



Finlay envisions like-minded entrepreneurs, business people, civil society and influencers within Miami-Dade linking together to create solutions that really help struggling people and hungry kids."

Evelyn Castillo-Bach

Miami- Dade linking together to create solutions that really help struggling people and hungry kids. "I will convert my 23 years of incarceration into a positive. I am determined to contribute to the South Florida community and improve as many lives as I can," stated Finlay.

- Currently, Finlay is in a Florida State prison serving a mandatory Life sentence.
- August of this year will mark his 23rd year incarcerated.
- His family is campaigning for a second chance and his release on probation.
- Finlay has maintained his innocence throughout the past

## two decades.

- He was in his late 20s at the time of his arrest.
- On May 30th Finlay turned 52 years old.
- <u>Podcast episodes</u> by Finlay can be heard on Balanced Justice Network addressing a broad range of subjects.

In 2001 Finlay, then in his late 20s, was arrested in Miami Beach after a one-night intimate encounter in his hotel room with a woman he had just met. He was accused of sexual assault, rejected a 5-year plea deal from Miami-Dade prosecutors, went to trial believing innocent people don't take plea deals, lost at trial and was sentenced to Life. He has served 22 years and 11 months. (CASE NO. F01-24201, IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR DADE COUNTY.)

The Founder and Executive Director of Balanced Justice Network, <u>Evelyn Castillo-Bach</u> is determined to demonstrate to Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle that Finlay is worthy of a second chance and merits immediate release on probation. "As Mitchell's mom and as Executive Director, I don't seek to point fingers. We simply want the Miami-Dade State Attorney to give Mitchell a second chance. He will contribute to the lives of many others," affirms Castillo-Bach.

The <u>American Bar Association 2023</u> Plea Bargain Task Force Report addressed the issue of a significant differential between plea deals offered and the prison sentence administered when defendants chose to go to trial. As reported, "while in general some difference between the sentence offered prior to trial and the sentence received after trial is permissible, a substantial difference undermines the integrity of the criminal system and reflects a penalty for exercising one's right to trial. This differential, often referred to as the trial penalty, should be eliminated."

Castillo-Bach added her agreement with the following American Bar Association statement in the 2023 Plea Bargain Task Force Report.

"Charges should not be selected or amended with the purpose of creating a sentencing differential, sentencing enhancement, punishment or collateral consequence to induce a defendant to plead guilty or to punish defendants for exercising their rights, including the right to trial."

Balanced Justice Network advocates for criminal justice reform, second chances and transparency in plea bargains and sentencing.

The Balanced Justice Network website also gives a concise summary on the case and includes a link to the last legal brief filed by Finlay's appellate attorney Richard C. Klugh.

On November 13, 2015, appellate attorney Richard C. Klugh filed an appeal to the Life sentence in THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF FLORIDA, THIRD DISTRICT, CASE NO.: 3D15-1249, MITCHELL FINLAY, Appellant,-vs-STATE OF FLORIDA. APPEAL FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR DADE COUNTY.

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