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## Newsroom: Waters' Saga Hits Big Screen

Roger Williams University School of Law

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# Newsroom

## Waters' Saga Hits Big Screen

The Bristol Phoenix -- the newspaper of Bristol, R.I., RWU Law's hometown -- published this profile of Betty Anne Waters '98, who also lives in town.

*The [Bristol Phoenix](#) -- the newspaper of Bristol, R.I., **RWU Law's** hometown -- published this profile of **Betty Anne Waters '98**, who also lives here in town, and "Conviction," the new movie about her life.*

**BRISTOL, Oct. 21, 2010** — Bristol resident **Betty Anne Waters [RWU Law '98]** has been busy these past few weeks giving interviews on national television and radio shows and attending the London premiere of the movie, "Conviction," an account of her inspiring efforts to free her wrongfully convicted brother.

"Conviction" tells the true story of Ms. Waters, a single mother of two, who saw her brother begin serving a life sentence in 1983 for murder and robbery for an incident that happened in 1980 in Ayer, Mass.

Convinced of his innocence, she spent 12 years taking steps to earn a law degree. **After graduating from Roger Williams University School of Law in 1998**, she began focusing on her brother's case.

Working with The Innocence Project and famed attorney Barry C. Scheck, she challenged the conviction with DNA evidence and helped prove her brother's innocence. Kenny Waters walked out of prison a free man in March 2001 after serving 18 years. Unfortunately, Kenny died in an accident six months after his release, on Sept. 19, 2001, when he took a shortcut home and fell off a wall. He was 47 years old.

Two-time Academy Award-winner Hilary Swank plays Betty Anne, Sam Rockwell plays Kenny, and Minnie Driver plays **Ms. Waters' law school friend, Abra Rice [RWU Law '98]**. The movie is directed by Tony Goldwyn.

Although **the story takes place in Bristol**, where Ms. Waters decided to fight the legal system by getting her law degree, most scenes were filmed in and around Ann Arbor, Mich. Several of the sets, however, may appear familiar. Aidan's Pub on John Street, where she has worked for a number of years, was recreated at the Sidetrack Bar and Grill in Ypsilanti, Mich.

According to **The Innocence Project**, the perpetrator of the crime that Kenny was convicted of has not been found.

Residents in the East Bay area will have to travel to Boston for now to see the movie, which is only playing in select theaters. There is no date set for when the movie will be shown at local theaters.

### **Learn more from The Innocence Project**

The Innocence Project worked with Betty Anne Waters to help free her brother, Kenny, who served 18 years in prison for a wrongful conviction of murder and robbery. Visit their [website](#) for the entire history behind the case [and] a link to watch the trailer for the movie, "Conviction."

*For full story, click [here](#).*