



# MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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**KCPT's Mike McGraw's investigative work inspires next episode of national podcast, "Reveal."**

"Trial by Fire" podcast investigates problems in the investigation of the 1998 blast that killed six firefighters in Kansas City.

In 1988, six firefighters in Kansas City, Missouri, were killed in a blast at a highway construction site. Nine years later, five people were convicted of setting the fires that led to the deaths. And now, almost 30 years later, Reveal investigates problems in the case: There was no physical evidence linking the five to the crime, and the first convictions were based on witness testimony – a lot of it conflicting.

But now, the youngest has a chance at freedom. Bryan Sheppard was 17 at the time of the explosions, and the Supreme Court has ruled that it's unconstitutional to give a juvenile a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole. He will be resentenced in a few weeks, and Reveal will be there to follow up.

For "Trial by Fire," the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR), which co-produces the "Reveal" radio show and podcast with PRX, relied on decades of reporting from KCPT's Special Projects Reporter Mike McGraw. McGraw's reporting — he first followed the story for The Kansas City Star — and subsequent research are heavily featured in the podcast.

"KCPT partnered with CIR in 2016 for the play, "Justice in the Embers," on this same topic, and have continued to build on the great work and reporting that McGraw has been doing for decades around this tragic event in Kansas City history," Kliff Kuehl, KCPT President and CEO.

The podcast is now available at [flatlandkc.org](http://flatlandkc.org), KCPT's digital magazine

"Reveal" is a weekly radio program produced by The Center for Investigative Reporting and PRX - [www.revealnews.org](http://www.revealnews.org).

*KCPT believes in the power of media on every platform and seeks to use that power to enrich, engage and entertain our viewers both on-air and online. We strive to advance conversations through community engagement and social media; explore complicated issues facing our region with ongoing reporting, investigative reports and informed discussions; and share the stories of people, places, and progress in our community.*