

MURDER TRIAL ENDS WITH SHABBILY OBTAINED CONVICTIONS

by Ricardo Ferrell

The jury trial of Marcie Griffin, Eric Gibson, and George G. Rider concluded in a Macomb County Circuit Courtroom with a majority-white jury handing down first-degree murder guilty verdicts in the murder case of an Oak Park woman, Julii Johnson, who was shot to death Jan. 13, 2017.

The jury, comprised of nine whites and three blacks had the appearance of a deck already stacked against the defendants. During the voir dire the prosecution utilized his preemptory challenges to exclude potential black jurors. Assistant Prosecutor Jurij Fedorak during an impromptu hearing in the middle of trial claimed that the jury pool in Macomb County doesn't have enough blacks in it, which is how he tries justifying the lack thereof, but that is a blatant untruth because in the City of Eastpointe alone there's upwards of 77% African-Americans residing there, so why not choose from that demographic?

The saga continues as it relates to the corruption running deep in Macomb County, Courts, Police. How can a supposed fair and impartial judge sit idle while egregious injustices unfold right before his bench? It might as well just been the police and prosecutors in Judge Joseph Toia's courtroom after what he allowed to happen. He denied every motion filed by the defense team regardless of how obvious the errors and violations committed in front of everyone present.

The judges involved in this murder case from the preliminary examination in 37th District Court before Judge Michael Chupo to Judge Suzanna Fuanca involvement in signing bogus search warrants that her sister Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Fuanca would rule on in an evidentiary hearing challenging such, which uncovered a clear and obvious conflict of interest, and trial Court Judge Joseph Toia, all have in some shape, form, or fashion contributed to the June 7th shabby convictions.

Judge Toia by all accounts appears to be biased because of his disregard for the Michigan Rules of Evidence (MRE). He allowed questionable text messages in before the jury, which amounts to hearsay. Absolutely no proof whatsoever as to who sent Ms. Griffin the two text messages in question, only a vague inference drawn by an overzealous police & prosecutor that it was George Rider, who must have sent them.

Adding to Judge Toia's bias is his refusal to dismiss, and/or declare a mistrial after hearing conflicting testimony regarding DNA evidence of the victim's boy friend found on the murder weapon. Warren police supposedly suggested to the Michigan State Police Forensic Lab via email to retest the weapon and come up with defendant Eric Gibson's DNA instead, which amounts to a miscarriage of justice if permitted by a jurist of the court.

Prosecutor Fedorak knew or should have known of this illegal tactic by the police. What

court in the land would allow something of this magnitude to go down in their courtroom? What type of justice is being served by turning a blind eye to something so crucial? Why pretend to be providing these three defendants a fair trial? When in all actuality its quite apparent the only real interest seems to be obtaining three convictions by any means necessary. This debacle gives the entire Macomb County Judicial System a big fat black eye, and exposes the corruption that's been going down for decades - leading many of these corrupt individuals to believe their beyond reproach and above the law.

Additionally, the interference by Assistant United States Attorney Karen Reynolds and other federal authorities exerting their influence done so in an attempt to affect the outcome of the trial, if not, why then would they be intervening in a state prosecution?

At such time when this case is reversed by the Michigan Court of Appeals, or higher Court it would seem fitting in the interest of justice that a change of venue would be granted for the new trial to be held outside of Macomb County due to the injustice, corruption, and illegal maneuver of the Warren Police Department, Macomb County Prosecutor's Office, and some Judges in the Macomb County Courts. Currently there is a probe by authorities looking into illegal activities by Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith. The level of corruption that exist in this racist county leads this writer to conclude that justice will never prevail for these three defendants unless a fair and impartial judge is assigned to preside over a new trial, in a different county.

Sadly, the system is rigged in a way that common everyday citizens can be swept up, arrested, and thrown in jail for 2 years, 4 months with numerous delays & postponements before having their day in court, only to be railroad through a process replete with constitutional violations and obvious injustices.

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injustices unfold right before his bench? It might as well just been the police and prosecutors in Judge Joseph Toia's courtroom after what he allowed to happen. He denied every motion filed by the defense team regardless of how obvious the errors and violations committed in front of everyone present. The judges involved in this murder case from the preliminary examination in 37th District Court before Judge Michael Chupo to Judge Suzanna Fuance involvement in signing bogus search warrants that her sister Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Fuance would rule on in an evidentiary hearing challenging such, which uncovered a clear and obvious conflict of interest, and trial Court Judge Joseph Toia, all have in some shape, form, or fashion contributed to the June 7th shabby convictions.

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