

### Affidavit of William White

1. I am William White, a retired attorney residing in Neptune Beach, Florida. In 1974, I graduated from the Frederic G. Levin College of Law at the University of Florida. I spent most of my legal career at the Office of the Public Defender in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, in Duval County, beginning with a law school internship under former Public Defender Lou Frost, in 1974, and ending when I succeeded Mr. Frost, and served as the elected Public Defender from January of 2005 to January of 2009.
2. During my time in the Public Defender's Office, I represented clients facing all manner of charges from misdemeanors to capital cases. I represented at least 30 people facing the death penalty, and supervised many other attorneys doing this same work.
3. I have been asked from time to time to debate the death penalty, particularly when I served as the elected Public Defender. In those debates, my opponents have sometimes claimed that no innocent person has ever been executed. As I have responded each time, I disagree. I represented Leo Jones, convicted and sentenced to death for the 1981 murder of Thomas Szafranski, in Jacksonville, Florida. On March 24, 1998, the State of Florida executed Mr. Jones. Based on everything I have learned about the case from my representation of Mr. Jones, I believe he was innocent.
4. I became involved in the case when I was asked by Mr. Frost to prepare a clemency petition on behalf of Mr. Jones.
5. As part of that representation, I began investigating Officer Szafranski's shooting death. In the early morning hours of May 23, 1981, while stopped in his patrol car at the corner of Sixth and Davis Streets, a bullet entered the officer's car, hit him in the head, and killed him.
6. Responding police, including Officer Lynwood Mundy, took Leo Jones and Bobby Hammonds from a second-floor apartment of a building at that intersection into the police station for questioning.
7. Police then reported that Mr. Jones had confessed, by signing a three-sentence statement written by the police but supposedly dictated by Mr. Jones. The statement reads in its entirety: "I, Leo Jones have been given my rights and I fully understand them and am making this statement on my own free will. I have given Det. Eason permission to write this statement for me. I, Leo Jones on 23 May 81 took a rifle out of the front room of my apartment and went down the back stairs and walked to the front empty apartment and shot the policeman through the front

window of the apartment. I then ran back upstairs and hid the gun or rifle and then the police came."

8. After his apprehension, Mr. Jones had been taken to the hospital for injuries and a lawyer from my office days later had noticed cuts and bruises on his face. At the time, the police claimed that these injuries occurred in a "scuffle" when Mr. Jones was arrested. Officer Eason, who took Mr. Jones' confession, later admitted that Officer Mundy hit Mr. Jones "pretty good" while arresting him and that Officer Eason had to pull Officer Mundy off of him. And another officer, Cleveland Smith, stated that Officer Mundy had repeatedly bragged that he beat Mr. Jones after his arrest, intended to kill someone that night, and that another officer had to stop him. Officer Mundy was known as notoriously corrupt and for physically abusing suspects. Officer Mundy was fired in the wake of a 1995 internal affairs investigation into allegations that he roughed up a different suspect. He was known by other officers as "an enforcer." Officer Eason had a similar reputation. Officer Smith described him as a "rapist, possible murderer . . . [and] extortionist." Eason was also fired.
9. *The police also took a statement from Mr. Hammonds, alleging that he saw Mr. Jones leave their shared apartment that evening with a rifle and then return after Mr. Hammond heard gunshots. Mr. Hammond quickly recanted, saying the police had beaten him, threatened him, and told him to implicate Mr. Jones. At trial, Mr. Hammond reverted to his original police statement, but after trial he stated once again, in an affidavit, that he never saw Mr. Jones with a rifle. He only said he did because of police coercion.*
10. One of the early facts I learned in my investigation was that the building from which Mr. Jones had allegedly fired at Officer Szafranski had been owned by the trial judge who presided at Mr. Jones' trial and ultimately sentenced him to death. By the time I began representing Mr. Jones, the crime scene was gone. The trial judge had ordered the building destroyed.
11. But Mr. Jones instructed me to visit the bar across the street from the building, a busy location with many potential witnesses, where his family members had gone to try to investigate the matter.
12. I followed this lead. I approached patrons at the bar, who provided information that in turn led to witnesses at the nearby Blodgett Homes (a public housing complex). The several new witnesses saw another man, Glenn Schofield, with a rifle around the time of the shooting and afterward, heard Mr. Schofield bragging of shooting the police, and saw that the shot that killed the officer had come not from the apartment building but from bushes in a vacant lot next to the building. The witnesses at the Blodgett Homes stated that they saw Schofield there the same day as the shooting, holding a rifle, as Schofield was trying to get a ride

somewhere else. They said that Schofield got into a confrontation with someone, and that he fired a shot into the ground before getting into a car and being driven away. In a separate incident, Schofield later went to prison for shooting a rifle at a pursuing police officer.

13. The identity of various witnesses concerning Schofield's involvement, and their statements, are detailed in the concurring and dissenting opinion of Justice Anstead in *Jones v. State*, 709 So. 2d 512, 528 n.15 (1998). I asked the witnesses I interviewed if defense counsel or any investigator for Mr. Jones had ever approached them seeking out this information. They had not. The only persons who approached the bar patrons were members of Mr. Jones' family.
14. Other than Mr. Jones' suspect three-line, police-written confession and Mr. Hammond's recanted statement, each obtained with the involvement of Officers Eason and Mundy, there was no proof of Mr. Jones' guilt, no eyewitness, no forensic evidence, and no other confession or inculpatory statements by Mr. Jones.
15. But there was ample evidence of Mr. Schofield's guilt, including the type of evidence routinely used to convict my clients over the years.
16. I am aware that Mr. Jones is a Black man, the victim officer was white, and the jury was all white. Based on my experience over the years, I believe that Mr. Jones' wrongful execution was a result of poor representation by a lawyer ill prepared for this type of serious case, police misconduct and brutality by officers known for such misconduct and who were ultimately fired, and a court system so eager to reach "finality" that they overlooked innocence and caused a miscarriage of justice.

William White  
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STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF DUVAL

Sworn to or affirmed before me by WILLIAM WHITE this 14 day of  
December, 2022.



Terry Hendry  
Signature of Notary Public

Print type or stamp name of Notary Public

Affiant identified by Florida Drivers License