

1804 H 52
Shirley Futherland

To the Honorable Judge Patricia Lykos,
Greetings Judge Lykos,

I am writing to you because I am at a loss as to what is happening to my life. I was tried in your court in March and there found guilty to a crime I DID NOT COMMIT!!

The attorney that was appointed to me did not defend me properly. He had one year to bring seven persons who knew my whereabouts on the night of Feb. 19th 1989, into court. He did not do this. Also there had been an EYE WITNESS JUDY FRAZIER who was arrested Feb. 20th 1989 who told police she had witnessed the murder of Shawnte Collins. She told police a Mexican man had shot Shawnte Collins. This woman pleaded the 5th to the grand jury but told atty. Ken Goode she would appear in court on my behalf. Mr. Goode did not call this woman.

Besides no witnesses in my behalf - Mr. Goode did not try to defend me. I was legally lynched in your court. I should have had visits from appeals attorneys - but I have not.

The testimonies from four persons who in actuality were the last persons to see Shawnte Collins alive, contradicted each other. With one, she planned to tell I was outside waiting in a brown chevrolet - This car had been impounded by HPD two months prior to Feb. 19th. Ken Goode did not have the proof of this impoundment in court. - There were many things said that did not corroborate with the few testimonies.

RECORDER'S MEMORANDUM:
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I am deeply hurt, confused and under great stress at the injustice of the 180th court procedures. There was nothing to prove beyond reasonable doubt to me being involved with Shawnte Collins' death.

It was proven that the four fingerprints found with Shawnte's body were not mine. But - no one but me and Zplanda (resident of Silvercrest) were fingerprinted - I would like to know why!

I believe Shawnte Collins was killed by Pete Carrasco, in the house on Silvercrest. I will always believe this.

I am the mother of two children, whom I love very much. This travesty of justice is ruining the lives of many people including the life of Shawnte's mother. This woman should have justice for her daughter's death. Shawnte's killer should be brought to justice. Her death should not be mocked by laying the murder on an innocent person.

I want to be home with my children. They need me and I need them. My husband and children are terribly upset. However we are poor and cannot afford legal help. Should poor persons be convicted because they cannot pay the price required to have proper legal defense? If so, our judicial system is in poor status.

I would appreciate your help, in assigning me appeals counsel. I want my life restored to me and my family.

Without concrete evidence or ever anything that resembled beyond reasonable

doubt, I was sentenced to life, plus \$10,000 fine. - Since I have been here at Harris County Jail - 14 months - I have seen ADMITTED murderers given 5 yrs to 20 yrs with evidences and confessions. Where is the justice to what has happened to me? Why was I railroaded into this case and sentenced?

I will fight this case and never let go. I will push for public opinion - I will plead for investigation in every level concerned. - If it were you that sat in my seat and watched what I saw and heard in the 180th court room, you too would be wondering what sort of a justice system we had. Surely you too would be as hurt, upset and bewildered as I.

All I can say to you - is I'm sorry that you even let such a thing occur in your court. I pray that you will look and study over the transcript and grant me an attorney(s) to fight my case in appeal.

You represent justice. You stand for the court of honesty in the rights of persons brought before you. I have not lost hope in your ability to execute fairness. Therefore I beg you to grant me fit legal counsel.

I pray for all those who were involved in this miscarriage of justice and truly from my heart forgive them.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

Shirley Stohely Atherlane

F I L
RAY HALL
District Clerk

JUN 03 1990

Time: 4:15 pm
Harris County, Texas

By _____ Deputy

JUN 11 1990

atty presented