

AFFIDAVIT
PROSECUTION WITNESS: WILLIE WILLIAMS, MD

1 I obtained my Bachelor of Science degree in molecular biology from Stanford University in 1979.
2 I attended the Brown University School of Medicine, where I obtained my M.D. degree in 1984. I
3 have been a Resident in Pathology at the Long Bay County Morgue from 1989 to present.

4 I have participated in over 1,000 autopsies, including over 500 in which I was the principal medical
5 examiner.

6 I have testified in court dozens of times as an expert witness. I usually testify for the State, but at
7 least twice I have been a witness for the defense. I have also testified in a handful of civil automobile
8 accident cases.

9 The State pays my salary (\$178,000 per year plus benefits). I receive no additional fee for testifying
10 when I am testifying for the State.

11 The Chief Medical Examiner of the State of Rhode Island reviews my autopsy reports. She has never
12 reprimanded me; nor have I ever been reported for incompetence.

13 In 1999, a colleague filed a grievance suggesting that I had accepted money to perform a private
14 autopsy. Such behavior clearly would have violated my professional and ethical duties. A board of
15 inquiry determined that there was not enough evidence and returned a finding of inconclusive.

16 On Wednesday, August 21, 2008, I conducted the autopsy of Frank Howe. Present during the
17 autopsy were my assistant, Brooke Bennett, and Detective Vic (Victoria) Estrada. Detective Estrada
18 identified the body. I also compared the cadaver to the general identifying information of the victim
19 from the police reports, i.e. the deceased had the same height, weight and tattoo on his right shoulder
20 blade as the victim described in the reports.

21 Palm prints, fingerprints and photographs of the deceased were taken. Hair, skin and blood samples
22 were taken. Photos were taken and the heart was removed and preserved. Extra blood samples were
23 taken so they could be provided to the defense after charges were brought. All of these items were
24 kept under my control pending the outcome of this matter.

25 The body was that of a malnourished, young adult male. It was received unclad within a white plastic
26 body bag.

27 The left forearm showed prior needle marks consistent with drug abuse, but in my opinion that prior
28 drug used did not contribute to the subject's death.

29 During my exam, I drew blood for testing. I filled four vials, sealed them and initialed the seal. I sent
30 two vials for sampling and two vials to Dr. Taylor Shea. I also removed the heart and placed it in
31 preserving solution, sealed the container, and initialed the label. Dr. Shea requested the heart for
32 examination and it was provided to him/her in the sealed container.

33 There was obvious trauma to the chest including bruising.

34 I cracked open the sternum and separated the rib cage in order to remove and examine the heart,
35 which is standard protocol when conducting an autopsy.

36 Examination of the Cardiovascular System revealed the following injuries: (1) the heart was severely
37 bruised and showed evidence of hemorrhaging; and (2) the aorta, venae cavae and pulmonary
38 arteries had some, but not significant, atherosclerosis. The damage to the heart is what is known as
39 cardiac contusion, which is a serious complication of a deceleration injury. In short, the deceleration
40 force affects the viscoelastic chest wall, causing direct pressure on the myocardium.

41 I have read the Affidavit of Dr. Taylor Shea and the report by Dr. Shea. I agree with Dr. Shea that the
42 Merck Manual is authoritative, and I myself rely on it frequently. I disagree, however, with the
43 conclusion formed by Dr. Shea. I followed all the standard protocols and performed all the standard
44 tests during the autopsy of Mr. Howe. Moreover, the death rate from coronary artery disease for men
45 in Mr. Howe's age group is only one in every 10,000. Although the risk of death from coronary artery
46 disease increases for people in various risk groups, the odds are very much against Dr. Shea's
47 conclusions.

48 While examining the body Detective Estrada was very interested in the bruising. The Detective said
49 there were not any obvious signs of injury when he/she was at the crime scene. I explained that with
50 this type of injury there are not necessarily immediate signs of trauma.

51 Detective Estrada also seemed very anxious that I find something to indicate a crime in this matter.
52 He/she kept going on about how this must be a homicide and how proud his/her Dad would be when
53 he found out that Pat Smith was going to be arrested for murder. Of course, none of this mattered to
54 my autopsy of the body. To me it's all about the science. The cops they always talk.

55 My examination of the body, as well as a review of the police reports prepared in this case and the
56 Affidavit of Vic (Victoria) Estrada, lead me to conclude that Mr. Howe died of a heart attack caused, at
57 least in part, by a severe blow to the chest. Further details regarding my conclusion may be found in
58 the summary Autopsy Report that I prepared in this matter.

SIGNED

Willie Williams, MD