

2010 Mock Trial Summer Camp Case

State v. Williams

Case Summary:

This is a criminal case brought by the State of Connecticut charging the defendant, Leslie Williams, with first- degree murder the state claims that Williams, with a premeditated intent to cause the death of Steve Grant, caused his/her death.

State of Connecticut	)	
Plaintiff	)	No.11-26-19915674
Leslie Williams	)	
Defendant	)	

Statement of Stipulated Facts

On August 30, 2009 Steve Grant was killed at his residence, 55 Roberts Drive. Detective Jessie Morgan responded to the call and found Mr. Grant dead due to several lacerations on his back.

Witness List

Prosecution:

Det. Jessie Morgan, Police Dept.

Kelly Harrison, Landscaper

Defense

Leslie Williams, Defendant

Sam Johnson, Mayor

Stipulations

1. Both exhibits are authentic and have followed the proper chain of custody to be admissible as evidence
2. The defendant was read his Miranda rights and all proper police procedures were followed
3. There are no issues as to violations of the defendant's rights

## Applicable Law

To Convict Leslie Williams of the crime of murder in the first degree, the prosecution must have proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Williams acted with a premeditated intent to cause the death of Grant, and that s/he caused his death. Premeditation involves more than a point in time.

In the alternative, Williams may be found guilty of second-degree murder, a lesser-included offense of first-degree murder. An intentional murder is in the first degree if it is committed with premeditation. It is murder in the second degree if it is committed without premeditation. Premeditation may be proved by demonstrating that the accused acted with considerations and reflection upon the preconceived design to kill, turning it over in the mind, giving it a second thought.

Detective Jessie Morgan

1 My name is Detective Jessie Morgan and I reside at 61 Thomas Circle. I am a detective  
2 with the New Justice Police Department. I have completed all police academy requirements and  
3 training to achieve the rank of full detective. I have been a police officer for 20 years and I have  
4 served as a detective for the past 10 years. Presently I am the head of our homicide  
5 investigations division, and I have been working homicide cases in various capacities during my  
6 entire 20 years with the force. I have worked hundreds of cases in my time and have served as  
7 an expert witness in dozens of others.

8 At about 11:15 am, dispatch sent me to a house at which I knew was the residence of  
9 Steve Grant. Mr. Grant was very involved with the town council and had been a chair of many  
10 fundraisers. When I arrived at the house I saw the landscaper, Kelly Harrison, standing at his  
11 truck outside. He directed me to the door and I noticed that the door knob was broken off the  
12 door and the door jamb was splintered. When I entered the house I noticed furniture overturned  
13 in the room, so I continued down the hallway. When I entered the room at the end of the hall, I  
14 saw the victim lying on his back with several lacerations on his upper back near his spine. There  
15 was a large pool of blood around his torso and there was a large machete on the ground about a  
16 foot from his left foot. There was also a wallet to the right of the victim that had no cash in it. I  
17 also ordered the machete and doorknobs to be fingerprinted. None of the fingerprints that were  
18 found were complete enough to be conclusive.

19 I don't know of anyone who would want to hurt Mr. Grant because he was very involved  
20 with the town and had raised a lot of money. I have heard other officers around the station  
21 saying that one of the town officials was being investigated due to accusations of embezzlement  
22 but I don't know any specifics.

23 *Jessie Morgan*

Kelly Harrison

1 My name is Kelly Harrison and I reside at 90 Stevens St. in New Justice. I am 40 years  
2 old and I have been a landscaper for 15 years. I have worked in New Justice for 10 of those 15  
3 years and Mr. Grant was one of my very first customers.

4 I arrived at Mr. Grant's house around 10:30am to mow his lawn like I do every week. I  
5 finished mowing in about a half hour and loaded my equipment back into my truck. I wrote out  
6 the weekly bill and went to knock on Mr. Grant's door to deliver it to him. He likes to pay the  
7 bill right away so I usually deliver it to him. When I reached the door I noticed that the door  
8 knob was missing and the door was ajar. I pushed the door open and noticed that there was an  
9 armchair lying on its side in the hallway which struck me as odd. I called for Mr. Grant and  
10 there was no response, but I knew that he was home because his car was still in the driveway.  
11 Worried that he was hurt, I started to walk down the hall and noticed something on the ground  
12 and when I got closer I realized that it was Mr. Grant and I immediately called the police.

13 I have no reason to hurt Steve. Yes it is true that I have a machete in my truck for  
14 clearing brush and branches that are in my way while I mow. But last week an employee of  
15 mine borrowed it and never returned it. Mr. Grant had fallen on some hard times and I hadn't  
16 been paid in a few months, but I knew that it was hard for him to mow his own lawn and that he  
17 would pay me back as soon as his luck turned around

18 *Kelly Harrison*

Sam Johnson

1 My name is Sam Johnson and I reside at 73 Kennedy St. New Justice. I am the mayor of  
2 New Justice and I have served for the past four years.

3 Steve and I were good friends and had worked on the town council for quite some time.  
4 As the mayor I often dealt with Steve because he was the chair of the fundraising committee to  
5 get a centennial statue in the town park. We worked on the fundraising committee together and  
6 had made quite a bit of money to put toward the parade. Steve usually ran the fundraiser events  
7 and collected all the money. He would then give me all that he collected and I would give to  
8 Tom Williams, the town treasurer.

9 The last time I saw Steve was at the town meeting the night before his death. The  
10 meeting started at 7:00pm and Steve was there on time as usual and sat in his usual seat in the  
11 back. Something wasn't right though because he was very quiet and wasn't talking with any of  
12 the council members. He didn't offer any ideas during the meeting which was very strange  
13 because we were so close to the centennial parade and he had played such a large part in the  
14 fundraising. The meeting ended around 8:15pm and I was about to go ask Steve if everything  
15 was alright, but my secretary told me that I had an urgent phone call in my office. I had to take  
16 the call and told Steve that I would come back as soon as the call was done. I was on the phone  
17 for about five minutes and when I came back into the meeting room Steve was having a very  
18 heated conversation with Tom Williams. All I heard was Steve yell, "I don't know what  
19 happened to the money but if I find that you have taken it don't think I won't report you!" As  
20 soon as he said this he stormed passed me and out the door. When I asked Tom what all that was  
21 about he quickly responded, "Don't worry about it..... it's nothing..." then he quickly packed up  
22 his things and left. It was probably just before 8:30 and that was the last time I saw Steve until I  
23 got the call the next morning.

24 I can't think of anyone would want to hurt Steve. He was very mild mannered and didn't  
25 seem to be on anyone's bad side. I had heard accusations that money had been reported missing  
26 from the Centennial account, but I didn't know for sure. But if Steve had found out, and  
27 suspected Tom, then there could definitely be some conflict there.

28 *Sam Johnson*

Leslie Williams

1 My name is Leslie Williams and I reside at 60 Alito Ave., New Justice. I also serve as  
2 the town treasurer for the town of New Justice, and I am also the person who is in charge of all  
3 of the money collected for the Centennial parade. I am 44 years old and I have served as town  
4 treasurer for the past four years.

5 Steve Grant was very involved with the events of the town, most recently the centennial  
6 parade, and we had worked together several times. He often ran fund raisers for the town and  
7 would be in charge of collecting the money at the event. Then he would give the money he  
8 collected to Sam and Sam would give it to me, I would count it and then deposit the money in  
9 the town's account with the other money that had been collected for the parade.

10 About a week before his death, Steve asked me for the account statement of the parade  
11 account. I asked him what it was for and he replied that he wanted to check the numbers. I  
12 assured him that I had been very careful in managing the money, but I agreed to give him the  
13 information. I didn't talk to him until about a week later at our town council meeting. After the  
14 meeting he confronted me, yelling that I had taken money from the parade account. I assured  
15 him that I had not taken anything from the account but he remained adamant in his viewpoint  
16 and threatened to expose me.

17 I did not take any money from the account. I have lived in New Justice all of my life and  
18 I have absolutely no desire to do anything to harm the town I love. The centennial parade is  
19 meant to be a celebration of the great city of New Justice and worked as hard as I could make the  
20 parade as successful as possible.

21 *Leslie Williams*

Exhibit 1



Exhibit 2

First Savings Bank of New Justice

3- 10-09	Deposit 120.94
3-22-09	Deposit 176.43
3-29-09	Deposit 230.62
4-12-09	Deposit 340.94
4-23-09	Deposit 259. 82
6-04-09	Deposit 312.37
6-15-09	Deposit 416.92
6-29-09	Deposit 184.04
7-19-09	Deposit 122.34
7-28-09	Deposit 466.34

*Leslie Williams*