

The cases of Thomas Broady, Jack Searcy Jr., Allen Thrower, Anthony Washington, and Timothy Howard and Gary James demonstrate that Columbus, Ohio police detective Tom Jones Sr. had a definite knack for framing a suspect into a wrongful conviction. What isn't known is how many of Jones frame-ups went undetected. Detective Jones retired from the Columbus Police Department in August 1978, under a hail of suspicion related to his years of unprofessional and possibly illegal conduct.

Thomas Broady

Detective Jones was involved in the investigation that resulted in Thomas Broady being charged and convicted of murdering John Georgeoff in 1973. During Broady's trial, Jones was informed by FBI agent Dick Cleary that another suspect had credibly confessed to the murder. Jones responded by telling Cleary, "we have our man," and he failed to inform the prosecutors or defense counsel about the confession. After Broady discovered existence of the confession he was granted a new trial and acquitted.

Jack Searcy, Jr.

In 1975 Jones played a role in the indictment of Jack Searcy, Jr., for the murder of William Ruh. In September 1976, Assistant prosecutor (now prosecutor) Ron O'Brien, asked that the indictment against Searcy be dismissed, as "the only legal and ethical thing to do."

Frame-up Artist Behind Conviction Of Gary James And Timothy Howard

By James Love

Prior to dismissal of the indictment in the Ruh case, Jones had played a key role in Searcy's conviction for another murder that was also based on dubious evidence. Jones cultivated informants from the Franklin County (Ohio) Jail who testified Searcy had "confessed" to them that he committed the January 1975 murder of James Peoples. A prisoner who testified against Searcy has told Yant that Searcy didn't confess to him, and that Jones coerced the prisoner into perjuringly testifying against Searcy.

Allen Thrower

In 1978 the Internal Affairs Bureau of the Columbus Division of Police determined that Jones had acted egregiously during the investigation of Allen Thrower, who was convicted for the homicide of Columbus Police Officer Joseph Edwards in 1972. Thrower was released from prison in 1979.

Anthony Washington

Columbus PD Internal Affairs investigators reportedly pursued allegations Jones manufactured the evidence and recruited informants to finger defendant Anthony Washington in a 1977 murder. The indict-

ment against Washington was dismissed shortly after Jones retired in August 1978.

Timothy Howard and Gary James

Timothy Howard and Gary James had operated a paper route together on the eastside of Columbus, and they remained casual friends during their teens. After a bank witness (mistakenly) identified James as being involved in a December 1976 bank robbery during which a bank guard was killed, Howard became a suspect because of their friendship. When Howard heard he was a suspect, he contacted the Columbus police with the intention of clearing his name.

Detective Jones focused the bank robbery and murder investigation on Howard and James. He contributed to their convictions by tailoring the evidence disclosed to their lawyers to appear to implicate them, while concealing exculpatory evidence. After discovery of the concealed evidence that included exculpatory witness statements and exclusionary fingerprint evidence, Howard and James were released in 2003 after more than 26 years of wrongful imprisonment. In April 2006, Howard settled his lawsuit for compensation for \$2.5 million, and James was expected to settle for a similar amount.

Sources:

Justice Shirked, by Martin Yant, *The Columbus Dispatch*, February 10, 2002.

Were they wrongly convicted? Twenty five years after being convicted of murder, new evidence might help two men receive new trials, by Alan Johnson, *The Columbus Dispatch*, February 10, 2002.



Quick And Dirty Course In Prosecutor 101 Logic

Justice:Denied published a favorable review of *Veronica Mars* in Issue 29 (Summer 2005), when the UPN television network was undecided about renewing the low rated program.

Justice:Denied published an unfavorable review of *In Justice* in Issue 31 (Winter 2006), when the ABC television network was undecided about renewing the low rated program.

After *Justice:Denied's* published its *Veronica Mars* review the program was renewed for a second season. It has since been renewed for a third season (2006-07 television year).

After *Justice:Denied* published its *In Justice* review the program was canceled after not being renewed for a second season.

If only *Veronica Mars* had been renewed after *Justice:Denied's* favorable review, or only *In Justice* had been canceled after *Justice:Denied's* unfavorable review, then what happened to the programs could be chalked up to coincidence. But it stretches credulity to suggest that the decisions about both programs by network executives coincidentally mirrored *Justice:Denied's* reviews.

Sounds logical! Sounds plausible! Except for one thing. It is dead wrong. *Veronica Mars* fans engaged in a massive letter writing campaign that convinced the WB to renew it in spite of low ratings. While *In Justice* wasn't renewed because it did not inspire a cadre of loyal fans among its low rated audience.

Yet prosecutors make arguments everyday linking a defendant to a crime by relying on logic as shaky as that used to link *Justice:Denied's* reviews with the fate of the two national television programs.

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Back issues of *Justice: Denied* can be read, along with other information related to wrongful convictions.



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