## Justice: Denied - Issue 38, Fall 2007 Table of Contents

Woman Admits Fabricating Rape Accusation Against Armand Villasana – Seven Years After His Release From Prison......5 Thomas Arthur's Case Exposes the U.S. Legal System's Sordid Plea Bargaining Obsession – Justice: Denied Editorial ......10 Attempted Murder Conviction Tossed 29 Years After False Confession By Juvenile Who Wasn't At Crime Scene.....14 

## **Message From The Publisher**

Alabama has successfully opposed forensically testing evidence in Thomas Arthur's case since before his 1991 murder conviction and his sentence of death. *Justice:Denied's* editorial in Issue 37 asserted that if the testing Arthur has sought for 17 years would lead to proving his innocence, then Alabama's killing of him would be nothing less than murder. Lo and behold, on December 24, 2007 Alabama's largest newspaper, *The Birmingham News*, editorialized in regards to Arthur's case: "The governor runs the risk of the state murdering an innocent man if he refuses to order DNA testing in capital cases where biological evidence exists." See *Justice:Denied's* Editorial on page 10.

Justice: Denied first reported almost eight years ago on Martin Tankleff's convictions of murdering his parents in 1988. His convictions were overturned by the New York State Court of Appeals on December 18, 2007. Two weeks later the DA announced Tankleff would not be retried. See the article on p. 6.

Justice: Denied also first reported in 2000 about Ken Richey's conviction of felony murder in the death of a friend's two-year-old daughter during a fire. Richey's conviction was overturned twice by the federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the State of Ohio finally threw in the towel. Richey was released from custody on January 7, 2008. See the article on page 8.

An important common denominator of Richey and Tankleff's cases is that neither was freed by DNA. Richey was freed due to the failure of his trial counsel to challenge the junk science the prosecution relied on, and Tankleff was freed due to a combination of an investigator finding new witnesses, dogged lawyers, and an effective public relations campaign.

When I was a kid we lived on Seattle's Queen Anne hill that overlooks Fort Lawton to the west. However, it wasn't until I read *On American Soil* by Jack Hamann that I learned Fort Lawton was the scene of WWII's largest court martial during which 28 soldiers were wrongly convicted. Hamann's book resulted in the Army reopening the case in 2006. See the article on p. 15.

We have been working on an index of *Justice:Denied* from Issue 1. It should be available on our website in the spring of 2008. We will notify our readers when a planned print version is available.

Hans Sherrer, Publisher

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*Justice: Denied's* logo represents the snake of evil and injustice climbing up on the scales of justice.

## Information About Justice: Denied

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## <u>DO NOT SEND JUSTICE: DENIED ANY LEGAL WORK!</u> Justice: Denied does not and cannot give legal advice.

If you have an account of a wrongful conviction that you want to share, send a first-class stamp or a pre-stamped envelope with a request for an information packet to, Justice Denied, PO Box 68911, Seattle, WA 98168. Cases of wrongful conviction submitted in accordance with *Justice:Denied's* guidelines will be reviewed for their suitability to be published. *Justice:Denied* reserves the right to edit all submitted accounts for any reason.

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