

## Wright cont. from p. 19

### Exculpatory evidence discovered after trial

Since my conviction I have obtained exculpatory evidence, favorable expert witness statements, and notarized declarations from a number of people who were not called as a witness at my trial. An example of this evidence is that in July 2004 I obtained documentation from the New York Life Insurance Company about the two life insurance policies. The smaller policy they paid a death benefit on was taken out more than a year before Jerome's death, and the second policy was canceled by me – the policyholder – prior to his murder. This evidence demolishes the prosecution's theory of why Jerome was murdered that the jury relied on to convict me.

Additionally, on August 30, 2004 the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office sent a letter to Jerome's mother, Mabel Goffee, confirming that at the time of his murder he was so sick that he was mere months away from dying of liver disease and pancreatic fibrosis. This letter states in part, "... he could only have had a few months to live even if there had been no stabbing injuries." Jerome was on death's door when he was murdered – and I would have been paid the small life insurance policy when his disease-ravaged body had soon died naturally.

My brother Larry has executed three affidavits, in 1998, 2000 and 2004. The three affidavits are of varying length and detail, but they all express the same sentiment: In eliciting his taped 1997 statement the LAPD detectives took advantage of his terrifying situation of being imprisoned as a child abuser, and his desire to get out of prison by any way possible. Larry swore in his affidavit of July 16, 2004, "My entire statement was a big ass lie."

As luck would have it, I discovered on Christmas Day 2006 that a fellow prisoner of mine frequently saw Jerome in the downtown LA area of drugs and prostitution where he was murdered, and she knew the gay prostitute he frequently paid for sex. The woman is Elvira James, and she swore in an affidavit dated June 23, 2007 that Jerome was known as "C-Note" because he paid \$100 for sex, and he was widely known to carry a large amount of cash. She wrote that because he paid top dollar, "Jerome was a "big trick" downtown." The area where Jerome was murdered was one of LA's most dangerous areas at the time. James' information provides the most logical motive imaginable for Jerome's murder: the theft of the money, jewelry and drugs he had on him or in his motor home by one or more

persons who either knew of his reputation, or actually sold him drugs or gay sex. That is 100% consistent with the fact that Jerome had been robbed of his expensive jewelry, whatever drugs he had on him or in the motorhome, and as much as \$10,000 in cash. James also swore in her affidavit that word on the street at the time was that a gay guy known as Ms. Ross murdered Jerome.

Slaughter executed an affidavit dated January 20, 2001 in which he swears that he made a taped statement to the LAPD, but that he said nothing suggesting that either he or I had any involvement in Jerome's murder. In fact, Slaughter says of his questioning by a detective, "I told him I did not know what he was talking about!" Slaughter's affidavit logically explains why only days after his statement the LAPD claimed the tape of it had been "lost." The LAPD couldn't on the one hand claim Slaughter's taped statement constituted a confession, and on the other hand provide the tape to my public defender when it in fact contained no incriminating evidence against either Slaughter or me. Slaughter's affidavit is also consistent with the fact that neither he nor I have been identified as the source of any crime scene evidence.

I want to emphasize that Jerome's murder involves a triple injustice: I was wrongly convicted; I believe that after his separate trial Slaughter was also wrongly convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison; and the person or persons who actually murdered Jerome got off scot-free.

In spite of my setbacks, I have not lost faith that I will be proven innocent and set free. What I need is a skilled investigator and a determined attorney to help make this a reality. I pray someone reading this will feel "called" to help right this terrible wrong, and assist me. I can be written at:

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My outside contact is my son Quincey Scott. His email is, [TMSCO9@aol.com](mailto:TMSCO9@aol.com)

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## Federal Tax Breaks Proposed For Exonerated

Currently all compensation received by a wrongly convicted person is federally taxable as personal income, and a number of exonerated persons have gotten into trouble with the IRS over tax payments.

Asserting that federally taxing the compensation an exonerated person receives is "like throwing salt on a very deep wound," New York Senator Charles Schumer (D) introduced a bill in the U.S. Senate on December 6, 2007 that would provide those people with special federal income tax breaks.

The Wrongful Convictions Tax Relief Act of 2007 (S. 2421), if enacted, will amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt a "wrongfully incarcerated individual" from paying federal income taxes on "any civil damages, restitution, or other monetary award" related to their wrongful incarceration. (All other income would be subject to federal taxation.) The bill would also exempt, for a maximum of 15 years, an exonerated person without a prior felony conviction from paying income taxes on up to \$50,000 earned each year after their release (or up to \$75,000 if married and filing a joint return).

Schumer said at the time he introduced the bill: "The criminal justice system is not perfect, so at the very least, we ought to do what we can to make amends to the people who were wrongly convicted — a very small number of people who pay a big, big price for those mistakes. The compensation they receive should not be taxed."

A wrongly convicted person's state compensation is exempted from state taxes in California, Massachusetts and Vermont.

### Sources:

S. 2421, The Wrongful Convictions Tax Relief Act of 2007. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:S.2421>  
Bill Would Give Tax Break to Exonerated Prisoners, *The New York Times*, December 7, 2007.

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