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prosecution because before he was indicted he provided the CIA with credible information he had learned about an international plot to assassinate President Ronald Reagan.

After several more conversations I told Mr. Wilson I wouldn't be able to work with him on his book project because of the extensive amount of time it would involve. However, I encouraged him to find a writer who had the time necessary to put his amazing story on paper. Mr. Wilson's life while in the CIA and after he left was as action packed with plots and subplots as any Hollywood movie, and I told him I thought his story would make even an even better movie than it would a book.

Mr. Wilson and I had several contacts after that and he kept encouraging me to work with him on his book because he wasn't having success in finding a writer. One of the problems was his wealth of tens of millions had been confiscated by the U.S. government after his convictions. He was living in the basement of his brother's house and getting by on his meager Social Security benefits, so a writer had work on the expectation a book or movie deal would materialize at some point after work was begun on the book.

Mr. Wilson was 82 when I met him and he was a gracious and vibrant man still burning with intensity. He expressed concern he was



Edwin Wilson leaving federal courthouse during his 1983 trial (AP)

Edwin Wilson was born in Nampa, Idaho on May 3, 1928 and he graduated from the University of Portland in 1953 with a bachelors degree in Psychology. He served in the U.S. Marines from 1953 to 1956. He began working with the CIA when he was a marine in Korea in 1955, and after leaving the service in 1956 he worked for the CIA until 1971.

In the 14 years since *Justice Denied* was founded in 1998 I've encountered a number of interesting people, and Edwin Wilson is near the top of that list. He was 6'-4" and his presence and passion made him seem larger than life.

[Click here to read](#) *Justice Denied's* 2000 article, [Ex-CIA Agent Framed by the CIA and Federal Prosecutors](#).

[Click here to read](#) *Justice Denied's* 2004 article, [Federal Judge Tosses Conviction of](#)

running out of time to have his book written because of heart problems. He was correct in being concerned because he died on September 10, 2012 as a result of complications from heart valve replacement surgery. He was buried at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington.

[Ex-CIA Agent Framed by the CIA and Federal Prosecutors](#).

Judge Hughes' October 27, 2003 ruling in *United States vs. Edwin Paul Wilson*, can be read [by clicking here](#).

[Click here to read](#) Edwin Paul Wilson's obituary by the Columbia Funeral Home in Seattle, Washington.

Endnotes:

1 The CIA's *modus operandi* is to operate front companies as a cover for its agents overseas. For example, Valerie Plame's cover as a businesswoman was blown when she was outed as an international CIA operative in response to her husband Joseph C. Wilson's Op-Ed published in *The New York Times* on July 6, 2003, "What I Didn't Find in Africa." That article exposed there was no evidence Niger had sold nuclear materials to Iraq and Saddam Hussein.

Sources:

[Ex-CIA Agent Framed by the CIA and Federal Prosecutors](#), By Hans Sherrer, *Justice Denied*, Issue 13, September 2000

[Federal Judge Tosses Conviction of Ex-CIA Agent Framed by the CIA and Federal Prosecutors](#), By Hans Sherrer, *Justice Denied*, Issue 24, June 2004

[Former CIA spy branded a traitor wants to clear his name](#), *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, October 22, 2006

[Edwin Paul Wilson](#) (May 3, 1928 - September 10, 2012), Obituaries, Columbia Funeral Home

[Edwin P. Wilson](#), *The Economist*, September 29, 2012

[United States vs. Edwin Paul Wilson](#), Crim. Case H-82-139 (USDC SDTX), Opinion of Conviction, October 27, 2003



Christopher Burrowes Awarded \$15,000 Compensation For 3 Years Wrongful Imprisonment

Christopher Burrowes has been awarded \$15,000 in compensation by the State of Wisconsin for his three years of wrongful imprisonment for sexual assault.

Burrowes was 21 when arrested in 2006 for sexually assaulting 12-year-old Denise Beck. He was acquainted with her because she visited the basketball courts where he played that were near her home. She told police she had sex with Burrowes at his Milwaukee home. Burrowes denied the accusation and refused a plea deal. Although there was no physical, forensic or eyewitness evidence supporting the girl's testimony, a jury convicted Burrowes on February 7, 2007 of first-degree sexual assault of a child. He was sentenced to three years in



Christopher Burrowes after his conviction was overturned on December 16, 2009. (WISN-TV, Milwaukee, WI)

prison and lifetime registration as a sex offender.

Shortly after Burrowes was released in late 2009 Ms. Beck, who was then 16, told police while being interviewed about another matter that she falsely accused Burrowes of having sex with her to hide that she was having sex with an uncle that she was in love with. When her mother became suspicious she was sexually active, the girl blamed Burrowes to protect her uncle.

The Milwaukee County DA reopened Burrowes case. After an investigation determined the girl's recantation was credible the DA filed a Motion to Vacate Conviction and Dismiss Charges. On December 16, 2009 Burrowes conviction was vacated. The judge also ordered that Burrowes name

be removed from Wisconsin's Sex Offender Registry.

At the time of Burrowes' release a spokesperson for the DA's Office said it was being considered whether to charge Ms. Beck with perjury, but charges against her were not filed.

Burrowes filed a claim for compensation with Wisconsin's Claims Board for \$15,000. Wisconsin's wrongful conviction compensation statute permits a maximum payment of \$5,000 per year for up to 5 years of imprisonment. So Burrowes claim was for the maximum allowed for his 3 years in custody.

The Milwaukee DA didn't oppose Burrowes claim, and on October 11, 2011 the Claims Board determined there is clear and convincing evidence of Burrowes' innocence and [approved payment of](#) \$15,000 to him.

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Newman Chiadzwa Sues For Return Of 19 Pounds Of Diamonds After Conviction For Illegal Possession Overturned

Newman Chiadzwa is suing for the return of diamonds worth many tens of millions of dollars that were confiscated when he was convicted of illegally possessing the diamonds. His conviction was overturned by Zimbabwe's High Court on June 29, 2011.

Chiadzwa was a 53-year-old businessman in Mutare, Zimbabwe when in July 2009 he and his family had to go into hiding to avoid arrest by state security agents for helping a Kimberley Process certification team [uncover evidence](#) of gross human rights abuses in Zimbabwe's diamond-rich area. There were reports that in 2008 government troops tortured to death and shot more than 200 miners believed to be illegally mining diamonds. The miners were reported to have been buried in mass graves in areas controlled by the military so human rights monitors wouldn't have access to them.

The government seized from Chiadzwa's business 43,208 carats of diamonds, and in August 2009 he was charged with illegally possessing the gems. The diamonds weighed 8.61 kilograms, or almost 19 pounds. They had a retail value estimated at between \$100 and \$300 million, although their value to a wholesaler like Chiadzwa is less.

Chiadzwa was convicted on February 26, 2010 of illegally possessing the diamonds in violation of the Precious Stones Trade Act. He was sentenced to five years in prison and fined US\$132,764. He was immedi-



Newman Chiadzwa

ately taken into custody and began serving his sentence. Chiadzwa's conviction and sentence were quashed by Zimbabwe's High Court on June 29, 2011 and he was immediately released after 16 months of imprisonment. The Attorney-General's Office did not oppose Chiadzwa's appeal that was based on his argument that he lawfully owned the diamonds so no crime was committed.

After his release Chiadzwa sought return of his confiscated diamonds from the court clerk. He discovered the clerk did not have the diamonds because they were not formally entered as exhibits, even though the prosecution presented them in court as evidence. Chiadzwa's lawyer was informed the diamonds were turned over to the Ministry of Mines after Chiadzwa's trial. An official with the Ministry [wrote in a letter](#) to Chiadzwa's attorney:

"Effectively the 8.61 kg of precious stones that you requested were never handed over to the clerk of court for exhibits but instead upon completion of the matter by the presiding officer were released into the custody of the mines officials 1 year and 4 months ago."

However, the letter didn't state the diamonds would be returned to Chiadzwa, but

suggested at some future time he might be able to make a claim to them. In response Chiadzwa filed a lawsuit in the High Court in late September 2011 seeking an order for the release of the diamonds, or if they had been disposed of for the government to pay him a proper and correct valuation of the gems. Chiadzwa [wrote in an](#) Affidavit accompanying his lawsuit:

"I am extremely concerned that despite my official communications the respondents have ignored me and I feel that my diamonds may have been unlawfully disposed of or will be unlawfully disposed of to my prejudice."

Chiadzwa's lawsuit is pending. In May 2012 Chiadzwa filed a lawsuit for return of equipment seized from his homestead in 2009. That lawsuit is also pending.

Sources:

[Chief Chiadzwa, family flee security agents](#), *The Standard*, August 2, 2009
[Zimbabwe government prosecutes Diamond Chief](#), *ZimEye.org*, August 13, 2009
[Newman Chiadzwa Jailed Five Years](#), *The Herald* (Zimbabwe), March 4, 2010
[Newman Chiadzwa set free](#), *The Herald* (Zimbabwe), July 8, 2011
[Chiadzwa Wants His 8.6KG Diamonds Back](#), *The Herald* (Zimbabwe), September 28, 2011
[Chiadzwa's 8kg of Diamonds Disappears Mysteriously](#), *Radio VOP* (Zimbabwe), September 27, 2011
[Zimbabwean man sues court over lost 300-million-dollar diamonds](#), *The Zimbabwe Telegraph*, October 10, 2011
[Zimbabwe: Newman Chiadzwa Demands Seized Equipment](#), *The Herald* (Zimbabwe), May 16, 2012

Relief Granted In 36% Of Appeals In New South Wales Are Granted

The New South Wales Judicial Commission has released a report analyzing all criminal appeals considered by New South Wales' Court of Criminal Appeal (CCA) for the seven years from 2001 through 2007. The CCA is the highest court in New South Wales, Australia's most populous state.

"Conviction appeals in New South Wales" is a 344-page [report that has a](#) wealth of information of interest to people in not only Australia, but the U.S. and other countries.

The single most stunning statistic is the CCA granted relief to the defendant in almost 36% of the cases it reviewed. That is almost beyond belief for people



in the U.S. where state and federal appeals courts have rates in the low single digits of granting relief to defendants.

The rate of successful appeals was high across the board for a variety of convicted crimes: 30% of homicide convictions were set aside, 43% of sexual assault convictions were set aside, 36% of robbery and extortion convictions were set aside, and 32% of drug convictions were set aside.

In 35% of the cases the CCA ordered an acquittal based on insufficient evidence of the defendant's guilt which barred a retrial, and in 62% of the cases a retrial was ordered.

The results of the cases ordered for retrial are analyzed in the report. The retrials were ordered based on legal errors at trial that made the conviction unsafe, not a lack of evidence. Consequently

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Burrowes, now 26, lives in Milwaukee and his daughter Christiana, who was three when she saw him being arrested in 2006, is now eight. After his conviction was overturned in 2009 [he told reporters](#), "It matters a lot for her to know that she's got a good daddy, and I'm going to be there for her and I'm not the type of guy that they tried to play me out to be."

Sources:

[Christopher Burrowes](#) - Ruling #6, State of Wisconsin Claims Board, October 11, 2011
[Judge Throws Out Sexual Assault Conviction](#), WISN-TV (Milwaukee, WI), December 17, 2009