

12/29/17 - SUSPECT CONVICTIONS EPISODE 8 (DNA evidence); REMARKS BY BARTON McNEIL

Dear SUSPECT CONVICTIONS listeners,

Thank you for staying with the series for so long. Thank you also for your interest in the many injustices addressed by the radio podcast foremost suffered by my late daughter, Christina McNeil, the victim of murder in Bloomington, Illinois, in 1998; the wrongful conviction of her father (myself) at the hands of McLean County prosecutors; and more heinous injustices to follow.

Having escaped responsibility for killing my child at my expense, abetted in the getaway by State's Attorney Charles Reynard and underling prosecutors Teena Griffin and Stephani Wong, my daughter's then-easily recognized true killer, my estranged girlfriend, Misook Nowlin (AKA Misook Wang), predictably went on to kill others, the identity of one subsequent victim we know for sure.

In short, through their railroading of Christina's own father at a time when I myself recognized Nowlin's transparently obvious guilt, the above Reynard-Griffin-Wong prosecutorial trio bear direct responsibility for facilitating Nowlin's easily foreseen future murders, one resulting in the Bloomington death of Wenlan Tyda, the mother of Nowlin's then-husband, Don Wang.

Now on its ninth instalment, originally aired on Bloomington's WGLT FM Public Radio affiliate hosted by investigative reporters Scott Reeder and Willis Kern, this episode of SUSPECT CONVICTIONS concerned DNA test results recently rendered by the saintly folks at the Illinois Innocence Project. Hardly surprising to anyone, recently found on the bedsheet on which my daughter had been killed were two hair fibers belonging to Misook Nowlin, along with the widespread bedsheet presence of Nowlin's DNA, detected by the newfangled forensic technique known as "touch DNA". Except for those in the McLean County State's Attorney's office pretending to believe otherwise under some Nowlin-friendly agenda, recent DNA results say it all.

To the already many facts and circumstances identifying Nowlin as Christina's late night ground floor bedroom window intruder, the latest DNA revelations add yet more to what was long apparent.

Interviewed for this episode of SUSPECT CONVICTIONS was famed forensic pathologist, Dr. Lawrence Kobolinski; the nation's first DNA exoneree, Kirk Bloodworth; the president of the National Innocence Project; the Illinois Innocence Project attorneys; and others.

In the darkened opposite corner, invoking my (widely apparent wrongful) conviction, doing the ungodly bidding of prosecutorial predecessors, Charles Reynard, Teena Griffin, and Stephani Wong in loathsome defense of serial killer Nowlin, was current McLean County State's Attorney Jason Chambers and Assistant State's Attorney Mary Koll, themselves now determined to shield my child's killer, now by attempting to employ falsehoods to undermine the recent DNA findings.

Surely to the fiendish delight of psycho-killer Nowlin, in attempting to mislead series listeners, assistant prosecutor Mary Koll stooped to invoke several flimsy circumstances in an effort to denigrate and obfuscate what otherwise is forensic evidence of the highest order. Further incriminating to Christina's plainly obvious murderer, Misook Nowlin, the DNA results conforming to my now-two decade outspoken certainty that my estranged girlfriend (not entirely acting alone) was responsible for my daughter's death, this irrefutable forensic evidence similarly confirms that I've been the innocent victim of malicious prosecutors, State's Attorney Charles Reynard and his fellow-railroading cohorts, Teena Griffin and Stephani Wong, all along.

Attempting to maintain Nowlin's child killing immunity, assistant prosecutor Mary Koll argued that, because Nowlin had previously been in my apartment, her DNA presence on Christina's deathbed sheet meant nothing, and/or that her DNA presence was the result of "evidence transference" unrelated to the murder.

With McLean County State's Attorney's Office attitudes like that, no wonder Nowlin thought she could serial kill in Bloomington again with impunity!

It's worth noting that at the time Christina was killed, I was in the midst of losing my hair, as seen in my arrest photo. Despite this, and despite the fact that the bed Christina died on belonged to me and had indeed been previously slept on by me, no hair originating from me was found anywhere on the deathbed. Tellingly, TWO of Nowlin's hairs were instead found on the bed linen.

As for the recently discovered widespread presence of Nowlin's DNA throughout the bedsheet, via the "touch DNA" method, Assistant State's Attorney Mary Koll similarly maintained that this could have resulted from some prior contact Nowlin had with the bed some days/weeks earlier, unrelated to the murder.

Not so. Recorded in police interviews of me were my then-seemingly inconsequential remarks about having dressed Christina for bed in newly washed bedclothes, having picked up the laundry from the cleaners hours before I picked up Christina for the night. This is supported by a date stamped receipt from the laundry mat. Moreover, the Illinois State Police forensic scientist who first examined the sheet noted its clean smell in her lab

notes, further indicating the recentness of its laundering, concurring with my police statements and with the laundry cleaner receipt.

Grasping at straws, Mary Koll then argued that because the laundry mat receipt did not itemize exactly what articles had been laundered, it was unlikely that I would have had the bedsheets washed along with the rest of the week's dirty laundry and that for when I did launder my sheets, used too much scented detergent. As if I rarely washed my bed linen, she suggested that I had only had clothing items laundered, inexplicably leaving dirty sheets on the bed for another week.

What utter nonsense.

As residents of apartments lacking laundry facilities will attest, all dirty laundry is typically done at the same time, every week.

Assistant State's Attorney Mary Koll then added that recent sexual relations between myself and Nowlin could have resulted in her "touch DNA" presence on the sheet Christina had been killed on. Another deceptive attempt to lure listeners into making false inferences, Mary Koll knew perfectly well from investigative records that, according to myself and Nowlin alike, the recent most intimate relations had occurred at Nowlin's apartment half way across town, not at my apartment.

Invoking the phenomena of "evidence transfer" to explain away Nowlin's DNA presence on the very sheet my daughter was killed upon, Mary Koll used her own pet dog as analogy. Dead for some months now, prosecutor Mary Koll said she still finds hair from Fido stuck to her clothing, a sort of post-mortem long-running mode of evidence transfer.

Very well, except that, covered in fur, Fido actually lived with Mary Koll, likely rubbing up against her clothing and furniture, sleeping on the sofa and bed, and shedding all over the place. Despite being an animal of the beastly sort, Nowlin was not covered in fur, didn't constantly rub up against my personal belongings, didn't shed, and didn't live in my apartment. If my own then-"shedding" head hair wasn't found on a bed in my apartment belonging to me, how does it happen that two hairs belonging to nonresident Misook were present on the bedsheets?

More than qualified to speak on the matter, Dr. Kobolinski addressed the widespread presence of Nowlin's "touch DNA" on the bedsheets. As was surely long known to State's Attorney Chambers and assistant Mary Koll, "touch DNA" doesn't transfer at all.

Interviewed for this SUSPECT CONVICTIONS episode, Dr. Lawrence Kobolinski was unequivocal in his certainty that, unlike bodily fluid DNA (and potentially transferable hair fibers), touch DNA cannot be transferred from one item to the next even through direct contact. Instead, the expert doctor informed the radio podcast listening audience

that the presence of Nowlin's touch DNA on the bedsheet could only have resulted from Nowlin having had personal contact with the sheet HERSELF.

An obvious expert on the matter, Dr. Kobolinski was equally adamant that the presence of touch DNA would not have survived the process of laundering. Accordingly, the nontransferable touch DNA originating from Nowlin must have resulted from her presence on the bedsheet on which my child was killed, FOLLOWING the sheet's most recent laundering.

The laundry picked by me from the cleaners the very day leading up to Christina's death, as I'd mentioned to investigators and confirmed by the cleaner's date-stamped receipt, the newly washed sheet still retained its clean smell even weeks later when examined by the Illinois State Police forensic examined at the Morton, Illinois, crime lab. With Misook's touch DNA present in some substantial quality throughout the bedsheet, clearly Nowlin had been on the bed AFTER I had put the clean sheets on it, some hours before my daughter was killed.

Accompanied by supporting documentation, in a sworn affidavit attached to my self-authored 2004 post-conviction appeal petition, I again testified to the day's laundering of the bedsheet. With no idea that over ten years later, these same sheets could be subjected to new touch DNA testing.

My account of this would be self-serving only if my 2002 courtroom prediction that, having gotten away with Christina's murder aided by my wrongful conviction, Nowlin would surely go on to kill others, which she indeed did a few years later, - and I'd I further correctly predicted that (this time) she would be actually prosecuted for this future killing, leading to my future representation by the Illinois Innocence Project.

NOTE FROM CHRIS ROSS, BARTON'S COUSIN: BELOW IS BARTON'S TESTIMONY AS TAKEN FROM HIS 2002 RE-SENTENCING:

9	RESENTENCING
10	REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS of the hearing before the
11	HONORABLE G. MICHAEL PRALL, on the 21st day of June, 2002.

13 MR. McNEIL: That's all, that's all I wanted to
14 get out. She's right. Probably stepped way out of
15 bounds. If I can get anything out in allocution or
16 anything, and if this leads to saving whoever the next
17 victim is, I don't care. I don't care if I spend the rest
18 of my life in prison. Give me the death penalty,
19 whatever. But I'm not going to stop until these people
20 are stopped. And, and if I can prevent the death of
21 another child or another woman -- And I'm not the first
22 one in McLean County that that has happened to I found
23 out. I found, had the opportunity to run in to a couple
24 of other people who have been convicted in this county who

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For my long-ago laundering claims to have been self-serving, this string of accurate predictions would have to have included the (accurate, it turns out) prediction that my future representation by the Innocence Project would lead to exculpatory DNA results at "innocent" Nowlin's expense via a future DNA detection method that wouldn't be invented for another decade.

Her child murder getaway abetted by then-McLean County States Attorney Charles Reynard and co-prosecutors Teena Griffin and Stephani Wong, certain to make the most her friendly allies, my prediction of future Nowlin murders hardly rendered me a fortuneteller.

Accurately predicting, however, that Nowlin would actually be prosecuted for one of her future murders, leading to a future innocence project's future discovery of exculpatory Nowlin DNA by some future-invented detection method, would have really required the gift of extra sensory perception. Beginning the very day following my child's death and unwavering until this day, any objective appraisal of my laundering claims would deem them to be genuine and truthful, I believe.

In further dishonoring my innocent daughter by denying her the justice she deserves, the excuse-making on behalf of child killer Nowlin and her pals responsible for my wrongful conviction, on the part of current State's Attorney Jason Chambers and Assistant State's Attorney Mary Koll - effectively serves as an endorsement of Nowlin's (predictable) later killing of her mother in law.

Indeed, Nowlin serial killing victim, Wenlan Tyda, paid for the odious Nowlin-friendly sins of prosecutorial cohorts Charles Reynard/Teena Griffin/Stephani Wong, with her life. Put another way, aside from the ongoing unjust 20-year attempt to take my own life through their death-by-prison designs, my long-known wrongful conviction directly led (as was easily foreseen), and in fact facilitated, Nowlin's ongoing serial killing, resulting in Wenlan Tyda's otherwise avoidable murder.

In more than a manner of speaking, those responsible for my even-then-known wrongful conviction are as guilty of abetting Nowlin's murder of Wenlan Tyda, as today's prosecutors, Jason Chambers and Mary Koll, are guilty of further abetting the escape from justice of a genuine child-murdering serial killer (and of attempting take my own life) – hell bent as they are in pretending to be unaware of Nowlin's responsibility for killing my daughter, even in the face of incontrovertible DNA evidence. Have these folks no shame?

Finally, McLean County Assistant State's Attorney Mary Koll's intent to dismiss the otherwise conclusive Nowlin DNA evidence on the very bedsheet Christina was killed upon, was meant for the radio podcast listeners infer the existence of some smoking gun evidence of my supposed guilt that somehow precludes the powerful DNA results. Fans of this series are probably still waiting to hear just what overwhelming evidence of my own responsibility for Christina's death so overwhelms the recent DNA findings.

Try as they did, Bloomington detectives were unable to get me to falsely confess. Nothing I said at all remotely rises to the level of a (false) confession. On the contrary, virtually everything I said to investigators instead related to my certainty that my increasingly psychotic estranged girlfriend, Nowlin, was the late night bedroom window intruder who murdered my daughter.

And to whatever extent some of my cherry-picked statements may have sounded odd when removed from their true context and presented in the darkest prosecutorial light, made during police interrogation under my triple shock of (1) my daughter's sudden death, (2) her killer's increasing likely getaway, and (3) being falsely accused of my own child's killing – when replaced back in their original context and explained by me during Q & A episode 8, hopefully to the listeners' satisfaction, my remarks were not at all inconsistent with my genuine innocence after all.

Similarly lacking was any meaningful witness testimony of any sort, any prior violent offences, any prior claims of child abuse, any presence of child porn, any incriminating assessment of my character, any presence of a murder weapon or any other sort of physical evidence, or any incriminating DNA or other form of forensic evidence.

As for the convoluted claimed motive, it hardly made a lick of sense. Essentially, it was claimed, I was eagerly willing to embrace the life-in-prison (or death penalty) consequences of killing my own child, to avoid the far lesser POSSIBLE consequences should I ever, hypothetically, be exposed at some future date as my daughter's sex abuser - the evidence of molestation now even increasingly in doubt - notwithstanding that such a deviance was well within Nowlin's own capability and character.

Barred from presenting any defense evidence at the expense of my child's true killer, Misook Nowlin, and possibly aided by others, I was barred from so much as contesting the State-claimed identity of Christina's murderer, rendering me as my daughter's killer by default. This wholly one sided non-adversarial lightning fast bench "trial" with a foregone outcome, was the result of the single-minded prosecutorial aided defense of Nowlin during motion hearings prior to trial, during which McLean County Assistant State's Attorney Teena Griffin vouched for like-minded Nowlin's innocence each step of the way.

Presumably serving the interests of State's Attorney Charles Reynard, the twin pillars of my wrongful conviction were the patently false claims that there was no evidence of a break-in through Christina's open ground floor bedroom window - and that no facts, evidence, or circumstances existed warranting the introduction of any evidence by the defence at the "innocent" Nowlin's expense. During each week's episode Assistant State's Attorney blithely states "there was no evidence of intruder entry", yet Illinois State Police examined the screen window and found in their detailed reports Ms. Koll wholly disregards at the start of each episode, that the cuts directly above where the latches were located showed signs of having been cut with a bladed knife.

The Nowlin-friendly obsession of co-prosecutors Teena Griffin and Stephani Wong was aided by their concealment of a litany of facts and circumstances personally known to them, relevant to the true identity of my daughter's killer.

Examples to many too include here, time and again while in jail awaiting my soon-to-be wrongful conviction to transpire, some critical fact or circumstance would come to light, sometimes almost by chance, highly incriminating to Nowlin and fully known to prosecutors Teena Griffin and Stephani Wong. Tellingly however, prosecutors would not so much as acknowledge the mere existence of any wholly exculpatory evidence of Nowlin's involvement in Christina's murder, in gross violation of evidence rules of discovery.

Between these manipulative unethical, and indeed, lawless acts of evidence concealment regarding Nowlin's obvious responsibility for Christina's murder, and their outright abetting of Nowlin's getaway by falsely vouching for her innocence, prosecutors easily rendered a guilty verdict - me being my daughter's killer by default.

Today, listeners of this SUSPECT CONVICTIONS series and visitors to the www.FreeBart.org website know perfectly well that, not only was the presence of intruder evidence overwhelming, but that an innocent father of a murdered child, lacking any meaningful evidence against himself, had a mountain of facts and circumstances to warrant his outspoken certainty that Misook Nowlin had murdered his child.

Surely this inescapable truth was as known to then-McLean County State's Attorney Charles Reynard and Assistant State's Attorneys Teena Griffin and Stephani Wong back in 1998, as it is known today by current McLean County State's Attorney, Jason Chambers, and Assistant State's Attorney, Mary Koll... transparently false claims to the contrary notwithstanding.

Your listener comments are welcome.

