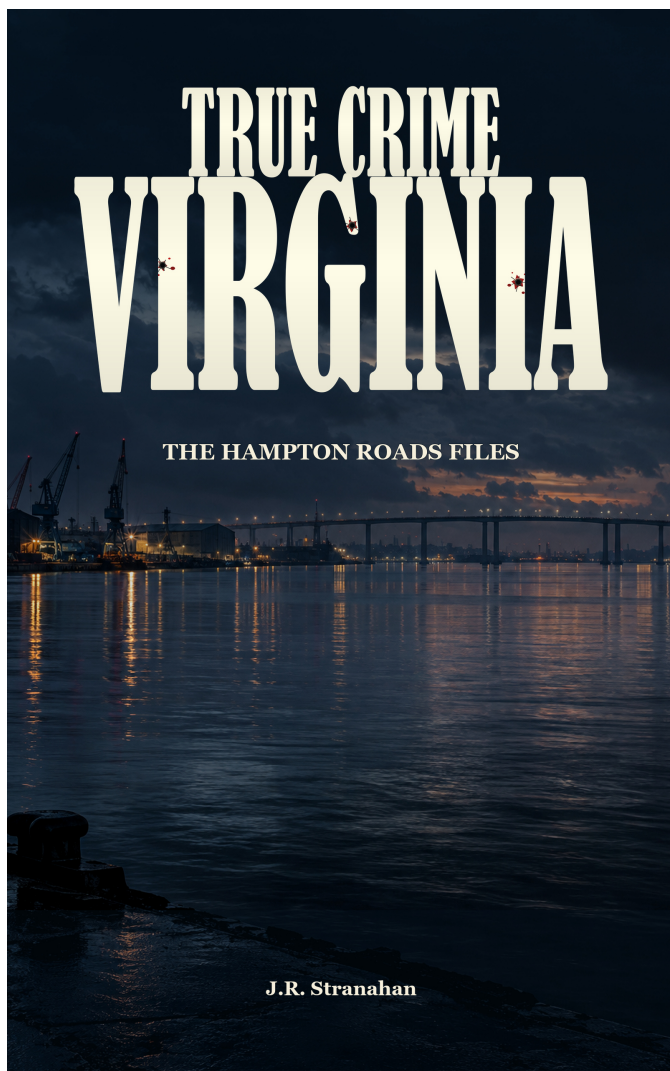


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Michelle Moore Bosko: The Confessions and the Room

On July 8, 1997, William Bosko returned to Norfolk after a week at sea aboard the USS Simpson. He had been married to Michelle for three months. He expected to see her at the pier. When she was not there, he thought her new job might have kept her away and took a taxi home.[B1]

Inside the apartment, he called for her. There was no answer. He looked for a note, then went toward the bedroom. Michelle was on the floor. A knife lay beneath a chest of drawers, its blade bent almost at a right angle.[B1]

William went to the apartment of Danial and Nicole Williams and asked them to call 911. Danial followed him back across the hall. The two men covered Michelle with a blanket. William had found her shortly before five. His return turned a marriage only a few months old into the subject of a homicide investigation.[B2]

Michelle Moore Bosko was eighteen.[B7] The evening before, she had spent about an hour with her friend Tamika Taylor, leaving around eleven thirty because she wanted to prepare for William's return. The statement survived in the court record: she wanted to get everything ready for him. It is a small piece of her own intention amid the thousands of pages later devoted to what other people said happened in her home.[B2]

The apartment at Bayshore Gardens offered an unusually important kind of evidence. Outside the bedroom, much of it remained orderly. There was no sign of forced entry. Papers and objects balanced along the narrow hallway had not been scattered. Small items remained on the bedroom dresser, and a mirror rested against the wall. Those details would eventually help investigators and a federal judge test the stories produced in police interview rooms.[B2]

They did not initially stop those stories from growing. One suspect became two, then three, then more. Seven men were charged before investigators identified the man whose DNA matched the evidence from Michelle's body and apartment. Four innocent men would be convicted. The public would come to know them as the Norfolk Four: Danial Williams, Joseph Dick, Eric Wilson, and Derek Tice.[B2][B3]

Their cases did not end together. One finished his sentence. Three left prison under conditional pardons. One won a new opportunity for trial through a federal ruling about his lawyers' failure. Two obtained relief after a judge examined their claims of innocence. All four ultimately received absolute pardons. To understand the years between Michelle's death and those decisions requires following the evidence as well as the confessions, including the points at which the two stopped agreeing.

The first account

Tamika Taylor gave police a reason to speak to Danial Williams. She said he had been bothering Michelle, repeatedly visiting when William was away. At a party shortly before the murder, Taylor had seen Williams staring at Michelle and told him to leave. Omar Ballard also attended that gathering. Taylor's concern about Williams was a lead; it did not place him in the apartment when Michelle was killed.[B2]

Williams drove himself to police headquarters that evening. Shortly after eight, Detectives Maureen Evans and Scott Halverson advised him of his rights, and he signed a waiver. He denied involvement and agreed to take a polygraph examination. The report's conclusion was "No Deception Indicated." Evans nevertheless told him that he had failed.[B2]

The questioning continued through the night. The detectives discussed DNA testing and the samples Williams had consented to provide. They took brief breaks and returned to his supposed interest in Michelle. At 4:33 in the morning, Halverson left Evans alone with Williams. She spoke about remorse and being sorry Michelle was dead. Williams cried.

Eighteen minutes later, Halverson returned with Detective Robert Glenn Ford.[B2]

Williams again denied having been in Michelle's apartment the night before. Ford continued to accuse him. After nearly nine hours of questioning, Williams began to describe an assault. In this first account, he went alone to Michelle's apartment without a weapon, struggled with her, and had intercourse with her. He did not describe stabbing or strangling her. He said she was still screaming when he left.[B2]

The detectives recorded a statement between seven and 7:16 that morning. Williams said he had hit Michelle with his fist and a shoe. Earlier, Evans had suggested those possibilities. The account was now recorded, but its details did not fit the injuries.[B2]

At nine, Evans attended the autopsy. She learned that Michelle had not suffered the facial or head bruising that Williams's account required. Instead, the examination disclosed injuries consistent with strangulation and several stab wounds to the chest. Evans telephoned headquarters with this information. Halverson then asked Williams whether he had held or grabbed Michelle's neck. Williams said he might have.[B2]

Evans returned at eleven. She told Williams that Michelle had not died from being beaten with a shoe and asked whether he had stabbed her. He said he could not have done so because he had brought no knife. Evans suggested the knife might already have been in the room and demonstrated how and where Michelle had been stabbed. Williams then said he had stabbed her three times in the chest.[B2]

A second recorded statement began at 11:27 and lasted three minutes. Even when prompted, Williams could not describe the knife. He signed the transcript shortly after noon.[B2]

The change was consequential. The initial confession supplied an explanation for injuries that did not exist. The later confession incorporated information the detective had just learned from the medical examiner. Years afterward, the federal court could compare not merely

two versions of an accusation but the order in which the police learned a fact and the suspect began repeating it.

Williams had also given an account of his whereabouts that could be checked. His wife, Nicole, had recently undergone surgery for ovarian cancer. The couple had moved their wedding forward so that his Navy health insurance would cover the operation. He took leave to care for her and brought her home from the hospital on July 6.[B2]

Nicole told police that Danial had been in bed with her during the night Michelle was killed. She had been taking medication and was a sound sleeper, qualifications the later court considered. She also said she had awakened several times, the first around eleven thirty. She supplied her account before she had reason to understand that police suspected her husband. Before her death in November 1997, she repeated the alibi to his lawyer.[B2]

Williams continued telling his lawyers he was innocent. When additional suspects emerged, the lawyers asked why he had not offered their names earlier, when cooperation might have helped him avoid the death penalty. He said he had not been there and could not give them such information. Even after agreeing to plead guilty, he maintained his innocence in conversations with counsel.[B2]

Meanwhile, the laboratory was testing evidence from the crime. On December 11, 1997, analysts told police that preliminary results excluded Williams as the source of the crime scene DNA. The defense did not receive that information until April 30, 1998. In January, without disclosing the preliminary exclusion, prosecutors offered Williams a life sentence. He declined.[B2]

Adding men

On January 12, 1998, Ford and Detective Brian Wray took Joseph Dick from the naval base to police headquarters. Dick had been the Williamses' roommate at the time of the murder. He said he had been aboard the USS Saipan that night. For several hours, he denied any part in the crime.[B2]

Around 2:15 in the afternoon, after being told the detectives could prove he had been present, Dick began describing an attack by Williams. In his first version, Dick watched and eventually ran away. He did not claim to know how Michelle died.[B2]

The account changed when the questioning resumed. Ford said the evidence would prove Dick had had intercourse with Michelle. Dick then added his own participation. The story expanded to include an extended struggle, sexual acts, an argument, and a knife. When Ford said he was still withholding the truth about the knife, Dick said he had stabbed Michelle, although he was unsure how often or where.[B2]

Another correction concerned the room. Dick placed the rape in the living room, while the evidence put it in the bedroom. Ford asked whether the struggle could have ended there. Dick said it could have, but he was not certain. The detectives recorded his statement, reviewed it with him, and arrested him for capital murder and rape.[B2]

Three days later, Dick told his parents he was innocent and had confessed because of police pressure. On March 26, a laboratory report excluded both Dick and Williams as contributors to the tested crime scene samples. It also excluded Michelle's DNA from samples taken from Williams's underwear.[B2]

The exclusions did not bring the investigation back to a single unidentified assailant. They preceded the addition of another suspect. In early April, a government informant working at police direction obtained information from Dick about someone named Eric. Police focused on Eric Wilson.[B2]

On April 8, Ford and Detective Hoggard questioned Wilson. He initially denied involvement. He then said he had helped hold Michelle down while Williams raped her and had left as Dick began an assault. After further questioning, Wilson supplied another version in which he too raped her. He said Michelle was alive when he left. Police recorded his account, obtained his signature on a transcript, and charged him with capital murder and rape.[B2]

Dick was brought back into the process. At an April 27 meeting with detectives, a prosecutor, and his lawyer, he added Wilson to his story. He also described an attempt to move Michelle's body toward the front of the apartment before a noise caused the men to carry her back. The physical evidence did not show that her body had been moved from the bedroom after the stabbing.[B2]

The developing story contained still another possible participant, an unidentified Black man. Dick's lawyer, Michael Fasanaro, later recalled being surprised by that addition. Its significance depended on later interviews and retrospective explanations, while Dick continued changing other central features of the supposed crime.[B2]

On June 10, DNA analysis excluded Wilson. Detectives returned to Dick. This time he described six participants and supplied the name George, possibly George Clark, for one of them. Wray's search led him to a woman who knew Williams. She did not know a George, but she knew Williams had a friend named Derek Tice. Shown a photograph of Tice, Dick identified him as the man he had called George Clark.[B2]

Tice was arrested in Florida and brought to Virginia. His first answer about being present was no. After hours of questioning, he too began to confess. He named Geoffrey Farris and Rick Pauley, described a group going to Michelle's door, and said someone forced the door open after she refused to admit them.[B2]

No damage to the door supported that account. Like the earlier confessions, it also failed to identify the person whose DNA was eventually found in the evidence. Tice's statement supplied a crowded

scene, a forced entry, and a succession of attackers. The apartment supplied neither the marks of that entry nor physical evidence linking him to it.[B1][B2]

In October, Tice added John Danser. Police arrested him too. Danser did not confess. Motel records obtained in November supported his account that he had not been in Norfolk until after the murder. Further evidence placed him in Pennsylvania when Michelle was killed. Pauley's telephone records supported his account of being at his parents' home, speaking to a girlfriend in Australia. Farris, Pauley, and Danser all faced charges, but none supplied a confession.[B2][B3]

The number of names could make the prosecution's theory appear corroborated. Several men were now saying that other men had participated. Yet their accounts had not arisen independently of repeated police questioning. The same statements could place an attack in the wrong room, describe damage that was absent, or put a man in Norfolk whose records placed him elsewhere. The growing list did not solve the laboratory's unanswered question.

The man whose DNA matched

On January 22, 1999, Williams pleaded guilty to rape and murder under an agreement that removed the possibility of execution. He believed Dick and Tice would testify against him. His lawyers had told him he had no chance at trial and would probably receive a death sentence. During the plea proceeding, Williams confirmed a version involving seven men.[B2]

On February 18, more sensitive testing again excluded Williams, Dick, Wilson, Tice, Farris, Pauley, and Danser from the crime scene DNA. Four days later, police received a letter from Omar Ballard to a friend in which he admitted killing Michelle.[B2]

Ballard was already imprisoned. He had committed other violent crimes in the area, including an attack on a woman shortly before Michelle's death and a sexual assault on a fourteen-year-old girl afterward. He also

knew people at the apartment complex and had been in the Boskos' social circle. He was not an unidentified stranger appearing for the first time when the laboratory found a match.[B1][B2]

On March 4, a DNA report linked Ballard to the evidence on the blanket. Detectives interviewed him that day. He initially claimed consensual sex but admitted killing Michelle and said he had acted alone. He described a kitchen knife, its size and handle, and stabbing her in the chest. In a second statement on March 11, he admitted rape and again said the other men had not been involved.[B2]

Ballard's accounts were not identical in every detail. His initial denial of rape and later changes required scrutiny. The reason his admissions mattered was the independent evidence accompanying them. His DNA matched the biological material. His account corresponded to the room, the weapon, and the location of Michelle's body. None of the seven men already accused supplied that combination.[B2]

Prosecutors gave Williams's lawyers Ballard's letter and the DNA report before Williams was sentenced. Williams promptly asked to withdraw his guilty plea. On April 28, the court refused and sentenced him to life without parole. A week earlier, on April 21, Dick had pleaded guilty to rape and first-degree murder in exchange for avoiding the death penalty.[B2]

Charges against Farris, Pauley, and Danser were dropped on May 14. Wilson went to trial in June. Dick testified against him. Ballard was called but refused to testify. The jury acquitted Wilson of murder and convicted him of rape. He received eight and a half years.[B2][B4]

The prosecutions could therefore proceed even after the DNA match. Under the revised theory, Ballard had joined the other attackers. The absence of the other men's DNA was explained as something that could happen in a multiple-assailant crime. That possibility kept the confessions in play, despite the evidence that had discredited so many of their details.[B1][B2]

Tice was convicted of rape and murder in February 2000. In March, Ballard gave police a new account implicating the four men. He later testified that Ford had made acceptance of his plea agreement depend on repeating a group story supplied by the detective. According to Ballard, he understood that agreeing was his way to avoid execution. That was his testimony about the pressure, recorded and examined in later proceedings.[B1][B2]

On March 22, 2000, Ballard pleaded guilty to rape and murder and received two life sentences. The man who killed Michelle had been convicted. The convictions of the innocent men remained.[B1][B3]

A confession in the jury room

Tice obtained a new trial after an appellate court found a problem with the first jury's instructions. The reversal did not resolve his guilt. In January 2003, the Commonwealth tried him again. The central evidence was his signed confession and Dick's testimony.[B1]

Defense lawyers attacked Dick's credibility. His accounts had changed the number of participants, the place of the assault, the handling of the body, and his own role. Between proceedings, he had written to a television producer saying he had not participated, while falsely accusing two of the men whose charges had been dropped. Shortly before the retrial, he told Tice's lawyers he had not been in Michelle's apartment at all.[B1]

On the witness stand, Dick again implicated Tice. The defense also explored his plea agreement. Although Dick said he did not know whether a failure to testify could expose him to the death penalty again, he understood that the agreement required his cooperation. His testimony did not become independent corroboration merely because it was given under oath after a bargain that spared his life.[B1]

Ballard refused to testify at the second trial despite the judge's assurances, and the judge held him in contempt. Detective David M. Peterson read statements in which Ballard said he acted alone. The jury

also heard the forensic evidence. Nevertheless, the prosecutor urged jurors to treat Tice's confession as the case's central fact and argued that people would not confess to a crime of that magnitude without participating.[B1]

During deliberations, the jury asked whether the signed confession counted as direct or circumstantial evidence. The judge answered that both were competent methods of proof and that jurors should assign appropriate weight to the evidence. The jury convicted Tice. His sentences were concurrent terms of life imprisonment.[B1]

A different piece of writing became central during the later challenge: a detective's notes from Tice's interrogation. After a polygraph examination, Tice told Detective Randy Crank that he had decided not to say any more. He might speak later, after talking to a lawyer or spending time alone. Crank wrote that down.[B1]

Thirteen minutes after Crank finished, Ford resumed questioning without giving new Miranda warnings. Tice began admitting involvement within half an hour. His signed confession followed later. His defense lawyers had not moved to suppress it on the ground that police failed to honor his decision to stop answering questions.[B1]

At a state habeas hearing, one lawyer recognized the notes as material that must have been in his file. He could not explain why no motion had been made. Judge Everett A. Martin Jr. concluded that Tice had clearly invoked his right to silence and that a suppression motion probably would have succeeded. Without the confession, there was a reasonable probability of a different verdict. The judge granted relief in December 2006.[B1]

The Supreme Court of Virginia reversed, holding that Tice had not shown sufficient prejudice from the lawyers' failure. The federal district court reached the opposite conclusion in 2009, and the Fourth Circuit affirmed in April 2011. Its full review examined both the overlooked notes and what would have remained of the prosecution without the confession.[B1]

The distinction was more precise than asking whether any juror could still believe Dick. The constitutional question concerned whether the lawyers' error undermined confidence in the result. Given Dick's changing stories and the lack of significant corroboration, the Fourth Circuit concluded that exclusion of Tice's confession created a reasonable probability of a different verdict. The state court's contrary application of the governing standard was unreasonable.[B1]

The Commonwealth could retry Tice. It did not. His successful appeal removed his conviction's force through a ruling about the conduct of his defense, while the broader innocence questions remained to be addressed in other proceedings.[B1][B3]

Outside prison, still convicted

By then, the men's lives had already divided along different legal paths. Wilson completed his sentence and left prison in 2005. On August 6, 2009, Governor Tim Kaine granted conditional pardons to Williams, Dick, and Tice, the three still incarcerated. They were released, but the pardons left the convictions intact and imposed continuing supervision. All four faced sex offender registration requirements.[B1][B3][B4]

Kaine recognized substantial doubts about the convictions and continued confinement but did not find that the men had conclusively established innocence. For Wilson, who had already served his sentence, the decision provided no relief. When he filed a federal habeas petition in March 2010, his release itself became the obstacle.[B4]

Wilson had returned to Texas. He told the court that his registration status interfered with his work as an electrician, prevented him from adopting his stepson, and imposed reporting obligations in his daily life. He argued that these restraints were substantial enough to satisfy the requirement that a federal habeas petitioner be in custody.[B4]

The Fourth Circuit disagreed in August 2012. The majority treated registration as a consequence of the conviction separate from the

sentence, which Wilson had fully served. It acknowledged the seriousness of his challenge but held that the federal court lacked jurisdiction to hear it. That was not a ruling that his confession was true or that he had raped Michelle.[B4]

The judges did not all approach the result in the same way. Judge Davis joined the majority while emphasizing the practical burdens of registration and Wilson's claim to a forum in which he could test his evidence. Judge Wynn dissented, arguing that the restraints and compelling claim of innocence justified hearing the petition. Wilson nevertheless remained without relief from that proceeding.[B4]

Williams and Dick, still subject to supervision, had petitions that could proceed. Their cases eventually produced an evidentiary hearing and an extensive joint record. The parties agreed to 1,046 stipulations of fact. The court could examine the interview sequence alongside the laboratory results, the physical layout of the apartment, witness testimony, and evidence supporting the men's alibis.[B2]

That larger record also included testimony about Ford. He had been convicted in federal court in 2010 of extortion and lying to the FBI and was sentenced to 150 months in 2011. Those convictions involved other cases. They were not criminal judgments against him for the Norfolk Four investigation, though his conduct gave the reviewing court additional reason to scrutinize the accounts produced through his questioning.[B1][B2]

What the room showed

Forensic pathologist Werner Spitz examined the injuries and concluded that they pointed to one assailant. Three deep wounds to Michelle's chest were closely grouped and followed similar paths to the same depth. A succession of men handing a knife around would have had to reproduce one another's movements with extraordinary consistency. The absence of the additional injuries expected from the prolonged restraint described in the confessions was also significant.[B2]

The blood patterns presented another problem for the group theory. Droplets around the body remained distinct. There was no smearing of the kind that multiple people moving around her would be expected to leave. Spitz and crime scene analyst Gregg McCrary explained why those details mattered to the accounts being offered, rather than treating the apartment simply as a backdrop.[B2]

McCrary also examined the thirty-four-inch hallway, the undisturbed papers along it, the dresser, and the mirror. The men had described carrying and restraining a struggling woman through cramped rooms. The objects around the alleged struggle had stayed in place. The scene did not contain the disruption their versions required.[B2]

The alibi testimony strengthened the physical evidence. Michael Ziegler, Dick's immediate supervisor aboard the Saipan, said Dick was on duty from the morning of July 7 until the morning of July 8. Duty required him to remain aboard. Sailors mustered during the period, and the exits were guarded. Ziegler testified that he would have received a report if Dick had missed a muster or tried to leave, and that no such report came.[B2]

There was a conflict about the earlier effort to investigate that alibi. Fasanaro recalled contact with Navy personnel that had failed to establish Dick's whereabouts. Ziegler denied speaking with the lawyer and said no investigator contacted him until 2005. Judge John A. Gibney Jr. acknowledged the difference in their recollections and found Ziegler persuasive about the duty schedule. The disagreement did not justify treating the alibi as though no supporting witness existed.[B2]

On September 26, 2016, Gibney issued his opinion. He found Williams and Dick innocent and concluded that Ballard alone had raped and murdered Michelle. He rejected the notion that the confessions could be assessed apart from the manner in which they developed or the physical evidence that contradicted them.[B2]

Procedurally, the ruling allowed their petitions through barriers based on lateness and default so that the underlying constitutional claims could be heard. On October 31, the court granted relief on a police misconduct

claim and gave Virginia sixty days to begin new trials. On December 14, at the Commonwealth's request, the Norfolk court dropped the indictments. Final federal memoranda dated December 29 directed that the writs issue and the actions close.[B5]

The names on the pardon

Governor Terry McAuliffe granted absolute pardons to all four men on March 21, 2017. The document reviewed their different proceedings, the forensic evidence, and Gibney's findings. It expressly stated that each pardon reflected the recipient's innocence. It also recorded that the Navy had upgraded the character of Williams's service to honorable in 2012.[B6]

For Wilson, the pardon supplied the recognition that his completed sentence had prevented him from obtaining through the federal habeas petition. For the others, it joined or followed court relief. Their four names could finally appear together in an official document acknowledging innocence, after years in which different procedures had separated them.[B6]

Michelle's parents did not receive that decision as a resolution of their own loss. In a written statement reported by CNN in April 2017, John and Carol Moore said they still believed the men were guilty, pointing to the confessions and pleas. Wilson told the reporter he understood that the family had trusted the people who told them these were the men responsible. Their disagreement remained part of the aftermath; it did not alter the court's findings or the pardons.[B7]

Virginia subsequently authorized compensation. The act approved on March 29, 2018, allocated a combined \$3,496,304 to the four men, with conditions governing releases, settlement with Norfolk, and the form of payment. In December 2018, the Associated Press reported that Norfolk had agreed to pay an additional \$4.9 million under a settlement the news organization had obtained. Those were public acknowledgments expressed in money as well as legal records.[B3][B8]

Neither the pardons nor the agreements changed what had happened to Michelle. She had left a friend's apartment to prepare for her husband's return. He came home to find her dead. Her name endured in proceedings that repeatedly rehearsed descriptions of her final hours, many of them false.

The eventual correction required returning to what her apartment and the evidence actually showed: one man's DNA, injuries inconsistent with the confessions, an undamaged door, and undisturbed objects beside the place where she was killed. The case did not lack evidence. For years, the evidence had been made to accommodate the accusations. The findings that finally cleared the four men began by requiring the accusations to answer to the evidence.

Sources from the edition

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[B1]: Tice v. Johnson, 647 F.3d 87 (4th Cir. April 20, 2011), No. 09-8245. Official 47-page opinion: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCOURTS-ca4-09-08245/pdf/USCOURTS-ca4-09-08245-0.pdf> . PDF pp. 2-3, William's return and Ballard's convictions; pp. 3-14, Tice's trials, Dick's testimony and jury question; pp. 15-29, interrogation notes and state/federal proceedings; pp. 30-47, ineffective-assistance holding. Full opinion read, including notes. Dates and statements from earlier proceedings are attributed to this court's record review.

[B2]: Williams v. Brown, 208 F. Supp. 3d 713 (E.D. Va. September 26, 2016), joined Civil Actions 3:09CV769 and 3:10CV505. Complete opinion text: <https://www.casemine.com/judgement/us/5c10fedf342cca79ff785856> . Filed PDF: <https://cases.justia.com/federal/district-courts/virginia/vaedce/3%3A2010cv00505/256178/124/0.pdf> . Introduction and I-II, innocence finding and procedural gateway; III.A-B, Michelle's last known visit, household context and discovery; III.C-G, interrogation sequence, DNA exclusions and additional suspects; IV-VI, pleas, Ballard statements and trials; VII.A-D, forensic and crime scene analysis; VII.E-G, Williams and Dick alibis and credibility; VIII, conclusion. Full opinion and embedded notes read in the text edition. The hypothetical kitchen sequence in VII.D is not presented here as an observed scene. Direct PDF download failed; the full text edition supplied the substantive reading.

[B3]: Virginia Acts of Assembly, 2018 Chapter 502, approved March 29, 2018: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/uncodifiedacts/2018/session1/chapter502/> . Full recitals and operative provisions read. Compensation totals distinguish authorization from proof that payments or annuities were

completed. Recital's November 2016 dismissal date yields to contemporary final court memoranda cited at B5. Crime described by act as early July 8, consistent with overnight July 7-8 chronology.

[B4]: Wilson v. Flaherty, 689 F.3d 332 (4th Cir. August 15, 2012), No. 11-6919:

<https://www.casemine.com/judgement/us/592d443cadd7b07d258f1fbf> .

Majority introduction and I, verdict, sentence, release and registration consequences; II-III, custody and jurisdiction holding; Davis concurrence; Wynn dissent, I-II. All opinion text and notes read.

Described work and family restrictions are Wilson's representations recorded by the court. Registration law discussion refers to his historical case, not present legal requirements.

[B5]: Dick v. Muse/Brown, Civil Action 3:10CV505, Doc. 133, memorandum opinion signed December 29, 2016, one page: <https://cases.justia.com/federal/district-courts/virginia/vaedce/3%3A2010cv00505/256178/133/0.pdf> . Williams v. Muse/Brown, Civil Action 3:09CV769, Doc. 160, memorandum opinion signed December 29, 2016, one page: <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/virginia/vaedce/3%3A2009cv00769/248985/160/> . Both complete texts read. Both expressly record October 31 conditional habeas relief and December 14 nolle prosequi. The December 29 signed date is distinguished from Justia's December 30 metadata for Williams.

[B6]: Governor of Virginia, List of Pardons, Commutations, Reprieves and Other Forms of Clemency, January 9, 2017 to January 13, 2018, Senate Document 2 (2018):

<https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2018/SD2/PDF> . PDF pp. 56-58, complete Norfolk Four absolute-pardon text, paragraphs 1-12 and granting/signature clauses, signed March 21, 2017. Paragraph 9 records Williams's 2012 Navy discharge characterization. Relevant pardon read completely, not the entire 1692-page report.

[B7]: CNN interview reporting republished by WTVR, "Virginia Navy vet pardoned in 20-year rape case," April 1, 2017: <https://www.wtvr.com/20>

17/04/01/virginia-navy-vet-pardoned-in-20-year-rape-case . Paragraphs reporting John and Carol Moore's written response and Wilson's response to the family's position. Limited dated attribution only; does not establish their later views. The article's compressed procedural and sentencing characterizations are not adopted.

[B8]: Alan Suderman and Alanna Durkin Richer, Associated Press, "Settlement reached in infamous 'Norfolk 4' case," Navy Times, December 4, 2018: <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2018/12/04/settlement-reached-in-infamous-norfolk-4-case/> . Opening agreement report, based on settlement obtained by AP. The settlement instrument itself was not accessible without a subscription at the located repository; no claim of independent full reading of that agreement or verification of completed disbursements.

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