



The American legal system, a mass murderer, and a high school teacher in Clarkesville, TN

# THE DUTY OF A JUROR

# Don't forget what this is all about...

- Goals of the American legal system:
  - Protecting basic human rights
  - Promoting fairness
  - Helping resolve conflicts
  - Promoting order and stability
  - Representing the will of the majority
  - Protecting the rights of minorities
- The story you are about to hear proves that all of the above legal principles are alive and well in America... although not perfectly carried out.

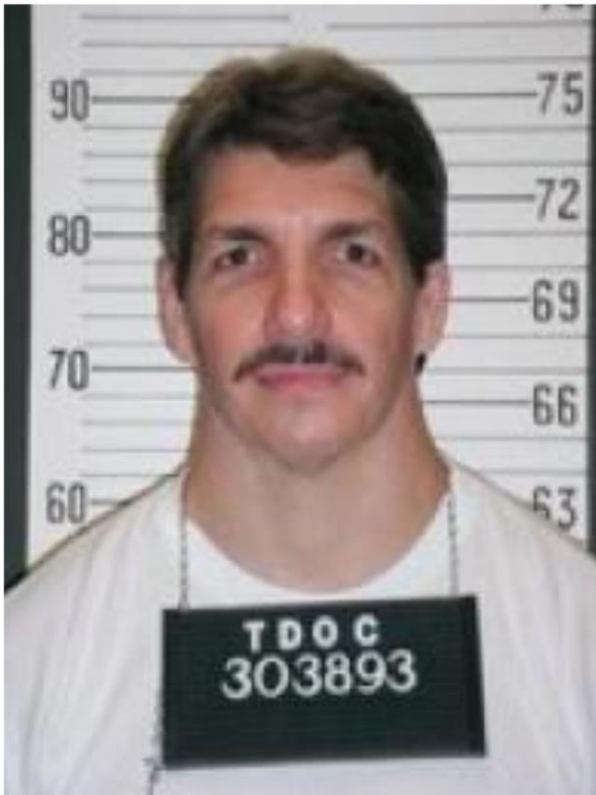
# Getting selected for the jury...

- Jury selection process: called the *voir dire*
  - Literal translation: “To speak the truth”
  - Attorneys select jurors based upon their individual biases!
  - Create a list of five questions you would ask a potential juror for a murder trial:
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.
    - 4.
    - 5.
  - *Peremptory Challenge!!!*
    - Definition: The ability of an \_\_\_\_\_ to dismiss a potential \_\_\_\_\_ in the jury selection process.
  - Life while *sequestered*
  - Responsibility of the Trier of Fact - Duty of the juror

# “The Fast Food Killer”

- Meet Paul Dennis Reid

- Convicted in Texas (1983) of aggravated armed robbery of a steakhouse
- 20 year sentence
- Paroled in 1990 on “Good Behavior”
- Went to Nashville, TN to become a country music singer!!!



# The “Nightmare in Nashville”

## *Circumstantial Evidence*

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Examples: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Direct Evidence*

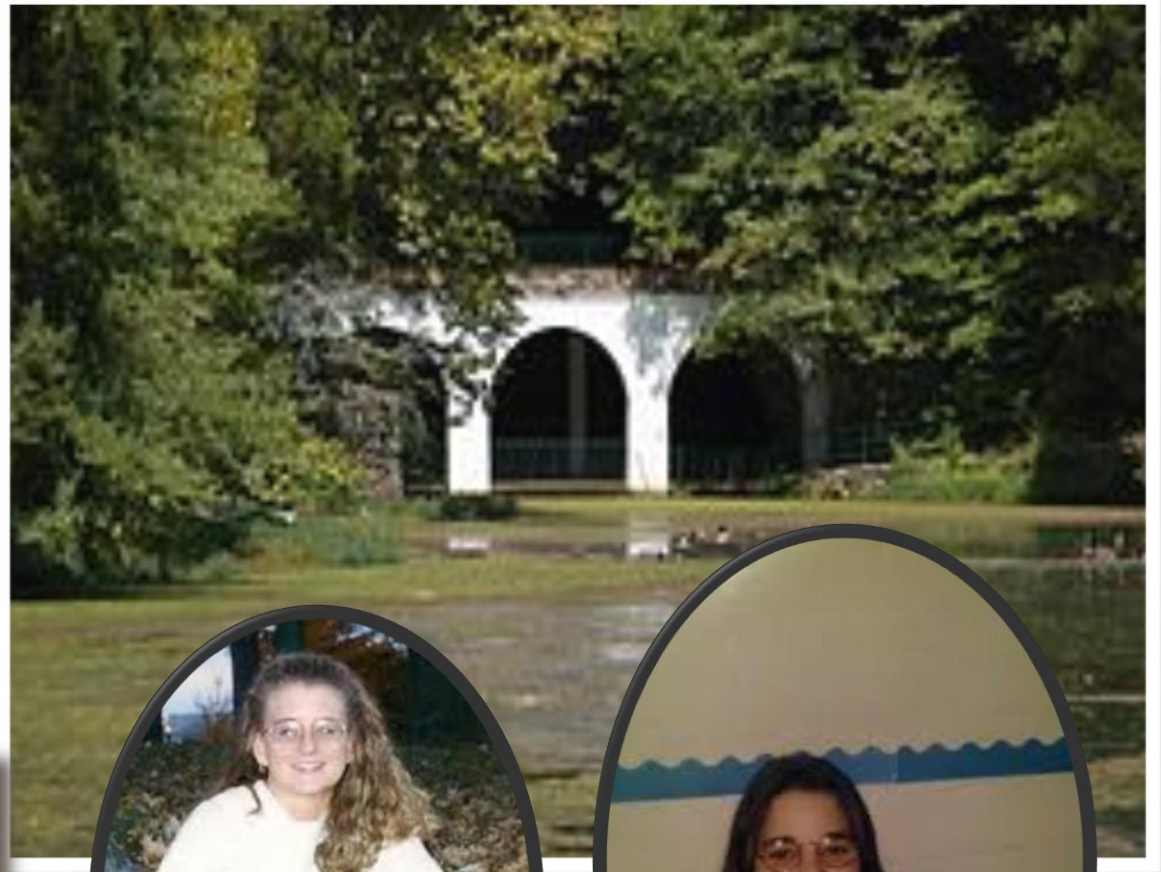
Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Examples: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Corroborating Evidence*

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Examples: \_\_\_\_\_



- TBI's big mistake
- "mens reus" and "actus reus"
- Peremptory Challenge and Sequester
- Jury psychology and ideology
- Clarksville, TN
  - An anniversary to remember

# Conclusion...

- Drinks with the judge
  - Judge Sam Gassaway
- Hi Tone tonight?
  - To speak the truth?
- Steve Earle
  - A song entitled *Billy Austin*
- The professor and his protégé
  - Concerning unwarranted knocks on the door...
  - “OK...but you’re not going to like it.”

# A few of my favorite things...

- The “rule of four”
  - The means by which *writs of certiorari* are granted by the Supreme Court
- The adversarial system
  - Head-to-head competition
  - The best team wins
- Jury duty
  - “...by an impartial jury of the state or district wherein the crime shall have been committed.”
- Free speech
  - Dissenting opinions from the Supreme Court