

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BRISTOL, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT

COMMONWEALTH )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
CARL H. DREW )

Criminal Action  
No. 6298 of 1980  
JOHNSAFF.WPD

**AFFIDAVIT OF LEA JOHNSON,**  
**IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT'S 2003 MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL**

The undersigned affiant hereby states on personal knowledge (unless indicated otherwise, such as on information or belief), as follows:

1. **Affiant.** My name is Leah Johnson. I am 46 years old and in 1981, I was a prosecution witness against the defendant, Carl Drew.
2. **My False Trial Testimony.** At the defendant's trial, I testified that Drew confessed to me to having a role in Karen Marsden's murder, for which was convicted. Then and now, I know that testimony to be false. Carl Drew never confessed to me, or otherwise told me, that he had any role in or prior knowledge of Marsden's killing.
3. **My Relationship with the Defendant.** Until the state police and prosecutor contacted me in or after April 1980, I had a comfortable relationship with the defendant. He cooked for me and treated me like a queen.

4. Prosecutorial Coercion: In and after November 1980, after being arrested for prostitution, I was visited by state police and other investigators working the Bristol County prosecutor. These law enforcement officials coerced me into testifying against the defendant, requiring me to make up his alleged confession to having a role in the Marsden murder. I was told that if I refused to cooperate, the prosecution would take several actions against me and my family. My child Julio was living with my sister Tracy, and the prosecutor threatened criminal action against her which also would cause Julio to be placed in foster care with strangers. Also, I had several outstanding criminal cases, for which the prosecutor promised to seek my imprisonment if I failed to testify against the defendant.

5. Affiant's Cooperation with the Prosecution. Concerned for my sister and Julio and my own imprisonment, I agreed to cooperate with the prosecutor's office. I lied during my testimony at the defendant's trial, so the police would leave me and my family alone. After my testimony in the defendant's case, all of my pending Fall River District Court criminal charges were dismissed at the prosecution's request.

Sworn to under the penalties of perjury, this 8th day of September, 2003:

  
Leah Johnson

JOHNSAFF.WPD