

JUSTICE FOR PAUL HOWELL

LEARN THE FACTS.
DISCOVER THE TRUTH.
SEEK JUSTICE.

Dear Reverend,

As a member of the faith community and as a spiritual leader with influence, it is always important to hear both sides of a story. In this day and age, it has become increasingly common for individuals to go their own ways and not engage in productive discourse. Please "learn the facts, discover the truth, and seek justice" at www.JusticeforPaulHowell.com

"Any story sounds true until someone tells the other side and sets the record straight" - Proverbs 18:17

Numerous groups and individuals supporting Julius Jones have presented a shockingly deceptive narrative to the public in an attempt to undermine confidence in our judicial system. They have made headline worthy allegations of racist behavior by the prosecutors on this case, a juror, and Judge Jerry Bass. A neutral and thorough review of the record does not support such allegations. Additionally, numerous factual representations in the case have also been made. Enclosed please find the District Attorney's and Attorney General's response to Jones' Commutation Application which addresses fact issues.

Racializing the Case

Julius Jones has made several allegations regarding the tainting of his trial by racism. Such allegations are serious matters and should be carefully and thoroughly considered. Some of Jones' allegations are clearly indefensible, because they had never been made until the airing of "The Last Defense" and lack much specificity. However, the following two allegations are often repeated by spiritual leaders and anti-death penalty supporters to the press and in letters to the Governor and the Pardon and Parole Board.

1. Jones' maintains that prosecutors violated the law by striking African American jurors because they were African American and that the Court permitted such behavior:

"That African American jurors were struck by the prosecution for various reasons, like the person was a crime victim or knew someone in law enforcement, but white jurors who had those issues were allowed to sit on the jury." (Direct quote from Dale Baich, Jones' Assistant Federal Defender in "The Last Defense, The Trial").

Dale Baich's statement on national television was dishonest and unethical. It was a lie, unsupported by the voir dire transcript. Two of the three black jurors removed from the jury by the prosecution were removed because they failed to disclose that they had been charged with criminal offenses when asked, i.e...they lied under oath.... clearly a race neutral reason for excusal. A white juror was removed from the jury for the very same reason. A nineteen year old African American juror was excused because she was sleeping during voir dire and was mildly opposed to the death penalty, also a race neutral reason. (Volume 3 Transcript of Jury Trial, 2/13/02 Pgs. 207-211).

JUSTICE FOR PAUL HOWELL

LEARN THE FACTS.
DISCOVER THE TRUTH.
SEEK JUSTICE.

2. Another oft repeated claim is that a juror told Judge Jerry Bass that another juror had made the comment that, "they should just take that n**** out and shoot him behind the jail."

This claim too is absolutely false. Judge Bass was never told that such a statement was made. It is not supported by the record nor by a single other juror. The juror making this claim has told now four different accounts of this story.

- a. The juror informed the court during the sentencing stage at the end of the day on February 27th, 2002 that she thought she had heard another juror earlier in the day say "they should place him in a box in the ground for what he has done." (*Volume 12 Transcript of Trial, Pg. 96 lines 1-2*). She testified that the statement had been made in the jury room with 8 to 10 jurors present. (*Volume 12 Transcript of Trial Pg. 96 lines 6-20*). The following day, Judge Bass individually questioned each juror about the remark and whether they had heard anyone on the jury "express an opinion outside of this courtroom as to the appropriate punishment" and not a single other juror heard the remark nor had any juror heard anyone express an opinion regarding punishment. (*Volume 13 Transcript of Jury Trial, 2/28/02 Pgs. 29-70*). After questioning each juror, Judge Bass asked the juror making the allegations a few more questions. The juror admitted that she "didn't hear part of the bigger conversation" and that it was possible that the conversation didn't have anything to do with the case and that she had just "assumed" that it did. (*Volume 13 Pg. 74, lines 8-25 and Pg. 75, line 11*).
- b. Fifteen years later in a FB message while chatting with a defense investigator the same juror stated, "During the trial I was the juror who went to the judge with the comment from another juror about how it was all a waste of time and that they should just take the n**** out and shoot him behind the jail." (*Jones' Commutation Application, Exhibit 22*)
- c. On "The Last Defense" this same juror stated that she heard the juror make the n**** comment by the elevators "well before deliberation" and that she reported the offensive comment the next day to the judge. (*"The Last Defense, The Fight, 35:39-35:58*)
- d. This same juror now states in an Affidavit presented by the defense that she told someone that she thought was the bailiff about the remark and that she "paraphrased the remark to the judge." She provided no explanation as to why she would paraphrase such a statement to the Court and the attorneys. She was given repeated opportunities to state exactly what she heard into the record in the privacy of the judge's chambers. She also stated in her affidavit, "I still believe, to this day, that Mr. Jones is guilty of shooting and killing the victim."

JUSTICE FOR PAUL HOWELL

LEARN THE FACTS.
DISCOVER THE TRUTH.
SEEK JUSTICE.

This juror has been inconsistent about what was said, where it was said, when it was said, and when she reported it. The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals found her not credible (*Order Denying Third Application for Post-Conviction Relief and Related Motions for Discovery and Evidentiary Hearing, PCD-2017-1313*) stating that a person's memory does not get fresher over the years and that there was no explanation for the juror not reporting the comment at the time, if it was truly made. On April 1, 2019 the United States Supreme Court denied the defendant's writ of certiorari on this matter.

Jones attorneys are fully aware of these four different stories, yet they encourage this misinformation and its use to gain media attention and letters of support. There is absolutely no record of a juror reporting that a racist statement was made to Judge Bass. This is a lie.

Jones' Character

Both the Justice for Julius Campaign and "The Last Defense" have portrayed Julius Jones as an athlete on an academic scholarship at the University of Oklahoma at the time of the murder. This is a fictional portrayal. Julius Jones was not attending college at the time of the murder. He achieved less than a one point GPA his freshman fall semester, was placed on academic probation at the beginning of the spring semester and withdrew from college on March 26th, 1999, four months prior to the murder. A letter withdrawing Jones' financial aid was collected in the search of his bedroom at his parents' house. Instead, Jones was busy committing numerous crimes during the spring and summer semesters of 1999. At the time of the murder, Jones was a three time convicted felon, with two other felonies and a misdemeanor charge pending in Cleveland County.

Jones was an overachiever when it came to working on his reputation for violence. While in the county jail Jones wrote his girlfriend numerous letters that contained gang slang and threats. Two of the letters contained threats towards his child's mother claiming, "Blood...I feel like killing that "Bitch!" in another letter he wrote that he might just have to "break that "bitch" in two and take my son." In yet another letter, he accused his girlfriend of telling the police about his plans to shoot or kill a man named Isaiah Smith and told her to not cooperate if she was called to testify. To this day, Jones prominently displays a large tattoo of "456% PIRU" and "North Side" on his abdomen and chest. 456 Piru are a subset of the Bloods located in and around North Highlands in Oklahoma City.

"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members of one another." Ephesians 4:25

"No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence." Psalm 101:7

Please carefully review the information contained herein. It is shared in the spirit of fairness and knowledge, not argumentativeness. Please review the website, you will find that lies have been told about many things. This an important case, not just to Julius Jones, but also to the Howell family and to those that loved and cared about Paul Howell. Please ask yourself why lies like these would be told? Please ask yourself if you are comfortable promulgating such lies? If you are involved because you are

JUSTICE FOR PAUL HOWELL

LEARN THE FACTS.
DISCOVER THE TRUTH.
SEEK JUSTICE.

opposed to the death penalty then just say so, but please do not participate in the spreading of misinformation. The truth should always matter.

Paul Howell was a wonderful man. He loved his family and was an amazing father, brother, and son. He was involved in his community, helping those who struggled with alcohol addiction. He was an innocent victim and he deserves justice.

Sincerely,

Justice for Paul Howell Coalition