

RAY SZARMACH: Today is November 6th, a Thursday, 2003 and I'm in my office with Angela Truitt and we're going to give me a statement concerning a rape case she testified in several years ago against Vernon Bateman, is that correct Angela:

ANGELA TRUITT: Yes

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., for the record I would like you to state your name and spell your name.

ANGELA TRUITT: Angela Truitt, A N G E L A T R U I T T.

RAY SZARMACH: And where do you live?

ANGELA TRUITT: [REDACTED] Madison, Wisconsin, 53703.

RAY SZARMACH: And do you have a phone up there?

ANGELA TRUITT: No

RAY SZARMACH: Does your mother live in the area here? She lives in, is it East Chicago?

ANGELA TRUITT: Yes

RAY SZARMACH: What's her name?

ANGELA TRUITT: Aneesah Moore.

RAY SZARMACH: Can you spell her first name?

ANGELA TRUITT: A N E E S A H

RAY SZARMACH: And her last name?

ANGELA TRUITT: M O O R E

RAY SZARMACH: And what's her phone number?

ANGELA TRUITT: [REDACTED]

RAY SZARMACH: O.K. and can I contact you through her?

ANGELA TRUITT: Yes

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., do you call her once in awhile and talk?

ANGELA TRUITT: -----time

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., now several years ago you testified in a rape trial in Crown Point?

ANGELA TRUITT: Yes

RAY SZARMACH: And you said you were raped?

ANGELA TRUITT: Yes

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., at the time were you raped or was that not true?

ANGELA TRUITT: I was, but it wasn't that-----what's his name, Vernon Bateman, it wasn't him.

RAY SZARMACH: O.K. In the trial you identified one of the participants as somebody having braids.

ANGELA TRUITT: Yes

RAY SZARMACH: Was there a man with braids?

ANGELA TRUITT: Yes

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., but was that Vernon Bateman.

ANGELA TRUITT: No. The police told me that it was Vernon Bateman, but that was not him.

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., have you ever seen the man with braids after it occurred?

ANGELA TRUITT: No

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., do you know who the man with braids was?

ANGELA TRUITT: No

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., and um----

ANGELA TRUITT: Can I ask a question?

RAY SZARMACH: Sure

ANGELA TRUITT: Didn't they do a DNA test?

RAY SZARMACH: No, that's something else. But basically just for our purposes--

ANGELA TRUITT: Well then why would they let somebody else---and don't do no DNA?

RAY SZARMACH: Well, you know I can't answer that but that's just the way.

ANGELA TRUITT: So they like took my for nothing.

RAY SZARMACH: Correct. Have you heard about the cases in Illinois all those people on death row, like 12 people, in the last decade that it was determined through DNA that they were not guilty and they were released, do you remember that?

ANGELA TRUITT: No

RAY SZARMACH: No, anyway, so were you subpoenaed for the trial?

ANGELA TRUITT: Yes

RAY SZARMACH: And, the first time you were subpoenaed you didn't show, is that true?

ANGELA TRUITT: I didn't show.

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., why was that?

ANGELA TRUITT: Because I didn't want to, I didn't want to go through with none of that.

RAY SZARMACH: O.K. Then why didn't you want to go through with it?

ANGELA TRUITT: Because for one the police person-----he didn't even----- anyway, and he just told me that that was the one, when I did the line-up, the police told me.

RAY SZARMACH: Which police officer?

ANGELA TRUITT: Mary Banks.

RAY SZARMACH: Mary Banks?

ANGELA TRUITT: She said that's the boy that did this and that was not him.

RAY SZARMACH: And that was not him, Vernon Bateman was not him?

ANGELA TRUITT: No

RAY SZARMACH: O.K. and you want to help him be released now?

ANGELA TRUITT: Yes

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., so that's---

ANGELA TRUITT: Because I just think that its only fair----six years of his life for nothing.

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., so I'll probably contact you in the future and there will be, there may be an investigator, it won't be Gary P.D., alright, but it will probably be somebody from the Prosecutor's Office.

ANGELA TRUITT: I don't want it to be Gary.

RAY SZARMACH: Yeah, I know you don't want to be around the Gary police, you won't be. But we'll have somebody talk to you, they may come up and talk to you, if you want me to be there I can be there, you can have your own lawyer, it doesn't, whatever you want, this to occur, we're willing to go along with that.

ANGELA TRUITT: But I do want to say that I'm sorry to Vernon.

RAY SZARMACH: O.K., well you can cry if you need to. Is there anything else you need to say or you want to say on the tape.

ANGELA TRUITT: I just want them to let him go. I want them to let him out of jail.

RAY SZARMACH: Let him out of jail, O.K. That's it, its 12:30 on November 6, Thursday, and I'm with Angela Truitt and we're ending the conversation.