



PROPOSED ORIGINAL
DOCUMENTARY SERIES

6-10 Episodes

TEXAS INJUSTICE

BIG STATE. SMALL TOWN. NO JUSTICE.



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In October 2005, authorities in Hunt County Texas discover Norma and Dennis Woodruff dead in their home, shot and stabbed repeatedly. A Texas Ranger quickly zeroes in on the couple's son, Brandon Woodruff, after learning the young man was leading a double life. To High School and College friends he is still a fun-loving, horse-riding Urban Cowboy. But, he is also living a gay lifestyle, dancing at clubs in Dallas and acting in gay adult films.



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The arrest warrant is issued five days into the investigation. It has nothing linking Brandon to the crime - no murder weapons, no bloody prints, no DNA. Much of what's in the warrant proves to be false. The Ranger fails to investigate clear evidence of other potential suspects. Prosecutors are caught illegally taping conversations between Brandon Woodruff and his lawyer. It's later proven that phone records turned over to the Defense team were doctored.



click below to play sizzle

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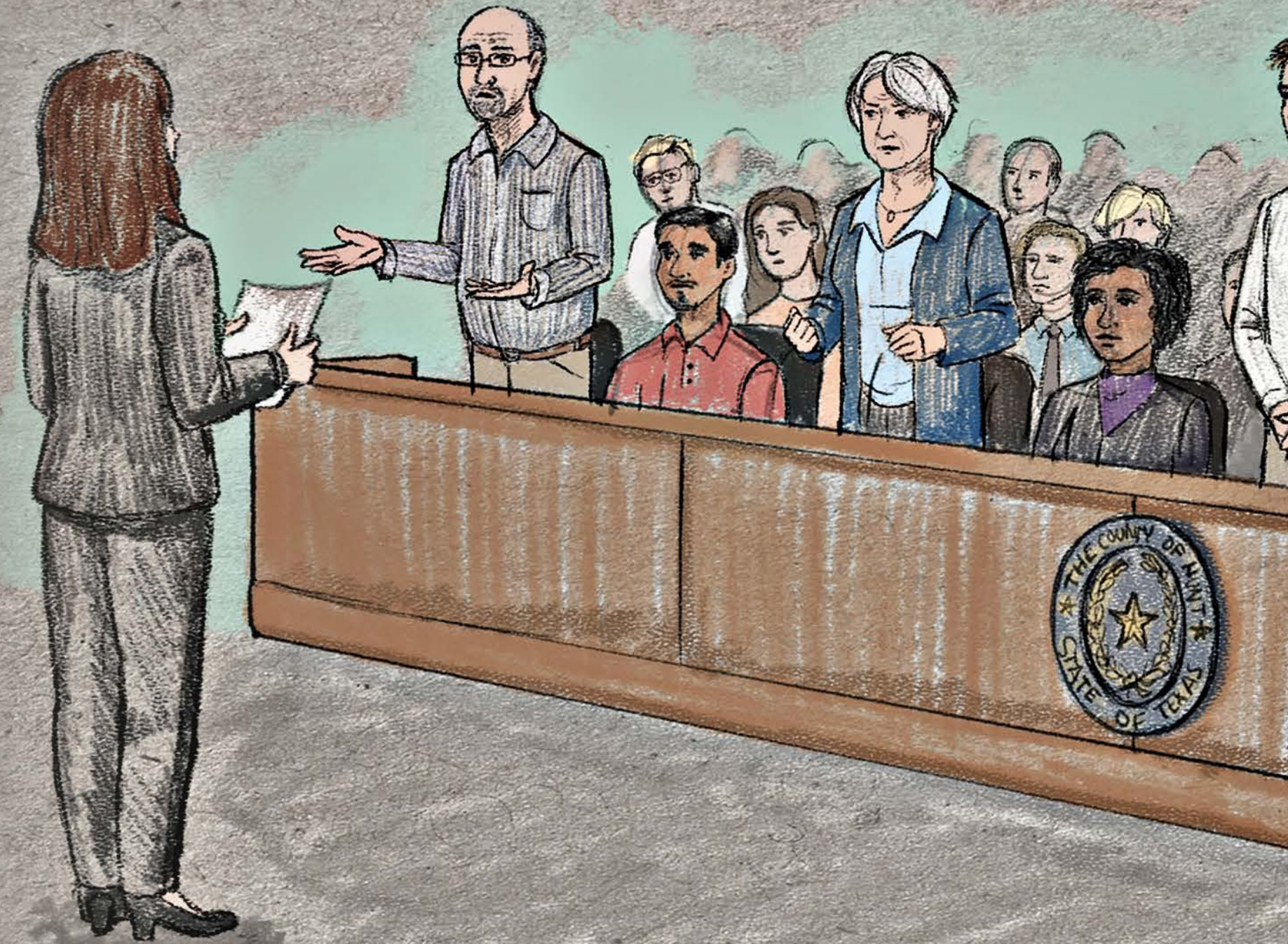
8 of 12 jurors termed homosexuality "morally wrong" in pre-trial questioning.

They convict Brandon after just five hours of deliberation.

One juror now says she is haunted by the verdict and was pressured by others to vote guilty.

Another juror publicly declares that Brandon deserves a new trial.

The effort to free Brandon Woodruff grows to include the Innocence Project of Texas.



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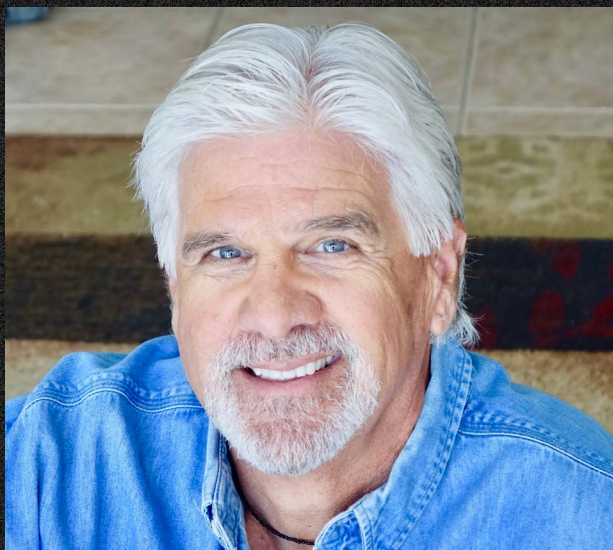
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Backstory & Creators



Scott Poggensee | Producer

For many years, first-time filmmaker Scott Poggensee and a small group of friends and family waged something of a crusade in the defense of Brandon Woodruff. To help in their efforts Poggensee produced a documentary to show to supporters. In doing so he uncovered a series of lies and deception that bent the truth that led to the conviction of Brandon. This documentary will be used as the foundation of our series. In late 2020, Poggensee's film came to the attention of Emmy winning journalist and documentarian Richard Ray. After examining the evidence, Ray agreed to help produce and write a documentary series. Since then the Innocence Project of Texas has signed on, offering Brandon's appellate lawyer assistance. The Free Brandon Woodruff movement grows by the day.



Richard Ray | Producer

Richard Ray is a five-time Emmy winning TV journalist and documentarian who spent 36 years as an Anchor/Reporter at KDFW-TV in Dallas/Fort Worth. He covered the Contra War in Central America and won Emmys for his coverage of the Oklahoma City bombing, the standoff at Waco and the JFK assassination. He won numerous other awards, including those for his work on the Waco Standoff and the South Asia tsunami. Ray became interested in Brandon's story in late 2020, after seeing Scott Poggensee's rough cut documentary and listening to the American Justice Podcast. Ray's examination of the evidence has since led him to join the movement to get to the truth.



Cast of Characters

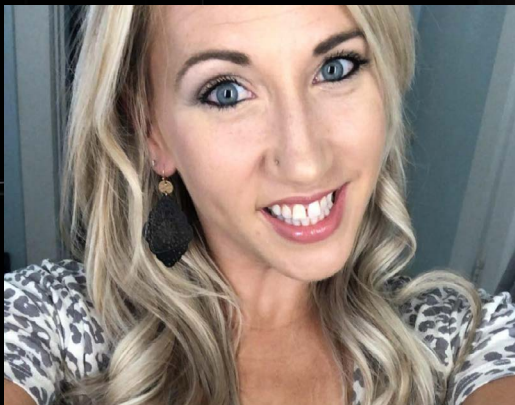
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BRANDON WOODRUFF

Brandon Woodruff has been in jail/prison since late 2005. At the time of his arrest he was a Freshman at Abilene Christian College, an outgoing young man who'd grown up riding horses and loving animals. But, he was also coming out - dancing in gay clubs in Dallas and shooting adult gay films in Florida. That double life and his initial reluctance to be open about his sexuality would play a major role in his conviction in the brutal murders of his parents.



CHARLA WOODRUFF

Brandon's older sister Charla has a history of suicide attempts and psychiatric problems. She told investigators that her father and Brandon physically abused her, when there is no evidence at all that happened. Charla has mistakenly led people to believe that Brandon was the murderer. **Why?**



TEXAS RANGER JEFF COLLINS

It was discovered that even though much of what Texas Ranger Jeff Collins put in the Arrest Affidavit was wrong, he plowed ahead, undeterred. Viewers will be stunned by his investigation - or lack thereof - beginning with his order that the crime scene be shot in the dark, using only a flashlight. The resulting video is eerie and bizarre - and sets the tone for this dark and disturbing story. Without any evidence he led the charge to convict Brandon. **Why?**



Cast of Characters (cont.)



NORMA ETHERINGTON

Norma's son Mike and Brandon Woodruff were bitter rivals in showing animals at the State Fair and other competitions with Brandon almost always winning the prizes and scholarship money that was awarded. Norma called Hunt County officials the morning after the bodies of the Woodruff's were found. She claimed she and her son had evidence of "the murders" at a time when even the Woodruff family had not been told the cause of death. **Why?**



MIKE ETHERINGTON

Mike and his mother first put Ranger Collins on Brandon Woodruff's trail. Collins included in the Arrest Affidavit Mike's assertion that Brandon had written on his MySpace page that he "hated his fucking parents" and wanted them dead. After the arrest, when Collins found that wasn't remotely true (instead Brandon had written that he loved his parents) he exploded at Mike, threatening to "strangle" him. Mike Etherington recently talked with Texas Injustice writer/producer Richard Ray for nearly an hour on the telephone. That conversation is filled with demonstrable lies and will play prominently in the documentary series. **Why?**



"THE SHIT KICKERS"

In High School Brandon, Mike Etherington, Joe Hagaman and Dusty Perry ran together and earned the nickname "The Shit Kickers." Hagaman, in particular, will play a key role in this story. After an early showing of filmmaker Scott Poggensee's rough cut documentary a former girlfriend of Hagaman's came forward to say that he had told her "kids at school did it." She'd become afraid of Hagaman and was convinced by other things he'd said that he knew who was involved. Shortly after doing an on-camera interview with Poggensee, Danielle was found dead in her garage under suspicious circumstances.

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HUNT COUNTY, TEXAS

The setting for this wrongful conviction is key to how it happened. Hunt County is just an hour's drive from Dallas but a short hop from the lifestyle and attitudes of Jim Crow East Texas. Until the late 1960s a banner hung on Main Street in Greenville that read, "The Blackest Earth." "The Whitest People." The KKK still has a presence there, though a much more subtle one than in the 1950s and 1960s, when its leadership was widely known to be made up of local police officers and elected officials. During pre-trial questioning of jurors an overwhelming number expressed the opinion that gays and their lifestyle "are immoral" - including 8 of the 12 people who were picked to decide Brandon Woodruff's fate.

Cast of Characters (cont.)

The Experts that Support Brandon's Innocence

GLENNA WHITLEY

A world-renowned and award-winning investigative reporter. Glenna Whitley specializes in writing about crime and the legal system. A staff writer for the Dallas Observer since November 2003, she's been executive editor and senior writer for D Magazine and a feature writer for the Dallas Morning News. Glenna is the co-author of the New York Times best-seller "Stolen Valor." She is a strong supporter of Brandon's innocence and may be interested in writing a book on the case. [Click here for a recent interview with Glenna about the case](#)



MIKE WARE

Executive Director of Innocence Project of Texas. Mike's belief in Brandon's innocence is integral to the involvement of the Innocence Project and will get the case the notoriety it needs to push momentum forward to getting a new trial. He has appeared in numerous other true-crime documentaries and Mike and his team are responsible for countless exonerations and vacated convictions in Texas as well as important reform initiatives. His importance to the case cannot be overstated.



KATHERINE FERGUSON

Brandon's Original Trial Attorney.

Katherine has very strong opinions of what happened at the original trial and has been one of the most vocal supporters of Brandon's innocence. She claims that this case still "haunts" her to this day because she believes so strongly in Brandon's innocence.



The Facts

Brandon has passed two separate lie detector tests including one by world renowned polygrapher Eric Jay Holden. He has never failed.


[The Free Brandon Woodruff](#) movement grows by the day.

The True Crime genre continues to be a popular one - this series touches on some hot button issues including:

- **LGBTQ+ Discrimination**
- **Texas/Texas Rangers**
- **Shoddy Police Investigations**
- **Prosecutorial Misconduct**
- **Murder**
- **Mystery**

Comparable successful series include ***Making a Murderer***, ***Evil Genius***, ***Outcry*** and ***The Staircase***

The Innocence Project of Texas just took on Brandon's case

 **SWORD AND SCALE** podcast published an episode on Brandon's story released on 4/25 and again on 5/2

Dr. Phil and ***48 Hours*** also have interest in covering the case. They were in the process of setting up interviews before COVID hit

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Brandon Woodruff is a very sympathetic figure, a sweet kid and class clown who was never in any serious trouble. He won scholarships for his skill in raising show animals. He loved caring for and riding horses. He was a budding actor and model. At 140 pounds and slightly built, it's hard to see him committing the brutal crime he's accused of.

By all accounts, he loved his parents and they loved him. In one, particularly poignant moment during a behind-bars interview Brandon explains how he feels his parents are still with him. "I've never been raped in here. I've never been seriously hurt," Brandon tells Scott Poggensee. His parents, he believes, are with him in the penitentiary every day and protecting him. Brandon Woodruff has been behind bars for 15 years and counting. But he has never wavered in proclaiming his innocence. Brandon believes one day it will be proven.

THANK YOU

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