

# HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER

## 1. WITNESS INTIMIDATION

- A study of multiple cities found that a witness's refusal to cooperate with police contributed to 7.7% of unclosed homicides. Another study of 1,547 violent crime cases found that 23% were not prosecuted due to witness noncooperation, and 28% of those witnesses feared retaliation.
- 86% of communities have some type of code of silence; 47% of communities attribute it to the stop snitching movement.
- In Philadelphia, over 300 people each year are charged with witness intimidation, but typically fewer than 25% of these individuals are ever convicted.

Latasha Shaw was stabbed in broad daylight in front of dozens of witnesses - her murder is still unsolved.



## 4. THE FIFTH AMENDMENT



Brenda Schaeffer



Mary Ann Shore-Inlow testified against Ignatow at his trial.

Brenda Schaeffer was planning on breaking off her relationship with Mel Ignatow when he gets his ex, Mary Ann Shore, to help him attack her. Ignatow forces Schaeffer to strip before taking suggestive photos, raping, sodomizing and beating her before killing her with chloroform.

During the investigation, Shore testified against Ignatow, but the jury did not find her testimony credible. He is acquitted. Months later, the photos of the rape and torture are discovered in Ignatow's house.

Unfortunately, despite the new evidence, he is now protected by double jeopardy and cannot be tried again.

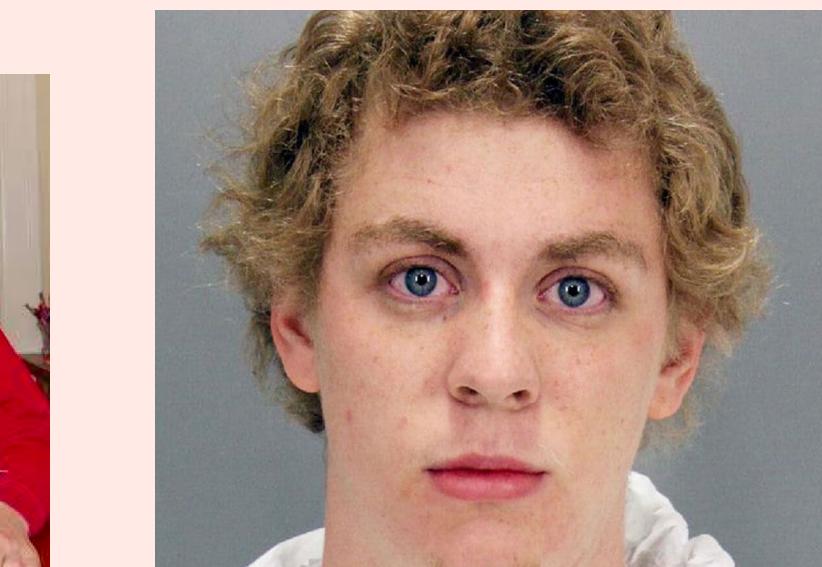
## 2. INVESTIGATION CHALLENGES

- Currently 250,000 homicides are unsolved in the USA, a number which grows by ~6,000 annually...yet only 7% of 18,000 law enforcement agencies have cold case units to help shrink the backlog.
- In 2012, over 400,000 rape kits were found to have never been tested to reveal vital clues.
- 14% of unsolved homicides contain collected forensic evidence, including DNA, that the police have never submitted to crime labs for analysis.
- Baltimore has lost up to 44% of its homicide cases due to improper investigative procedures.



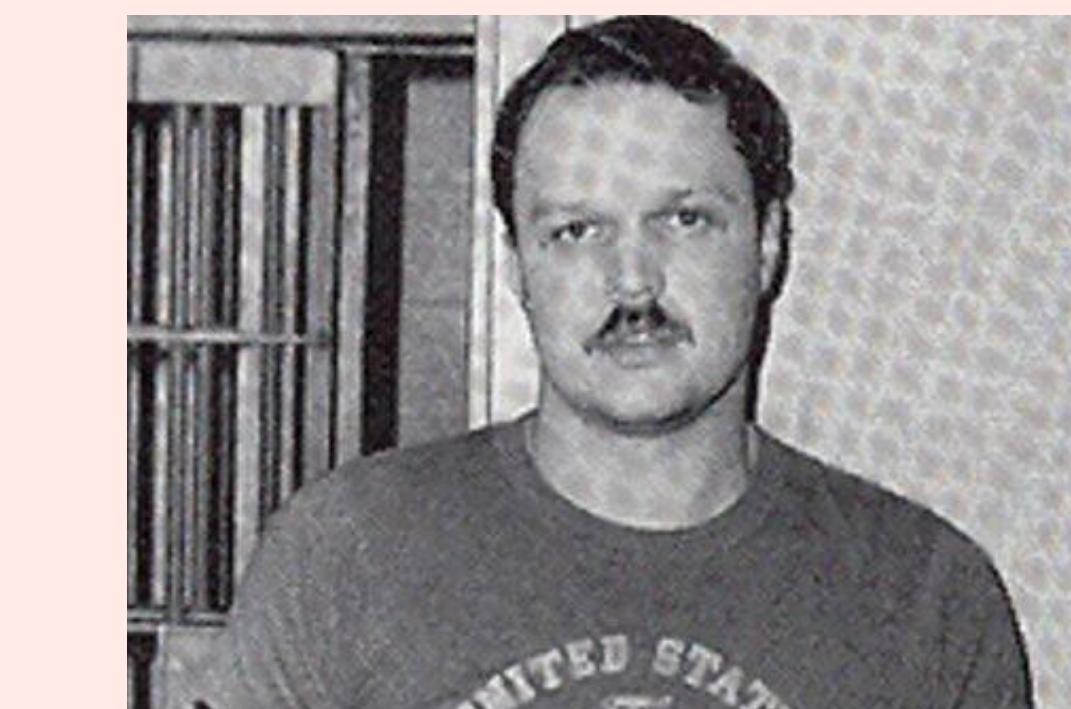
## 5. PLEA-BARGAINING

Jacob Anderson, a former Baylor frat president, was accused of raping a female sophomore and then leaving her "to die face down in her own vomit" at a frat party in 2016 but will not have to register as a sex offender. His 4 counts of sexual assault, normally punished by 2-20 years in prison, was pled down to 3 years probation, a \$400 fine, and counseling.

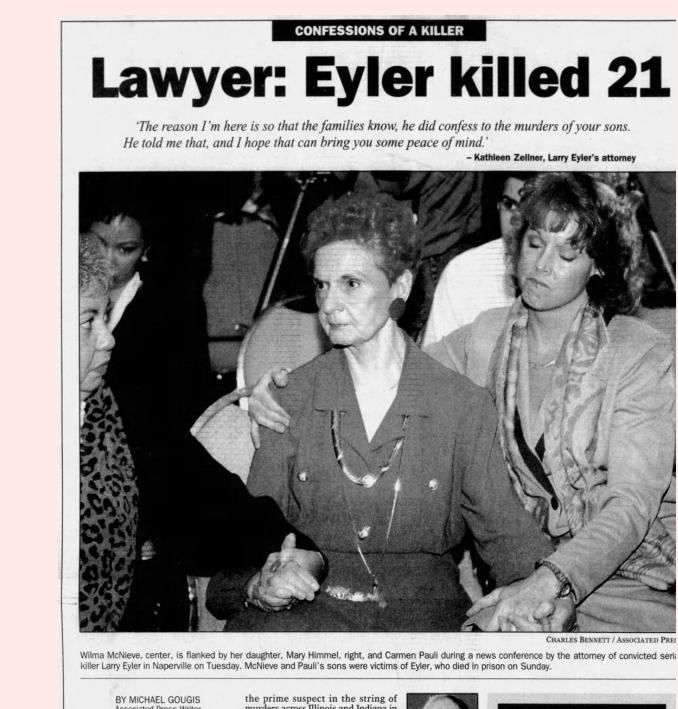


Brock Turner faced up to 14 years in prison when convicted of 3 felonies of sexual assault. Prosecutors had asked for 6 years. Instead, the judge ordered 6 months in county jail and 3 years of probation, saying a harsher sentence would have a "severe impact" on Turner, a star swimmer who could have made it to the Olympics.

## 3. EXCLUSION OF EVIDENCE



An American serial killer nicknamed the "Highway Killer," Larry Eyler is known to have killed at least twenty one young men between 1982 and 1984. He was arrested after his thirteenth murder, but despite his obvious guilt, he goes free because police detained him too long without charge. By the exclusionary rule of the Fourth and the "fruit of the poisonous tree" doctrine, all evidence obtained after his illegal arrest were inadmissible in court. After his release, Eyler kills 15-year-old Daniel Bridges, whose body was discarded in 8 different trash bags.



## 6. JUDICIAL DISCRETION



On June 19, 1982, eight days before he was supposed to be married, 27-year-old Vincent Chin was attacked by two white autoworkers, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz. They mistook Chin, a Chinese-American, as Japanese, and blamed him for their being out of work (due to Japanese car imports). After chasing Chin to a McDonald's parking lot, Nitz held him down while Ebens bashed him repeatedly in the head with a baseball bat. Chin died 4 days later. After a plea bargain, Ebens and Nitz are convicted of manslaughter punishable by 15 years in prison, but Judge Charles Kaufman gives the men three years of probation and a \$3,000 fine instead.

"These weren't the kind of men you send to jail," Kaufman said.