

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My name is Benny Lucero, and I have been a former law enforcement officer and private investigator for over 30 years.

I was hired to undertake the investigation for Dan Willoughby in 2006. A significant portion of Mr. Willoughby's convictions rested on the testimony of a confessed murderess, one Yesenia Patino. Ms. Patino is currently housed in a Mexican Prison.

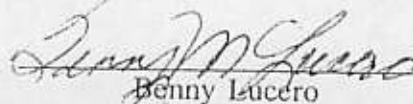
Because I am Mexican-American, bilingual, and with many years of experience in law enforcement and investigations, my hiring was principally for the purpose of interviewing Ms. Patino and determining why she had given false trial testimony. Ms. Patino had "flip-flopped" on cross examination, after testifying on her direct that she alone committed the murder of Mrs. Willoughby. Ms. Patino was the linchpin of the State's case, and consequently, what she said had compelling significance on the trial outcome.

I made two trips to Mexico to interview Ms. Patino. Both of these trips were met with difficulty and interference from prison officials, because a new Director had been hired and established a different set of rules for visitation. Nevertheless, I was hired to do a job so I continued with my investigation.

I also had the opportunity to talk on the phone with Ms. Patino, as well as in prison. A summary of the tape-recorded statements she made to me is contained below:

- "Danny didn't do this crime and I will help him get his freedom."
- "Danny (Daniel) will be back with his children whom I know he loves and misses."
- "The State's prosecutor threatened me with the Death Penalty if I did not cooperate with them and help them convict Mr. Willoughby, even though I knew he was innocent."
- The State had also threatened to revoke the plea agreement on her brother Tony and reinstate a 25 year to life sentence if she did not cooperate.
- Her family pressured and influenced her to "flip-flop" at trial, after she had stated for years that Mr. Willoughby was innocent.

If hired by the investigators for Paula Zahn's "On the case with Paula Zahn," or by any "Innocence Project Organization," I will produce these tape-recordings for their use. I will also, if hired, escort anyone with me to personally visit Ms. Patino and reaffirm her above statements.


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