

"I Can Prove My Trial for Murder Was Rigged," Says Michael Goodwin.

"My trial was rigged and I now have the evidence to prove it," says Michael Goodwin, the creator of the sport of Supercross, convicted in 2007 of the 1988 murders of racing legend Mickey Thompson and his wife. "The prosecutors could not connect me to the murders because I had nothing to do with them," Goodwin said in a recent interview.

"I had to fight for more than six years to get enough of the trial record, discovery and other evidence from the district attorney's office so I could file my appeal and I *still* don't have all that we are entitled to, by law," Goodwin added. "My initial appeal was rejected because it was *too many words*," he said incredulously. "It was more than 1000 words and my appellate attorney had to reduce it to 467 words so the Attorney General would accept it. That's still nearly twice as large as normally allowed."

Goodwin says that he's documented hundreds of instances of perjury by witnesses, law enforcement, and even has evidence, he says, supported by public records from a federal trial, of the prosecutors in his murder trial blatantly lying to the judge and jury.

Patrick Dixon, lead prosecutor in Goodwin's trial, mysteriously left the D.A.'s office after more than 30 years and has gone into private practice. Dixon was the top prosecutor in the D.A.'s office, as Head of Special Trials, second only to Steve Cooley, Los Angeles District Attorney, at the time of Goodwin's trial. Alan Jackson, named "Prosecutor of the Year," in 2010 based in part on Goodwin's trial, also puzzlingly left the D.A.'s office after soundly losing an election for Los Angeles District Attorney in 2012.

When asked about his statement on a rigged trial, Goodwin expanded, "First, take just the trial judge's influence on the verdict; many people aren't aware that the judge in my trial, Judge Teri Schwartz, worked in the D.A.'s office with the lead prosecutor, Pat Dixon, before she took a seat on the Superior Court bench. If you were at the trial, you could sure tell, though," Goodwin went on. "Even the media noticed. There was mention of the judge's obvious bias in the L.A. and Orange County press."

"Secondly," Goodwin continued, "her jury instructions were preposterous; I should be released just based on those bogus instructions alone," he said. "After the verdict, the jury foreman stated that those instructions sent him and the jury in the direction of conviction. Had Judge Schwartz not ruled against the jury hearing all the evidence of a robbery, and about the other real suspects, then the judge gave the jury false instructions that the jury need not connect me to the murders, they would not have been faced with, in the jury foreman's own words, 'If not Goodwin, then who else could have done this?' Hey, *other suspects was our whole defense* because there was so much evidence and the judge just blew it off!" Goodwin was categorical, "there's *plenty* of evidence of robbery and even more on other suspects. You do the math," he said, smiling.

Goodwin summed up, "OK, third; at the time the case was dismissed in Orange Country, Pat Dixon told us he'd been reviewing the case for many months and didn't see enough

evidence to file; two of our attorneys talked to him directly on this after an appellate court had *dismissed* the case. Then, out of the blue, when I was within 24 hours of being released from the Orange County Jail, the L.A. District Attorney's office, *not* Pat Dixon, announces that L.A. was filing charges. They cited some phony evidence that had been around for years as 'new' evidence." Goodwin was expansive, "Just how did that happen? So, once committed, what are they going to do?" Goodwin threw up his hands. "These guys both had reputations, like *decades* in the D.A.'s office, big time careers, and they're faced with a high profile case that's so weak on evidence that the top prosecutor in the D.A.'s office and lead prosecutor in the trial, didn't want to file. What do they *have* to do? *Anything* to convict, *obviously!*"

"Fourth," he held up 4 fingers, "Jackson, the second chair prosecutor, did the 'heavy lifting' on the 'anything' part," Goodwin said, "They had to ask themselves how in the heck can we convict on such flimsy evidence? So the lead detective, Marc Lillienfeld of the L.A. Sheriff's Department, came up with their answer. *Voilà!* Lillienfeld magically produced all this 'new' evidence that hadn't existed for 18 years! Trouble is, I can document that most of it was false, manufactured by Lillienfeld. Flat out! There's no question about that!" Goodwin was emphatic. "Rigged?" he asked, "Yeah, *rigged!* They *had* to get a conviction, regardless of what the *real* evidence pointed to." Goodwin added, "We've got so much evidence of their malfeasance that, if the Supreme Court orders a new trial, there's no way the L.A.D.A. can possibly undo all of it and the two prosecutors responsible, Dixon and Jackson, aren't at the D.A.'s office anymore to defend it." Goodwin added, parenthetically, with a wry smile, "I wonder why they both left after all those years of prosecuting? Go figure!"

"One more thing, number five, but that isn't *all* that points to a wrongful conviction," Goodwin said as we were leaving the R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility, where he's now housed, serving two life terms without parole, "There's that bogus \$1 million reward? How much of a role do you think that played in this conviction? There are cases where a *two thousand dollar* reward changed critical testimony in murder trials and led to conviction. And, in this trial there was *one million dollars* hanging in the balance. Can we say that a *million dollar reward* had *no* effect on that trial?" Goodwin smiled, and, again, parenthetically, "I wonder how much of that was ever paid?"

Rigged?" he said, "Yeah, *rigged!* When the public sees the massive, documented evidence we've got in the appeal and in the habeas writ that we're prepared to file in the highly unlikely event the Supreme Court upholds the conviction, there'll be some heads turned, like in the movie 'The Exorcist,' and there'll be no question but that the trial *was* rigged, an extreme example of my wrongful conviction, big time! The City of L.A. convicted an innocent man and I've been in prison for 13 years!" Goodwin said, sadly.