

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

----- X
STATE OF FLORIDA,
:

Plaintiff,
:

Case Nos.: 1988-CR-5355
1988-CR-5356

- vs. -
:

WILLIAM THOMAS ZEIGLER, JR.,
:

Defendant.
----- X

STATE OF FLORIDA)

) ss:

COUNTY OF ORANGE)

AFFIDAVIT OF SUSAN AMBLER GRADEN

I, Susan Ambler Graden, being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. I am available to testify under oath to the facts alleged below, should an evidentiary hearing be scheduled. My address is: _____ |

My telephone number is _____.

2. I was born: _____ and lived in Winter Garden, Florida from 1972 until 1978.

3. My mother managed a Gulf gas station located at the northwest corner of Dillard Street and Highway 50 in Winter Garden, Florida. The station was diagonally across from the Zeigler furniture store.

4. Inside the station, there was a small convenience store.

5. Although the gas station usually closed at 6 pm, my mother decided to keep the store open later than usual on December 24, 1975, in contrast to the many stores that were closed for the holiday. I accompanied her while she worked there that night.

6. After dusk, we had locked the doors to the store, but kept a window near the counter and register open so that my mother could still transact business. A man appeared through the open window. He was very large, over six feet tall, had a broad build and face and had a very short neck. With a Southern accent, he told my mother to give him all of her money. He then showed her a gun.

7. My mother grabbed the barrel of the gun and started screaming at him and threatening him. She refused to give him anything. The man ran away, empty handed.

8. I watched the man run across the intersection, kitty corner into the woods.

9. After the man ran off, my mother called the police. Within minutes, Police Chief Robert Thompson arrived at the gas station. My mother asked Chief Thompson how he got there so quickly and he said he heard about her call over the police radio.

10. I recognized Chief Thompson when he arrived at the gas station that night because I had seen him many times before. He and my mother knew each other, and he often filled up his gas tank at the Gulf station.

11. Chief Thompson spoke with my mother about the robbery. He took out a notebook, but he did not write much down. He asked my mother if she needed him to stay until she left, but she told him that she had a lot of things to finish up in the store and so he left.

12. My mother made a call to a friend and neighbor, the late Donald Dugan, to ask him to come to escort us home. Mr. Dugan and his wife lived in the Winter Garden motel and did not have a phone in their room, but we left a message for him with the motel manager.

13. After Chief Thompson left, but before Mr. Dugan arrived, we heard what we thought at first were fireworks, but later understood to be gunshots. We heard a second round approximately twenty minutes later.

14. Mr. Dugan finally arrived at the gas station. Before we all left to go home, we heard police cars driving past the gas station to the Zeigler furniture store. As more police cars arrived, the three of us went outside to look at the store to watch some of the activity. We then went home.

15. Later that evening, when my mother and I were home and I had already been put into bed, Chief Thompson stopped by to inquire how we were doing. My mother spoke to him very briefly.

16. I do not recall the police following up with my mother about the robbery after that evening.

17. Years later, I watched the movie *The Green Mile* with my mother. We both were shocked because we both thought that one of the actors in it, Michael Clarke Duncan, looked extremely similar to the man who attempted to rob us on December 24, 1975.

18. On or about April 11, 2011, I saw an article on the internet about a press conference given by Lynn Marie Carty regarding the case against William Thomas Zeigler, Jr.

19. I contacted Ms. Carty that day and informed her of the robbery. I provided her with a physical description of the individual who tried to rob my mother and me on December 24, 1975. I also noted that the individual strongly resembled Mr. Duncan.

20. Ms. Carty subsequently showed me two photographs, attached hereto as Exhibits A and B. I identified the image of the individual in Exhibit A as the individual who attempted to

rob my mother and me. The image in Exhibit B does not have as clear an image of the individual's face, but I believe this to be an image of the same individual.

Under penalty of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing affidavit and that the facts stated in it are true.

Further affiant sayeth naught.

Susan Ambler-Graden
Susan Ambler Graden

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the 3rd day of April, 2012, by Susan Ambler-Graden, who produced a valid Florida driver's license as identification or is personally known to me.

Rebecca Gail Bowen
Notary Public, State of Florida
My Commission Expires

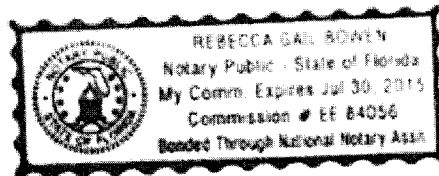


Exhibit A

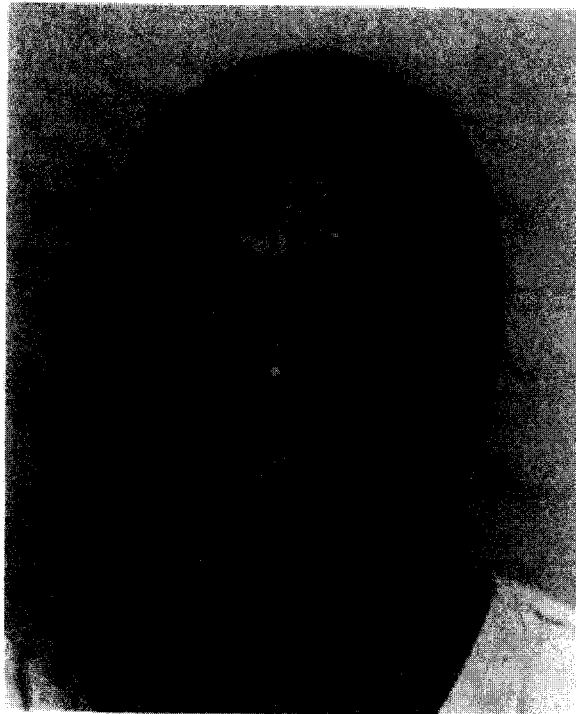


Exhibit B

