

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF GRANVILLE

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

FILED<sup>75</sup> CRS 6128

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,

v.

2014 OCT 17 A 11:03

WILLIE HENDERSON WOMBLE

GRANVILLE CO., C.S.C.

BY *W. Thomas Burnette*

DECISION OF THE THREE-JUDGE PANEL PURSUANT TO N.C. GEN. STAT. § 15A-1469

THESE MATTERS came on for hearing before the undersigned Judges of the Superior Court sitting as a Three-Judge panel appointed by the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court pursuant to N.C. GEN. STAT. § 15A-1469(a) at a special session of the Granville County Superior Court to hear evidence relevant to the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission's recommendation in the case of the State of North Carolina v. Willie Henderson Womble, File Number 75 CRS 6125.

The State of North Carolina was represented by District Attorney Samuel B. Currin, III. Willie Henderson Womble ("Womble"), the convicted person, was present at all times and was represented by J. Thomas Burnette, Attorney at Law. The evidence consisted of the brief prepared by the Innocence Inquiry Commission staff (Hearing Exhibit 1), the transcript of the Innocence Inquiry Commission hearing held on June 2-3, 2014 (Hearing Exhibit 2), the hearing handouts from the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission (Hearing Exhibit 3), and the opinion of the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission (Hearing Exhibit 4). All of the exhibits were previously submitted to the undersigned Judges for review and consideration prior to the hearing held herein.

Upon review of the Hearing Exhibits and the other information made available to State and Womble, which consisted of several thousand pages of documents, District Attorney Samuel B. Currin, III agreed and consented on behalf of the State of North Carolina, that Womble has proved by clear and convincing evidence that he is innocent of the murder of Roy Brent Bullock on November 18, 1975.

N.C. GEN. STAT. § 15A-1469(1) provides that a "Claim of factual innocence" means a claim on behalf of a living person convicted of a felony in the General Court of Justice of the State of North Carolina asserting the complete innocence of any criminal responsibility for the felony for which the person was convicted and for any other reduced level of criminal responsibility relating to the crime, and for which there is come credible, verifiable evidence of innocence that has not previously been presented at trial or considered at a hearing granted through post-conviction relief.

N.C. GEN. STAT. § 15A-1469 provides that the three-judge panel shall rule as to whether the convicted person has proved by clear and convincing evidence that the convicted person is innocent of the charges. Such a determination shall require a unanimous vote. If the vote is unanimous

the panel shall enter a dismissal of all or any of the charges. If the vote is not unanimous, the panel shall deny relief.

N.C. GEN. STAT. § 15A-1470 provide that there is no right to any further review of the decision of the three-judge panel but the convicted person retains the right to other post- conviction relief.


The panel members have now considered N.C. GEN. STAT. § 15A-1460, et seq., and all of the evidence presented and the arguments of counsel for the State and Womble, the convicted person. The matter is now ripe for decision.

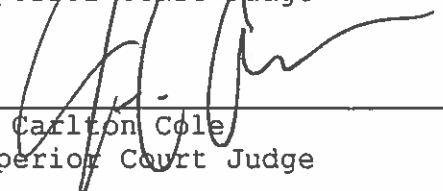
The unanimous decision of the three-judge panel of the Superior Court Judges is that the defendant, Willie Henderson Womble, the convicted person, has proved by clear and convincing evidence that he is innocent of the murder of Roy Brent Bullock on November 18, 1975.

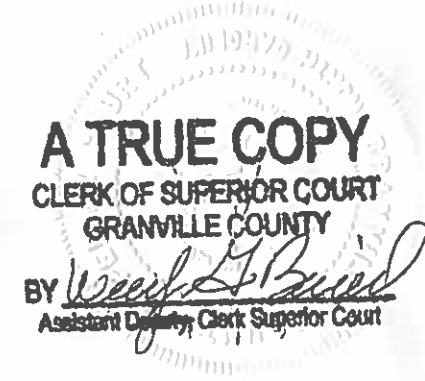
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to the decision of the three-judge panel and N.C. GEN. STAT. § 15A-1469, that the relief sought by the convicted person, Willie Henderson Womble, is granted and that the charge of murder of Roy Brent Bullock on November 18, 1975 is hereby DISMISSED. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Willie Henderson Womble be immediately released from custody pursuant to the policies of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. The Clerk of Court shall furnish a certified copy of this decision to the Department of Public Safety, Combined Records Section.

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

  
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Vance Bradford Long  
Superior Court Judge

  
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Phyllis M. Gorham  
Superior Court Judge

  
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J. Carlton Cole  
Superior Court Judge

  
**A TRUE COPY**  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
GRANVILLE COUNTY

BY   
Assistant Deputy Clerk Superior Court