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Report Number: 2004-67-001

Opened: March 14, 2004

Closed: Ongoing

Case Agent: Bill E. Branscum

Client: Law Firm of Robert Bernhoft

Report Title: Indiana v. Wesley Snipes; The Sworn Statement of Lanise Pettis

Synopsis:

On March 14, 2004, the Law Firm of Robert G. Bernhoft [the Firm], 207 E Buffalo Street, Suite 600, Milwaukee, WI 53202; (414) 276-3333 Voice, (414) 276-2822 Fax, contacted Oracle International [the Agency] with regard to a paternity action, New York City Family Court Case No. U-8716/01, styled Lanise Pettis, Petitioner v. Wesley Snipes, Respondent, formerly LaPorte, Indiana Cause Number 46D01-0106-RS-143.

On April 24, 2004, I interviewed Ms. Pettis at her residence in Michigan City, Indiana. The record reflects that Ms. Pettis has always admitted to being a crack addicted prostitute; as evidenced by this transcript, she is profoundly delusional, alleging that she has been the victim of various plots, claiming to have given birth to numerous children that were inexplicably spirited away to places unknown, and describing her personal relationships with several celebrities and politicians, including; Wesley Snipes, Michael Jordan, Denzel Washington, Oprah Winfrey, Prince, and former President, Bill Clinton – with whom she claims to be biologically related.

I am an experienced investigator, and I am completely satisfied that Ms. Pettis is entirely innocent of evil intent. While I have no doubt that Client Snipes is furious, and properly so, this transcript should reveal that Ms. Pettis has also been victimized by the egregious prosecutorial misconduct that created this situation. In reading Ms. Pettis' statement, consider what any first-year law student could do to this woman on a witness stand, ponder the potential consequences to her mind, and ask yourself what manner of person would risk subjecting this woman to that.

I trust that no one will be disappointed that I was as gentle with her as I knew how to be.

1 [Inv. Branscum] The following is a tape-recorded statement provided by Lanise Pettis. Today's
2 date is April 24, the year 2004, and the time is approximately 11:45 in the afternoon. The
3 statement is being taken at the residence of Lanise Pettis . . .

4 [L. Pettis] ██████████ Michigan City, Indiana.

5 [Inv. Branscum] I have identified myself to Lanise Pettis as Bill E. Branscum, a private
6 investigator retained by the law firm of Bob Bernhoft, out of Milwaukee Wisconsin, who has
7 recently been retained by Wesley Snipes

8 [Inv. Branscum] Also present in the room are Chicago private investigator Bill Wagner, and
9 Indiana private investigator Dennis Hyten.

10 [L. Pettis] May I have his card or something?

11 [Inv. Branscum] Ummm, you can have that one.

12 [L. Pettis] OK.

13 [Inv. Branscum] Dennis, would you introduce yourself for the tape?

14 [Inv. Hyten] Sure, Dennis Hyten, a private investigator from Valparaiso, Indiana.

15 [Inv. Branscum] And Mr. Wagner?

16 [Inv. Wagner] I'm Bill Wagner, a private investigator in Illinois.

17 [Inv. Branscum] Miss Pettis, would you acknowledge for the record that you are aware I am
18 tape recording the statement?

19 [L. Pettis] Yes, I am. I am aware of it.

20 [Inv. Branscum] Do you understand that this is a sworn statement, in that when we get to the
21 end of it you will be asked to swear or affirm that the statement is complete and correct to the
22 best of your knowledge and belief?

23 [L. Pettis] Yes Sir, I do understand that.

24 [Inv. Branscum] Miss Pettis, I want to make clear to you that my role, with regards to this
25 inquiry, is to fairly, objectively and open-mindedly developed the facts. I don't have any ax to
26 grind here, I don't have an agenda, I don't have a personal interest or a conflict – I just want you
27 to tell us what has happened here.

28 [L. Pettis] OK

29 [Inv. Branscum] I am going to ask you a series of questions intended to guide you through your
30 statement, chronologically, but I don't intend that any question limit you to yes or no answer.

31 [L. Pettis] OK.

32 [Inv. Branscum] You understand that although yes or no answers are fine if fully responsive to
33 the question, you're free to say anything you like in response to any question I asked or interject
34 anything you feel that you want to say.

35 [L. Pettis] OK.

36 [Inv. Branscum] Miss Pettis, where and when were you born?

37 [L. Pettis] I was born in Chicago. 1971, my birth address on my certificate is 1308 North Bell
38 Street, in Chicago.

39 [Inv. Branscum] And your Social Security number?

40 [L. Pettis] My number is [REDACTED]

41 [Inv. Branscum] OK. Where did you grow up?

42 [L. Pettis] Chicago.

43 [Inv. Branscum] Who did you grow up with, I mean, who raised you?

44 [L. Pettis] My grandmother primarily raised me. I was raised by different family members, I
45 was partially in Michigan City off and on, and in Chicago, off and on. Mainly Chicago, though.
46 [Inv. Branscum] OK and what is your mother's name?
47 [L. Pettis] Patrice Pettis.
48 [Inv. Branscum] And your father's name?
49 [L. Pettis] Rutdolph Roberts.
50 [Inv. Branscum] OK, and have you ever been married?
51 [L. Pettis] No.
52 [Inv. Branscum] OK. The thing we're here to discuss with you today is the paternity action that
53 has been filed in New York regarding Israel . . .
54 [L. Pettis] Israel Pettis, yes.
55 [Inv. Branscum] How many children do you have?
56 [L. Pettis] Honestly, Sir, if you really-I understand that this is a sworn statement-I am only
57 linked to three of my kids, but I have more than three children.
58 [Inv. Branscum] How many children do you have?
59 [L. Pettis] There's nine of them. I became involved with the actor Wesley Snipes at the age of
60 12, I became impregnated at 12 and gave birth to my first child at 13. My parents sent me away
61 to a maternity camp in the lower part of the state in Illinois. Now that is the real story. I
62 understand that I did not fully explain that to the court system, because it only causes me more
63 problems and what I want you to understand today, Sir, is that I have been wrongfully charged or
64 responded against as if I have some sort of malicious intent to bring down Wesley Snipes career

65 to bring down his marriage and his family and I am telling you that all that stuff is trumped up,
66 and it's made up, if I cannot *prove* that, I still do *know* that.

67 OK and I'm not finished yet, I'm not cutting you off, I am just letting you know that if
68 you guys really want to represent this gentleman, this is what the truth is, and that child's name is
69 Deuteronomy Estradas Snipes. Wesley Snipes, real name is Jesus Estradas. He was born in
70 Cuba. That is the truth. He is not from New York, he is from Chicago. He is my biological
71 cousin. He and I share Hispanic ancestry - it's just that when the people immigrated some stuck
72 with Afro-American, some stuck within Latino ranges, and some stuck within the White ranges
73 of family. But when I say that I understand that the court system only recognizes within third or
74 fourth generations as being kin. He and I are five generations separated again from one another
75 through again family ancestry.

76 I swear to *you* that he's the one who's lying, not me. I had my second child by the time I
77 turned sixteen...

78 **[Inv. Branscum]** And what was that child's name?

79 **[L. Pettis]** Her name is Silver Estradas Snipes. Now her, she also has a different name, is
80 Christine Miller. My kids were adopted out. My parents are not gonna tell you this. This is a
81 case that I have been fighting every since Mahogany.

82 So now I believe you are up to 1989 when Brandon Hammond was born, the actor –
83 that's my son too. His real name is Rashan Almadillo, OK? Now Lauren ...

84 **[Inv. Branscum]** Who is Rashan . . . who's Rashan's father?

85 **[L. Pettis]** Wesley Snipes.

86 [Inv. Branscum] OK so the first three children were all born of . . . Wesley Snipes was the
87 father?

88 [L. Pettis] Wesley Snipes is the father, OK, and this is something that I know for sure.

89 [Inv. Branscum] Now well, of course, at that age, I don't imagine that you were involved with
90 other guys ...

91 [L. Pettis] No, I was not promiscuous at the age of 12, and again I know him through family
92 networking and family circles, and I do say that my family is aware of this.

93 What has happened throughout the years I have absolutely no idea. Everyone absolutely
94 says that I have a *mental* disorder. I have never had a mental problem. The accusations against
95 me that I have a mental disorder, didn't come about until 1998, when I became pregnant with
96 Mahogany Snipes.

97 And this is what I want you guys to understand -- now is my time to speak. I am against
98 the wall here, I am not the perpetrator of a fraudulent lawsuit, I am the victim.

99 [Inv. Branscum] Now let me ask you, and I don't mean to interrupt you, but are the Beckman's
100 aware that there is actually more than one child involved in this?

101 [L. Pettis] I discussed Brandon with them. At the time that I spoke to attorney Beckman, I was
102 so upset... attorney Beckman took me through the initial grilling process, and I felt at that time,
103 the more I say, the more trouble I get into -- everyone goes "Noooooooo," and then they try to act
104 and pretend as though they want to help me so much, because these things never happened and
105 they'll say things like, "***I don't care what we say to her, we can't get through her, she's***
106 ***determined about this, she really thinks that these things did occur she's made all of these***

107 *things up in her mind, and she believes herself,"* and things of that such, and that was the
108 situation that I was under.

109 So I figure in order to gain my independence from those statements, I would just stick to
110 the issue of Israel. Now my memory is not quite clear, but I know that the case just circulates
111 around Israel. That is why I wanted to know specifically, who hired you, because you see, even
112 though the case may be a shaky background, a judge did preside over it and everything legally
113 that Mr. Snipes argued initially, we got past that in court. Nobody is waving around support for
114 me it was just the legality of the case, that's the only reason why I gained the right to have a
115 paternity test taken with him--order of judgment, basically, the judge had no choice but to give
116 me the order of judgment, your client was insufficient in court, his secretary, and I am loosely
117 quoting, from the documents. I apologize that I do not have my documents on hand, I have
118 personal emotional issues, and I just wanted to throw it away, I had gotten past that.

119 In December 2002 he was ordered to take the test, this is not something that we just
120 jumped up and decided to take the test and fly... I don't know if you, you know, what legal
121 background you've really been given here.

122 [Inv. Branscum] Well let me answer that you know, maybe we can save some time. The answer
123 to that is very simple, and it's like none, because Bob Bernhoft, as I told you, was recently hired,
124 and of course he's going to have access to whatever the files were in the actual case file, and
125 basically he's asked me to just go out and do what, evidently, nobody has really done... is go out
126 and talk to you and find out what's actually gone on here.

127 [L. Pettis] No one has spoke to me, I have been labeled as a liar, Rob Beckman and the team up
128 there have made me feel comfortable in saying from a legal standpoint, if you're telling the truth,

129 were going to pursue it and were going to me behind you all the way, but I understand if I am not
130 telling the truth that its me who's in hot water.

131 Rob Beckman has stated to me also that they are the only ones, basically who knew of the
132 case who were in support of getting it done, even if just for technical, technical reasons.

133 OK, I assure you that though I have no proof, I am not lying.

134 Wesley Snipes, again, his name is Jesus Estradas. He did not speak English when he
135 came to Chicago, because members of my family who are members of both of our families, it's
136 just that on certain sides of the families they are closely related to him and then distant from me
137 and vice-versa. My close relatives but yet his distant relatives are the ones that taught him
138 English and by then, he was already school-age.

139 [Inv. Branscum] Now where are the first children that you named, where are they now?

140 [L. Pettis] My kids are, to the best of my knowledge, they are in the United States military.
141 Deuteronomy spelled just like the Bible, I'm sorry that I get tripped up sometimes--I don't want
142 to misspell my son's name, but it's just like the Bible, D U T O R O N O M Y, they are both in
143 the military.

144 OK, now this is what the issue his--I'm going to have to give you the paternity of all of
145 my kids. Lauren Johnson, the young – the little girl that you met at my grandmother's house, she
146 is biologically Wesley Snipes' daughter. Lauren has a twin named Lanar, their names are Lanar
147 Zachariah Estradas Snipes and Lauren's name is Lorena Adorier Zion Estradas Snipes, they're
148 twins.

149 He has the twin.

150 [Inv. Branscum] He has the twin?

151 [L. Pettis] He has the twin. Now after that, now I spoke once before that a doctor had violated
152 me before, and a doctor did violate me, fertility wise. I was tested one time, as part of a routine
153 checkup, and actually this goes back to a very long time ago, but it was still in my file some kind
154 of way, because the doctors had traces of this, my body is over active in the fertility area, believe
155 it or not, but it is. So I produce twins very easily. Basically, medically I am ideal for someone
156 who is a candidate to be infertile, for them to use my fertility. So as a way of intimidation once
157 before, one of my eggs was implanted with Wesley Snipes sperm, someone else carried her but
158 that child is alive, now that baby was born in 95, her name is Donatia Noel Estradas Snipes.

159 So if you can trace Wesley Snipes, and if he has kids, and I don't know what he has
160 changed their names to, but if their names, if their real names after you get through all the
161 rhetoric, the red tape and the paperwork, if their names are Rashan Almadillo, a/k/a Brandon
162 Hammond, who will be 15 years old this summer, Lanar Zachariah, probably, a.k.a. may be
163 Lamar, and also Donatia Noel, and I believe they changed her name several times, she'll be nine
164 years old. OK so Lanar is the twin to Lauren.

165 Now we get down to Mahogany, her name is Mahogany Eljaha Snipes, but somewhere
166 along the line there is a literal name change. I spoke of Mexico, so this is going to have to go
167 basically country to country, international, Mahogany's name is Marguerite Mahogany Eljaha
168 Snipes. That is her real name.

169 Now we get down to Israel. Now to the best of my knowledge, Israel's real name is
170 probably filed as, Israel Prophesia Terrell Estradas Snipes, or Israel Prophesia Wesley, but I
171 think it's Terrell.

172 Now if I have provided only half of statements it's because I can't prove the rest of it, and
173 the only thing that I have gotten was accusations back that I'm a liar, and I'm going, "**I'm not**
174 **lying.**" Then, what I spoke of earlier, it started folding over into, "**You just have a mental**
175 **disorder that you can't control, and it's not your fault. Now we want to talk about putting you**
176 **on medication.**"

177 [Inv. Branscum] Who's talking about that?

178 [L. Pettis] This is, this is what took place over at DCFS in '98 with Mahogany. I spent two
179 weeks at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, over in the Wicker Park neighborhood, that is located on
180 Clermont and Hirsch, another cross street would be Oakley and Hirsch, Oakley and Lamoins,
181 and that was where it went, and that's the way it was dismissed, basically as being that.

182 So Wesley Snipes, I think his office was contacted, they had no knowledge of me, they
183 don't know nothing about this baby, he wasn't traveling in Chicago, she is on drugs, un-uh, they
184 washed their hands of the whole thing.

185 Well, I did come in contact with him a little bit later, but what I'm saying is, I have
186 always had contact with him, I don't know what his problem is denying me at this point. I don't
187 feel from a moral standpoint and a characteristic standpoint, I'm coming against a whole society
188 that has paperwork, about something that I'm telling you was made up.

189 When Wesley Snipes went to New York, he left Indiana going there, and he had already
190 been in trouble, and he was granted the chance to get away and make his life better, but he was
191 under some sort of... I don't know if it was witness protection or what, and that's the basis of how
192 his name got changed through some family associations.

193 The name Wesley Snipes was a kid from Florida, who was younger than him, but when
194 he changed his name from Bernard Badey, is because Bernard Badey or Bernardo Badey, which
195 is probably his first name because he's Spanish, Bernardo Badey had a record, and whomever
196 turned 18 years old, Wesley Snipes did not have a record, so he changed his name to a cousin of
197 his name.

198 An investigator called me up when the case first got started, I don't know if you guys are
199 aware of... well, I got reported when this case got started saying that I was prostituting and using
200 drugs, and I denied that, I said, "*Listen that is not true and I don't know where this is coming*
201 *from.*" But it's just ironic to me how I got that phone call March of 2002 and the case got
202 underway April of 2002, yet there was already at that point, I believe that that point, New York
203 had already accepted the case, and said there will be a court date.

204 So to prove that, I called the caseworker back, which was child services, and I said,"
205 Listen, I'm going to take a drug test right now," and child services came over to my house within
206 the hour, and I hopped on a city bus, I was down to the local hospital, and I took a drug test, and
207 never heard anything else about it, nothing at all.

208 So, what I'm saying to you is that my past, ... lifestyle, or example ... , I want to stay away
209 from saying, "state of mind," because I know that I'm not crazy, but not taking care of myself,
210 being promiscuous, having different sexual partners, is the scapegoat here. People are not
211 dealing with the real issue here

212 So, the problem that I'm having with this whole thing, going through this whole thing,
213 and reliving it all again, is I have already fought through this red tape. The investigator called

214 me and said, "Listen, you know, I don't think that you know my client, this is mistaken identity,
215 some guy in Chicago running around using Wesley Snipes' name."

216 All right, well he must've been using Wesley Snipes name when I was 12 then, but, you
217 know, I didn't say anything to him. I said listen to the best of my knowledge, Wesley Snipes was
218 born in Mexico, and I gave him just some basic information. He called me back, I don't want to
219 give a time frame because I don't remember now, but he called me back and he said that I was
220 correct, that there is a Jesus Estrada, that was born in Cuba, and he, I guess he eventually did
221 change his name to Wesley Snipes.

222 So I was under the impression that this investigator felt, well hey, maybe she is onto
223 something, but after his secondary, second step in the investigation, he dismissed his
224 investigation as mistaken identity, because Wesley Snipes was born in Florida, which still
225 conflicts everything he has ever publicly said, that he was born and raised in New York. But yet
226 this investigator told me that he was born in Florida.

227 So I just said," fine." And what I was under the impression was, the reason why the case
228 didn't go through was that if I'm saying that Wesley Snipes has another birth name, we need to
229 file under the birth name. So that is how the paperwork did go through.

230 I'm literally ... I don't know if Rob Beckman will talk to you, or let you examine any of
231 the paperwork, it went through a.k.a. Wesley Snipes. We want Bernard Badie, birth name Jesus
232 Estradas, who we still say is Wesley Snipes, who under an entertainment contract many years
233 ago was able to take on that name as well as a public profile as to who he is and where he was
234 educated, and what he has become now.

235 That is what the backbone of my testimony was to them, so somewhere along the line, I
236 don't believe that attorney Beckman has shared every legal possibility with me for confidential
237 reasons.

238 [Inv. Branscum] Well, have you shared all ... I mean, have you explained to attorney Beckman
239 all of this, I mean, do they have a clear concept of everything?

240 [L. Pettis] I did not explain, no, I didn't explain everything to them, again, for what I said, for
241 fear of being wrongfully incarcerated, and saying I have no family support regarding this. It is
242 not like people do not know this, they do know it, and if somebody was going to say, "Well, hey
243 listen, this is the backbone ..." I can understand, I am a mature enough person to know, they don't
244 know who technically, if you aren't there to see anything, then you wouldn't physically and
245 honestly know.

246 But, to meet me up to half way in being honest about what has happened, rather than
247 letting, I don't know, some sort of a media swarm, or some sort of false information consume me,
248 as though I'm not the one telling the truth, and I'm the one trying to bring somebody down.

249 That's why I'm really scratching my head about this whole thing--where did Indiana lose
250 him at? Because he did time in Indiana, so now, what are we confused about now?

251 Now another thing is, some look-alike, where is this look-alike? I know that criminals
252 can run for years, I'm not ignorant of that. Yet, there was all this confidence, and this array of
253 charisma, were going to help, were going to find this look-alike guy, and we're going to bring
254 him to justice, you know, and then when there wasn't the charisma, there was the clear cut,
255 strongly said, strongly said, straightforward you know that hard drill, like this, "Now this is not
256 me, this is just somebody trying to bring down my career, or some guy running around fooling

257 women, and going to bed with them and trying to embezzle money under my name, who's
258 running with some theft ring, basically."

259 Then it went from that to, well, this is an attack, character assassination, you know, so
260 again, I have been up through this whole thing. What the explanation is, what I think maybe
261 going on, you know, I can think of a whole bunch of possibilities.

262 I've already spoke of these possibilities, I've told Rob Beckman there was a level of abuse
263 that was happening. I've told them that I've been abused, I've told him that I was also threatened
264 regarding music, that my endeavors in music or television would never come true if I spoke of
265 things that were happening in the doctor's offices, or things that happened behind, basically, the
266 casting couch ...

267 [Inv. Branscum] Who threatened you?

268 [L. Pettis] That's where the haze comes in at. I know that I was threatened, but it's really hard to
269 pinpoint at that point, who. Because I still say that I have been drugged or poisoned with what I
270 now know, or at least then knew what would be GHB, this was before the date rape drug had
271 made headway, and the knowledge of the public as to what it what it was. I would come home
272 feeling like I had had sexual activity, and I wouldn't recall being sexually active.

273 My grandmother would make really strange statements to me. As a youth, I was
274 rebellious, yes, but my grandmother and I would argue, as though like just dogs arguing with
275 each other. She would be telling me that I said something and did something, and I wouldn't
276 recall it, and then I would say," I didn't do that." And, I mean, we would just and you know,
277 later on, it dawned on me that my grandmother had been poisoned his well. But I can't discuss
278 that with my grandmother, because she doesn't except that that's a possibility. She doesn't think

279 that things such as hypnosis is a reality. She doesn't believe that she couldn't possibly been
280 somewhere and someone may have recognized her and maybe slipped her a Mickey. You know,
281 not in a drink of alcohol per se, just at a restaurant or maybe, perhaps a local setting, somewhere
282 of trust.

283 What I'm talking about is things that happened many years ago. My grandmother used to
284 be, I don't know if she told you, but she used to be a housekeeper, and my grandmother traveled
285 a lot with the family that she worked for and she would be gone, at times, weeks at a time. It
286 was not an act of negligence, it was just her job.

287 And it was, I guess "often" is what your perception of being "often" is, but I would say
288 family travels during holiday times and things of that such. So a great, great area that is
289 happening – there's a lot of things that occurred that my grandmother doesn't know happened
290 when she either trusted me home alone when she was gone all night, or when she was gone
291 maybe the whole weekend or the entire week.

292 Who she left me in the care of -- I didn't tell *their* secrets. So, you know, that's not
293 something that the court just like OK now then, we need a defense here. You have just, you
294 know, I don't want to seem to be the one that seems like I'm just rambling on. I'm just, but, I'm
295 telling you the truth about some things that have happened in my past. I was sexually active with
296 a man ten years my senior, so you know, if I'm so bad now, what does that make him?

297 And, how in the world now, this ain't Billy Tipton, and I didn't believe that Billy Tipton
298 story when I saw that. How in the world could a woman be married to a man for 30 years and
299 not know that it's a broad, I mean, a woman? I'm sorry, how could he be married to somebody

300 for that long, you know ... some things just don't fit, and that's the thing about what has been
301 sewn airtight against me.

302 Everybody's saying, "Hey listen, we were filming a movie." Yet, the movie that they
303 said that they had filmed at the time in the report was a movie that had already been released, and
304 gone public. This was a movie that they're talking about a couple of years prior to the
305 conception, year of conception, OK. So, this was about, I'm a pretty sure, I want to say this in
306 confidence, this is not arrogance, this is in confidence, when you read this report you will find
307 that his secretary's testimony was insufficient.

308 Wesley Snipes was asked by his lawyer, by the judge, his lawyer was told that if he
309 wanted his affidavit to be seen as a legal affidavit for them to accept his testimony it had to be
310 notarized correctly. If you're going to say that you no longer have any affiliation or residence in
311 New York, then notarize it where you're at. If you're in Florida, notarize it in Florida and send it
312 back. If you have a legal residence here in New York then it is correct, but if you're going to
313 notarize something in New York, and say listen, "*I don't live in New York, I don't work in New*
314 York, I live in Florida," well then it needs to be notarized in Florida and that never happened. So
315 it went to court in April, and that was the initial incident of jurisdiction.

316 Attorney Sloan, you say you're not familiar with said, "*Listen judge, Wesley Snipes, this*
317 *is mistaken identity. Keith Cowans, has already come forward, he is the father of that child.*"
318 Well, by the time he made that statement, we already had some paternity test with Keith Cowans
319 saying negative. So I don't know where along the line there was miscommunication, or why they
320 didn't get that information, but that is the statement that he made in court.

321 OK well, the affidavits were looking in, and of course the judge asked, went through the
322 question process and asked me, you know, my testimony [unintelligible]. They don't really take
323 it seriously, but technically he needs to do something. So now we get another court date. Plus,
324 where are the witnesses, and things of that such, so he says witnesses will be there so we went
325 back to court in May, and I don't think the witnesses came in May either, nor did he have a new
326 affidavit filed either, and by that time, technically, the lawyer didn't have a reason why he didn't
327 have the affidavit filed, unless, I think he said, maybe, "Its being filed," "We didn't have enough
328 time," it was something to that effect, I don't want to quote him but I do know, technically he
329 didn't have it. Our next court date was in June, all this was in 2003.

330 Same thing and I believe it was in June when his secretary testified and we stayed in
331 court all day again. And mind you, the first time we were in court, we were there eight hours.
332 The second time we went to court, we were there are roughly like six hours. So the next time we
333 went to court, it was still a long day. The secretary testified to the same thing twice we listened
334 to her testimony all morning, we had lunch, we came back, and we listened to her testimony
335 again all afternoon. Basically, the final judgment, by the judge, testimony insufficient, motion
336 still denied to have this case dismissed.

337 We get back to court in August, it's nothing but an argument. I think I was there maybe
338 two hours this time. The judge told Wesley Snipes' attorney, then William Sloan, to have
339 whatever document and proof that you need to show that your client did not travel, the case did
340 go on, I forgot to mention this in the beginning, regardless to whatever the name change I said
341 that he's had, regardless of the origin, because they argued all that, he was born and raised in
342 New York or Florida or whatever he said.

343 They argued all that, but the case went on initially, regardless of that. So now I bring you
344 up to August again. A deadline date from August, I believe it was the eighth, to September the
345 27th was given, and the judge said, whatever you have as a defense to have it in by September
346 the 27th. I will look it over, and November the first I will give you my judgment.

347 On November the first we went to court, and I think I was there all of 20 minutes, and he
348 had nothing, zip. The judge basically said, and I don't want to quote the judge, but loosely, he
349 told them what to do, you don't have it, why don't you have it? Attorney Sloan did not have an
350 answer; he basically said he didn't know. The judge said, "Order paternity test taken," basically,
351 he had no choice by that point.

352 OK so, one of the copies that I gave you, December 2002, Israel and I went to Valpro,
353 Indiana, there's a laboratory over there, the name escapes me right now, we took our test. I am
354 under the impression that from there it was flown to New York, now this is December 2002. We
355 were supposed to have the results back in February 2003.

356 We got to court, Attorney Sloan, I loosely quote him as well, did not know why his client
357 did not take the test. Said he did follow the advice of the court but basically, what I'm
358 understanding, is that legally, Attorney Sloan is saying, "***Listen, I did my part. I informed my***
359 ***client, I told him.***"

360 OK, so now but I'm asking the court, Attorney Sloan is asking the court for one more
361 chance to convey the severity of this case to Wesley Snipes, and even though I guess, what they
362 are starting to understand by this point, even though paternity questionable, even though identity
363 questionable, which they are asking him to take it.

364 So then we get there again in May 2003, still no paternity test, again I was only there 15
365 or 20 minutes, the judge said he had no choice but to send it upstairs, I believe the next
366 department was called intake. I, from there, wasn't allowed to participate in any of the hearings,
367 because I was told there was no phone in intake, which I was participating in the hearings by
368 telephonic testimony, over at the support County, and we're basically to the end of it.

369 I think it was late July, when I got just a short memo in the mail from my Attorney here
370 saying, Priscilla Jo Beckman, saying that there was a warrant issued for Wesley Snipes' arrest,
371 basically it's just a bench warrant, the way it was explained to me, if he comes within this
372 jurisdiction, and we are notified about it, he is expected to turn himself in to take the test. This
373 was July 2003, and that's basically, that's what happened.

374 [Inv. Branscum] In talking to your grandmother, one of the things that was kind of disturbing to
375 her is she said that you had told her that you and Wesley Snipes had gotten married, but that the
376 government had told you that you couldn't ...

377 [L. Pettis] Correct. Sure did. There were some people at the time, I told you Wesley Snipes
378 used to be in big trouble. OK, now were talking about somebody who does have a background
379 in drugs. So yeah, and there was members of the government at that time they did identify
380 themselves as government agents. You know at this point if they were literally government
381 agents are not, I mean, who would actually know? I mean, I take the same chance of you guys
382 sitting here today.

383 But, I'm not accusing you guys of that. I'm just saying that the circumstances were very
384 strenuous, they were violent, I witnessed them physically being punched and abused, I was
385 punched and abused, and that's one reason why Brandon Hammond was born at six months. I

386 was six months pregnant, when I gave birth to Brandon Hammond at Loretto Hospital on the
387 Westside, and yeah, I was using drugs that I didn't have a problem, I had just began, I guess with
388 the experimenting process, and now I got my new freedom, 18, basically I can do what I want to
389 do, you know, can't nobody tell me when to come and go, so yes, I was using drugs, and I was
390 smoking alc . . . , drinking alcohol, but had also been physically violated.

391 And the thing about it is, I was taking birth control pills at the time, as well as I went to
392 [s/l Sin South Kedzie] a location in Chicago, that's like a free clinic in our neighborhood. I got a
393 pregnancy result back of negative, but yet a month later, I physically gave birth to a baby. But,
394 yeah, yeah, and I mentioned Tijuana, Mexico . . .

395 [Inv. Branscum] Where did you get married?

396 [L. Pettis] I said, I said it was Tijuana, Mexico, but something else I just didn't mention at all
397 was the marriage that took place in Illinois, and I was under the impression that when I kept
398 talking about this paperwork that I signed, I was under the impression that in 99 I believe it was,
399 a date in 99 I would start to receive all the paperwork that I had been claiming that I signed and
400 had been filed.

401 [L. Pettis] And that's when I [unintelligible] held about delusions, I couldn't remember anything
402 that was accurate to anybody, that would be prudent information at that time, all I got was about
403 denials. I was told that, you know, he's got a girlfriend now, she's Asian and she's pregnant-- I'm
404 like, "**OK with my egg though.**"

405 You know, I am talking about a crew of people, or a clique of people, whatever you want
406 to call a group of people who have conducted criminal acts against people, who I still maintain
407 my innocence. I have had to sit back and watch people I impregnate themselves with my egg

408 and his sperm and claim this is his child. It is his child , but I'm the biological mother. That's the
409 problem I'm dealing with, I don't know where your client is coming from.

410 [Inv. Branscum] Is he aware of those things going on?

411 [L. Pettis] He is aware of it. I'll say that he is aware of it. I mean, I get a call, I called my dad,
412 and you have to understand why I was so angry yesterday, I called my dad, I wanted to reassure
413 my family that I was in no way being fraudulent, I am in no way making these things up, and the
414 only thing I got from a family member of mine who should be fully aware of me having a child
415 when I was 13, seeing as he's the one who sent me away to a maternity camp in the first place--
416 twice! I got a whoopin the second time when I was 16 years old, after my six-week check up,
417 when the doctor said, "You're fine," my father whooped my ass. For the second baby, OK.

418 So now, all of a sudden, don't nobody know what I'm talking about, and its me that needs
419 the help. So if my grandmother is disturbed, I'm damn disturbed *too*, because I was expecting
420 something that I was under the impression was legal, though confidential and not easy to find,
421 Joe Blow shouldn't be able to go and pickup what Lanise Pettis has done over in Mexico, or even
422 here in Chicago, or who signed for her to go when she was just 17.

423 But by the same token, if legitimate gentlemen such as yourself, that take legitimate
424 interest, there's a legal question of legality here, and something should be somewhere. And that's
425 the problem, you know, and then I was told well if I did, this was the the thing that disturbed
426 me. There was talk, somewhere along the line, and in Illinois is well as though it's possible that
427 some paperwork is somewhere, and maybe someone can examine it to see if it is legitimate, but
428 yet, you still, people are still denying that this is the same person, you want to try to separate the
429 two people.

430 When, you know, if I was sexually active with somebody, it wasn't to my knowledge.

431 But yet, that's what they want to use. OK, well, now who's feeling sorry for *you*, because you
432 been hoodwinked? You know, this is the whole thing that's bothering me.

433 [Inv. Branscum] While we were talking to your grandma your sister came over, and we were
434 talking to her a little bit, and she said that one of the things that she found confusing, was that
435 you had had a relationship with Michael Jordan, I think, and she had never seen Michael Jordan
436 or met Michael Jordan and she said that you had indicated to her that you had had a relationship
437 with Michael Jordan.

438 [L. Pettis] I don't know how my sister interpreted anything that I said regarding Michael Jordan,
439 but at this point, if I'm within the legal right of just basically not discussing Michael Jordan
440 regarding my case against Wesley Snipes ... this was the whole thing about people are trying to
441 say, even my sister, now if my sister is going to say that, then I guess she's trying to say that I'm
442 just implicating superstars, regarding ...

443 Yeah, I have met Michael Jordan before, personally, I do not like Michael Jordan, I do
444 not get along with him. On the occasion that we met, I disagree with his philosophy, I think that
445 to a certain degree, there has just been some ground that is lost. I think, you know, that the
446 public has been misinformed about a lot of our celebrities, as though they are more couth than
447 what they really are in person, and that they expect to be treated in a manner that they feel is
448 above everyone else.

449 So, any sexual indication between he and I, I don't remember indicating that to anybody,
450 and at least, not even my sister, because when I started speaking of Wesley Snipes, all of a
451 sudden, nobody knew anything about that. "*Well, you never told us that before.*"

452 So, that part is foggy to me, but I would just like to, I mean, that is not prove anything in
453 my case against Wesley Snipes, even if I did, cause I am not claiming, I'm not filing against
454 Michael Jordan.

455 But personally, I have met Michael Jordan; no, we do not get along, and I do not intend
456 to try to get along with him if I ever see him again. I do not have an intent to try to contact him,
457 I am not a fan, none whatsoever.

458 Him, as well as a whole list of other celebrities and politicians; unh uh, no! I have met
459 them before.

460 [Inv. Branscum] Who else have you met?

461 [L. Pettis] I don't want to go through the list, but if it comes up, if anything directly comes up
462 that I need to try to address, I will try to address that.

463 [Inv. Branscum] Well, cause your sister had named some people, she said that, I guess, Prince
464 had stolen some song lyrics from you, or something?

465 [L. Pettis] I'm never indicated that Prince had stolen any song lyrics from me at all, I like
466 Prince's music and what I said was, just like yesterday, when I brought my notebook down,
467 someone did steal some song lyrics from me, that is true.

468 [Inv. Branscum] But it wasn't Prince?

469 [L. Pettis] I don't ever recall indicating Prince, the only thing I've ever said is that I like his
470 music and that his music is probably parallel to my thoughts, and hmmmmmm, that's strange,
471 you know, something like that, but I don't ever remember saying that Prince stole anything from
472 me, but I have said that, you know, I have been listening to this stuff on the radio, and I could've
473 sworn that was in my notebook, and that I'm the author of that.

474 And I could've sworn that when I passed my lyrics through to certain people, you know, I
475 thought certain things were taken care of on the honor system, and, you know, but no, I have
476 never said that Prince stole any lyrics from me.

477 [Inv. Branscum] Did you, have you ever met Oprah Winfrey?

478 [L. Pettis] I have met Oprah Winfrey before.

479 [Inv. Branscum] Really?

480 [L. Pettis] Uh huh.

481 [Inv. Branscum] How did you meet her?

482 [L. Pettis] I really, I don't remember the exact occasion. There was, I don't know, a dinner, a
483 function, a small dinner function. It was a while ago. But I didn't get a very good impression of
484 her either.

485 What I'm saying is that, years ago, I said, "*Listen, I've met these people, they have a*
486 *background.*" And I indicated, our church, a long time ago, I said this yesterday. A long time
487 ago my family sang gospel music. They were fairly famous, through associations of theirs, on
488 down the line, people just tend to keep contact--sometimes.

489 I mean, you could run into, I speak third person, you, a person within the music realm,
490 may run into the descendent of anybody who was famous at one time. To just avoid naming
491 names, a famous entertainer, there's always the opportunity for those who would like to become
492 a part of television, and whatever your angle is; me, I would take the grass-roots route.

493 Somebody who is not been educated, somebody who just, probably did not live up to
494 their full potential at the time, yet feels that I still would have the same skills as someone else,
495 given the correct training.

496 OK, I don't mean to not answer the question specifically, but I ain't slept with Oprah
497 Winfrey either, so she... you know, so, but no, I do not get along with a lot of people, because I
498 feel that they are a little bit too opinionated, over opinionated towards others in boundaries in
499 areas where they shouldn't be. I can respect a person for their opinions, I don't have to agree
500 with you, I don't have to like you, you don't even have to be welcome in my house, I don't have
501 to come to your house, but I don't attack you, and call you crazy, delusional, detached from
502 reality. Someone who needs help, simply because you may come in my house and see that
503 picture and say, "*Well, that's not Jesus Christ.*"

504 You know, and to people who've been around, maybe you don't quite understand, but to
505 people that's been in a closed circle or to be exposed to people who are completely closed
506 minded. I have ventured outside of the Christian religion, and at one time I did denounce
507 Christianity, so my family thought maybe I was an atheist or gone crazy or something.

508 *"She's running around with these right knowledge people, these Scientologists, she
509 don't believe in Jesus Christ anymore. Oh Lord."* So that caused a whole lot of trouble. I
510 mean, I've got demons, being seen as being a bitch, and things like that. See, some things that
511 people will not acknowledge, what I'm saying is that, a lot of people have taken the results of
512 what has happened, my physical actions, but in the end, and say, look see, we told you that she
513 was headed for trouble, or this and that.

514 [L. Pettis] They are not acknowledging the aggravation, or the, some of the wrongful, I would
515 say wrongful motivations that led to a lot of it. They don't acknowledge, the coals that they put
516 in that fire, to blow that fire up. You know, so what I am saying is, a lot of people haven't held
517 up their end, and the responsibility of just letting bygones be bygones.

518 I have been followed before, I have been tailed by investigators before, and the thing
519 about it is, is that I am the one who is at a loss, because I am just open. I mean, yeah, I used to
520 smoke reefer, if I had a met you five years ago, I would've fired it up around you. What
521 would've happened, I don't know, maybe you would have just took notes on me, or maybe you'd
522 have taken me to jail. But you would know all my business, basically in that aspect.

523 You know, sexual conversations, I have enjoyed myself talking about who, you know,
524 not necessarily who in detail, name wise, but sexual conversations--that's tough. And the thing
525 that bothers me is that, at the time, I was made to feel comfortable like, "*Girl, go on and express*
526 *yourself.*"

527 So, I know what it's like for this whole story in a way to be turned around, and for people
528 not to acknowledge their end, and their dealings, with things. And because I say, "*Yeah, I've*
529 *met some celebrities, I don't like these people personally.*"

530 [Inv. Branscum] Had you met Bill Clinton?

531 [L. Pettis] Yes, I've met Bill Clinton too!!!!

532 [Inv. Branscum] How did you meet Bill Clinton?

533 [L. Pettis] Bill Clinton is related to us; I'm related to Bill Clinton.

534 [Inv. Branscum] Really?

535 [L. Pettis] Yeah.

536 [Inv. Branscum] How are you related to Bill?

537 [L. Pettis] Call Bill up and ask him. I'm the same person.

538 [Inv. Branscum] He won't take my calls.

539 [L. Pettis] Well, listen I'm the same person, I'm sorry, I'm not trying to get off-track here, but
540 you got to understand something. It's that, who I say is a liar, and has been dishonest, and who
541 has deceived the public into thinking, and who has used the forefront of being a liberal, for some
542 activities that probably, well, probably some activities that were not right. And I personally still
543 say that I see the unfolding in this country right now, with this whole war going on in Iraq, and
544 has something to do with things that happened a long time ago, that the public has no idea about,
545 so it didn't just start with Bush and, whatever her name is, and Condoleezza Rice, and August the
546 eighth, and I've made statements such is that.

547 I've said that, yeah, August the sixth or whatever, is important, so I guess these are the
548 things that have been taken out of context. August the sixth is extremely important, because the
549 government wants to know what did you know, and when did you know it. But by the same
550 token, you can't necessarily narrow something as large and as huge of an event as the World
551 Trade Building getting bombed, to one month's time frame of it happening.

552 Something had to go on. Who would want to bomb a financial institute that stabilizes
553 basically the world, rather than being a part of it. Did somebody just get mad one day and blow
554 it up? No. You know, so these are the type of statements that people disagree with me about,
555 and see. I have not been correctly represented here. I'm not being correctly represented, I'm
556 being put in a shell that I'm supposed to think like everybody else thinks.

557 You know, if I say, "Well I have met Bill Clinton, Bill Clinton is biologically related to
558 me." I just told you, my ancestry is Hispanic, OK, so now, all of a sudden, what, I'm supposed to
559 agree? You know, even if it's not basic facts, people talk about things, and if a conversation

560 comes up, and I don't agree, I can choose either to stay out of it, or just wade through it. That's
561 not my area, that's not my forte.

562 So, these are things that have been held against me, that came up in DCFS. I told a lot of
563 things in DCFS, and when they contacted Wesley Snipes, or whomever they contacted, they said
564 Wesley Snipes hasn't traveled to Chicago, he doesn't know this woman, we don't know her, she's
565 not on our security list. And I'm going, "*I better be on the security list.*" You know, and they
566 are going, "No, you ain't." So, that was basically that, that's what happened.

567 [Inv. Branscum] Well, I think that pretty much covers everything I had. Is there anything else
568 that you'd like to say, anything I haven't asked you that I should have asked you?

569 [L. Pettis] No sir, not at this time. I do appreciate you guys coming back, I appreciate you
570 giving me the call, I'll let you know up front that I do intend to contact attorney Robert Beckman
571 here, I contacted him yesterday...

572 [L. Pettis] Get my stuff.

573 [Unintelligible].

574 [L. Pettis] Ok, I contacted attorney Beckman yesterday; did you give him that address and
575 things?

576 [Inv. Branscum] I'm sure that attorney Bernhoft has that.

577 [L. Pettis] OK, I contacted him and told him that you guys were here, I'm glad that you did
578 clarify that because I just wanna say, I'm asking you guys, legally I know you're not on my side,
579 you just want to know what my story is.

580 [Inv. Branscum] Uh huh.

581 [L. Pettis] But the point is, I assure *you*, that your client did not meet the requirements of the
582 court system, and that's the reason why I was granted the judgment of a paternity test. Secondly,
583 this has taken me through this process all over again and I'm the one being falsely incriminated
584 here. If, if, maybe incrimination is a strong word to use, but do you understand what I mean
585 loosely when I say that?

586 [Inv. Branscum] Well, let me just, I just wanna be clear, you don't feel like we are...

587 [L. Pettis] I don't, no no no, I don't feel like that you are, but regardless to you coming in here
588 either shaking me, or simply having this conversation asking me, there's legal ramifications.
589 And there's a legal process that this whole thing must go through. I've been through this legal
590 process already, I've talked to an investigator, I've gone through this process with the State of
591 Indiana--nobody was waiting for me doing a rah rah dance, "***Hey, c'mon we're going to take
Wesley Snipes to court with no proof, no address to drop off the paperwork at, no Social
Security number, or nothing.***"

594 ***"Alright, let me put my career on the line here as the prosecuting attorney for the
county and make a fool out of myself, and waste my time, and not go out here and get some
bum off the street whose your real baby Daddy."*** You understand, this is the type of mentality
597 I'm dealing with.

598 And I do believe that Wesley Snipes, as well as probably others, have had decoys around
599 here, some of the young women, and some of the young men who have been associating with the
600 residents around here, I believe that's who they are. Not all these people are actually their
601 friends.

602 This is just, this is a complex, this is a small-town complex, a lot of young women live
603 out here who are young, just starting out with their own apartment, they have kids, excuse me, so
604 that's the whole residents basically. There may be some, there are some elderly out here, yeah.
605 There's some more stable out here, yeah.

606 But the basic, this residence nine o'clock at night on Friday, this is where the party is.
607 Especially out there. I have never, ever, not one time indulged in anything that goes on outside
608 of my door, I have stood on the porch a couple of times and they ran me back in the house.

609 I have had to deal with that bitch, knowing that Wesley Snipes ain't none of her baby
610 Daddy. I don't remember sleeping with this broad either, so how would she now? And we know
611 she ain't nothing but a dope head. Yeah, I used to be, but what am I *today*? I'm clean and sober,
612 and as a matter of fact, I'm cleaner than you are for making that statement, because you're
613 drinking alcohol, and I'm not.

614 You know, over there, there's been fights and the only thing I said when I called the
615 police I've never said that I really believe Wesley Snipes, and maybe other people have sent
616 decoys over here, and is causing, or adding to the disturbances that's going on out here. There's
617 just been things, just basic neighborhood trouble, loud parties, cussing, glass breaking, there's
618 glass broken in front of my home now, I don't drink, I didn't have that bottle.

619 You know, the girl next door, she's got to have everybody in town at her house. People
620 around here, everybody in town, big family, etc., but I still believe that a lot of the illegal
621 activity, unless they had immunity for firing of a joint, or a blunt, you know, you think you're
622 going to catch Nece up in it, which is one of my nicknames, Nece, Nene, Apple--my nickname

623 was Apple when I was a kid, and a lot of people do know that. So if you think you're going to
624 catch Apple out there, you're not.

625 Because it's just not my lifestyle, and I've had enough of it, and I just feel like I've learned
626 my lesson, and I say that the address at 1330 North Bell is an area that I was, I grew up in
627 partially because I was born over there, so I said that the conception took place at the address
628 1330 North Bell. Those residents no longer live there.

629 That building has been rehabbed, I was asked about Patrick Barnes yesterday, I do not
630 know Reginald Barnes, I wouldn't know him if he came here and jumped rope. But Patrick
631 Barnes, I've been knowing basically all of my life. Those are my mother's friends, they live
632 there, formerly at 1330 North Bell, they were there 30 years before their mamma passed away,
633 and they were financially unable to maintain the property. So it was sold and then rehabbed.

634 I don't know what type of link Goldie would have to my case against Wesley Snipes, I've
635 been trying to figure that one out all night, but I don't have any contact. I have spoke to Arthur
636 Barnes, which is Goldie's oldest brother, and he lives at 69th and Winthorpe, 63rd and
637 Winthorpe, it's not a hard-to-find building, but his name is Arthur Barnes.

638 [Inv. Wagner] North side of Chicago?

639 [L. Pettis] No, the south side. It's either 63rd or 69th, I believe it 69th and Winthorpe, but
640 Arthur Barnes, formerly a resident of 1330 North Bell. Frederick Barnes is in jail and Samuel
641 Barnes to the best of my knowledge is in Atlanta, Georgia. But I, again, what's Goldie got to do
642 with my case, I wouldn't know.

643 But that's I'm mean I don't want to be giving out people's names and subjecting them to
644 an investigation that not pertaining to these gentleman.

645 [Inv. Branscum] I don't see as going to talk to them.

646 [L. Pettis] OK.

647 [Inv. Branscum] Anyway, in closing, I need to ask you to state whether or not any of us have
648 offered you anything or threatened you with anything or somehow frightened or coerced you into
649 talking to us, or anything like that.

650 [L. Pettis] OK, I willingly state that the three gentleman here who have identified themselves,
651 I'm sorry your names escaped me, my memory, at this time. I, Lanise Pettis, do not feel in
652 anyway that I have been coerced into making any of the statements, or bribed, or offered
653 anything. I don't feel that I was threatened today at all.

654 Honestly, I appreciate you guys coming by, and being as cordial as you have and patient
655 as you have, I just resent this process again.

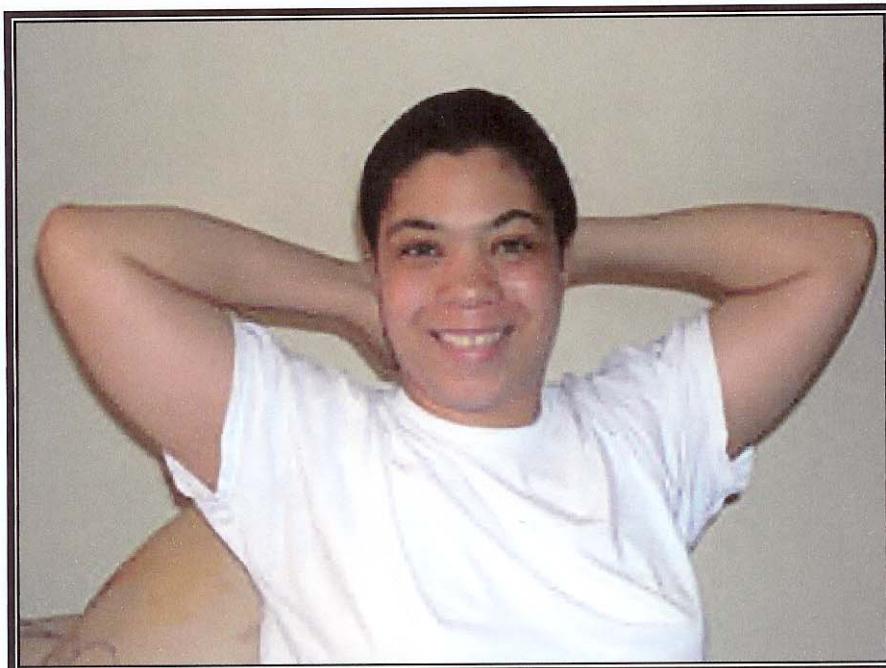
656 [Inv. Branscum] Well, OK, I need to ask you if you know what perjury is.

657 [L. Pettis] I do know what perjury is, it's making false statements under the oath to the law, law
658 authority.

659 [Inv. Branscum] So, mindful of your obligation to tell the truth in a sworn statement do you
660 swear or affirm that the statements that we have recorded them on this tape, are true and correct
661 to the best of your knowledge and belief?

662 [L. Pettis] Yes I do. I swear that they are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and
663 belief and as well as my memory.

664 [Inv. Branscum] I appreciate that. And that will conclude the statement of Lanise Pettis, the
665 time is now 1238 in the afternoon on April 24. Thank you very much.



Lanise Pettis
(This pose was unsolicited)

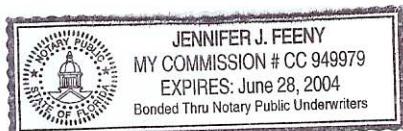
* * * * *

I, Bill E. Branscum, hereby certify that I have carefully reviewed the foregoing, and it is an accurate transcription of the tape-recorded sworn statement provided to me by Lanise Pettis on April 24, 2004.

Bill E. Branscum

Subscribed and sworn before me this 30th day of April, 2004.
Witness my hand and official seal in Collier County, Florida.

(SEAL)



Notary Public, State of Florida

Expires: June 28, 2004