



Opening Argument



Richard A. Brown

Fair And Just Verdict

The verdict in People v. Taylor was a manifestation of the outrage of the residents of this county and the jury's satisfaction that nothing in John Taylor's background and nothing that he could possibly say could ever justify that which occurred in the basement of the Wendy's restaurant on Main Street in Flushing on the night of May 24, 2001. It was among the worst crimes that this City has ever seen.

Shot Execution Style

Seven Wendy's employees, their heads covered with plastic bags, were shot execution-style in a basement freezer of the Flushing fast-food restaurant. It was brutal and it was callous. It was cruel and it was inhuman. It was depraved.

Two employees, incredibly, survived. They testified at the trial. Their testimony was poignant and powerful.

When the jurors spoke after the two-month trial, their unanimous verdict reverberated with justice. They voted for the imposition of the death penalty. Sentence was formally imposed on January 8th.

It was a just result based upon the law and the facts. And it is a result that will be defended on appeal as fairly and appropriately arrived by a jury of John Taylor's peers at a trial -- and during a sentencing proceeding -- at which the defendant's constitutional and statutory due process rights were scrupulously adhered to.

There are many in our office who deserve to be acknowledged -- and praised -- for their work on the

Wendy's case. We could not have asked more of our trial assistants Dan Saunders and Bob Masters. They were superb. They were dedicated, committed and professional. They worked extraordinary hours, nights and weekends. They were everything that one could possibly ask prosecutors to be. I had promised the families of the victims that we would give them our best. And we did.

Behind Dan and Bob was an office-wide support network of which we are equally proud. Our capital litigation legal team of Gary Fidel, John Castellano and Sharon Brodt braced by numerous other attorneys provided crucial support.

The investigation which preceded our prosecution led to arrests within two days of the crime. Prosecutors Greg Lasak, Pete Reese and Patty Malloy worked tirelessly along with hundreds of detectives from both the NYPD and our office.

Worked As Team

From the night of the crime to the day of the verdict, our entire office -- assistant district attorneys, paralegals, secretaries and other support staffers -- worked as a team to do justice. And they made us all proud.

Hopefully -- and in spite of the lengthy appellate process which we face -- the jury's verdict and the imposition of sentence will bring to the families of the victims -- and to the survivors -- a sense of closure; that it will provide them with some degree of comfort and allow them to know that their loss is shared and felt by the entire City.