

BRIAN GURWITZ | LIST OF CASES

PEOPLE V. HAIDL:

Gregory Haidl (son of former Assistant Sheriff Don Haidl) and two of his friends were charged with gang rape after they videotaped themselves sexually assaulting an intoxicated girl on a pool table in the Assistant Sheriff's Corona del Mar home. The defendants were convicted and sentenced to prison.

PEOPLE V. JARAMILLO:

George Jaramillo — the former Chief of Staff to Orange County Sheriff Michael Carona — was convicted of perjury and theft of public funds following a lengthy public corruption probe. Jaramillo was sentenced to a year in jail.

PEOPLE V. CAVALLO:

Joseph Cavallo was a well-known Orange County criminal defense attorney who was convicted of multiple felonies following an investigation that showed he was paying illegal referral fees to bail bond agents in exchange for new clients.

GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION OF JOHN CHAMBERLAIN'S JAILHOUSE MURDER:

John Chamberlain was in custody at the Theo Lacy Facility in Orange when numerous fellow inmates beat him to death during a group assault that may have lasted for 30 minutes or more. Inmates alleged that the beating was instigated by a sheriff's deputy who "outed" Chamberlain as a child molester. While this was never conclusively proved or disproved, the evidence showed that deputies were watching a televised baseball game from their glass control tower just yards away when the murder took place. A lengthy grand jury investigation revealed numerous violations of law and policy by members of the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

PEOPLE V. HAMBARIAN:

This case, one of the lengthiest and most complex prosecutions in Orange County history, involved a multi-million dollar government fraud scheme perpetrated by Jeffrey Hambarian, whose family owned a company that provided garbage collection services in the City of Orange. Hambarian was convicted of 47 felonies and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

PEOPLE V. KLINE:

Orange County Superior Court Judge Ronald Kline was arrested for possessing a large stash of child pornography. The news of his arrest led a citizen to report that Kline molested him many years before, when the victim was a teenager. Federal prosecutors convicted Kline of possessing child pornography, and he was sentenced to federal prison. The state prosecution for child molestation was dismissed when the United States Supreme Court ruled that a statute under which Kline was charged violated the Ex Post Facto Clause of the United States Constitution.

PEOPLE V. ALCALA:

Rodney Alcala was twice convicted and sentenced to death for the 1979 murder of a 12-year-old girl, Robin Samsoe, who was kidnapped in Huntington Beach. Appellate courts reversed his convictions both times. Recently, DNA evidence linked Alcala to four additional murders in Los Angeles County committed during the same time period. As a prosecutor working on Alcala's third case, Brian successfully asked the California Supreme Court to grant review of a lower court's ruling that required Alcala to be tried in different counties for these murders. The Supreme Court agreed with Brian's argument that a single trial in Orange County for all five homicides was permissible.