

TAKE ACTION & TELL MISSOURI:

DO NOT EXECUTE MARCELLUS WILLIAMS

What you should know:

Marcellus Williams is scheduled to be executed on Tuesday, August 22, 2017. He was convicted of the August 11, 1998 robbery and murder of 42-year-old Felicia Gayle in her St. Louis home.



Is Missouri Executing an Innocent Man?

There is *no physical evidence* conclusively linking him to the crime - the DNA evidence does not match Marcellus. Marcellus was convicted based on the testimony of two individuals with troubling pasts and who received monetary compensation. **Marcellus' case calls for further court intervention.**

Missouri's death penalty is broken for many reasons, including but not limited to racial injustice, disparities in representation and sentencing, prosecutorial misconduct, public opinion. These issues are all present in Marcellus Williams' case.

Learn more about the case on the other side of this page and at madpmo.org. See below to take action and **save Marcellus' life.**

CALL MISSOURI GOVERNOR
ERIC GREITENS:

573-751-3222

CALL MISSOURI ATTORNEY
GENERAL JOSH HAWLEY:

573-751-3321

Sign the petition at:

change.org/p/eric-greitens-stop-the-execution-of-marcellus-williams.

Marcellus Williams could be innocent.

- In 2015, the Missouri Supreme Court stopped the scheduled execution of Marcellus Williams to allow DNA testing of forensic evidence at the scene. All the DNA on the knife weapon fingernail clippings of blood and skin tissue, and hair samples were tested, and **no DNA evidence matches Marcellus Williams**. Footprints at the scene do not match him either. Marcellus has not confessed to murder, and no witness testimony places him at the scene.
- On February 6, 2017, William's lawyers requested that the Missouri Supreme Court not set an execution date, because, "Mr. Williams has a substantial claim of actual innocence...and intends to **pursue future post-conviction remedies** in the federal courts that have not been fully exhausted." The Court did set the execution date. Currently, Marcellus's lawyers are petitioning the court to have DNA at the scene submitted to known DNA profiles contained in the Missouri DNA database and the FBI's CODIS database for a more-than-possible match that could establish the real killer or killers.
- Marcellus' conviction relies on the testimony of two individuals, Henry Cole and Laura Asaro, who claimed Marcellus confessed to them. Both have substantially troubled pasts and, at trial, gave contradictory and inconsistent statements. According to Marcellus' new lawyers, Cole and Asuro testified "in order to lay claim to a \$10,000.00 reward that was offered for information about the homicide." **Both received some form of consideration** by prosecutor Robert P. McCulloch.
- Marcellus received woefully **inadequate attorney representation at his trial**. His defense failed to present meaningful evidence showing his extremely violent and dysfunctional homelife. Marcellus was abandoned by his father and repeatedly physically and sexually abused. Early on, he was diagnosed with behavior adjustment problems, severe anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder - all diagnosed, but never treated.

Missouri's death penalty is broken.

- As in many death cases in Missouri, prosecutors violated Marcellus Williams' rights by excluding African-Americans from serving on Marcellus' jury, which consisted of 11 white jurors and 1 black juror. Research has found that Missouri prosecutors disproportionately exclude African-Americans from serving on juries. St. Louis County, where Marcellus was sentenced to death row, in particular, has a pattern of **troubling racial disparities in capital cases**. Andre Cole, executed in 2015, and Kimber Edwards were both sentenced by all-white juries.
- **St. Louis County is one of Missouri's deadliest counties**. 80% of Missouri's total executions are concentrated in just 2.4% of its 114 counties -- this suggests that some regions are home to particularly blood thirsty prosecutors and that Missouri's death penalty is carried out with disturbing arbitrariness.
- African-Americans are disproportionately represented on Missouri's death row relative to the state's overall population -- less than a quarter of the Missouri's population is black, yet nearly two-thirds of the Missouri's death row are black. This **overrepresentation of African-Americans on death row** strongly suggests racial bias in the administration of justice.
- In Missouri, homicides involving white victims are **7 times** more likely to result in an execution than those involving African-Americans. Homicides involving white, female victims are **14 times** more likely to result in an execution than those involving African-American male victims. This shows how Missouri's death penalty values some lives as more "worthy" of "justice" than others.