

# Bonus Episode: Jamie's Remarks on the Closing Arguments



Season 1 : Bonus - Jamie's Remarks on the Closing Arguments

December 8, 2020

Speakers: Jamie Snow

---

**Episode Description:** Jamie reflects on the atmosphere during the closing arguments, how he felt, what was going through his mind, how his family was treated by the court, and even his physical reactions to the stress of being on trial for murder. Jamie also gives a huge shout out to our transcriptionists led by Pamela Westby: Melinda Wargacki, Cathy McElhaney, Caywood Yamnik and Jinger Fiola. And another HUGE shout out to Mrs. Wargacki's student, Stuart Hilton - and a little thoughtful advice for Mr. Hilton.

---

**Music Intro:** Injustice Anywhere presents Snow Files: The wrongful conviction of Jamie Snow and how they got away with it.

The mission of the Snow Files Podcast is to expose the misconduct of the State's Attorney's office under Charles Reynard. It is not our intention in any way to disparage the current State's Attorney's Office or the Bloomington Police Department.

---

**Jamie Snow:** Hey everybody, I just wanted to uh give you all some insight into you know how I was feeling and what I was thinking what was going on during the closing arguments, just I guess from my point of view. I remember that I, I was glad

that it that it was over, you know, and has been a long nine day, probably the longest nine days of my life up to that point. My days would start at like 4:00 a.m. if I, if I wanted to shave, which to be honest with you I, I shouldn't have done. In nine days I probably had a total of, you know, maybe 27 to 30 hours of sleep. And believe me, that's, that's not an exaggeration. I, I was physically and mentally exhausted.

I actually had a, a physical reaction towards the end of the trial. I was sitting there one day, and, you know, my, my whole body began to tingle. Like, if your, your arm or your leg had gone to sleep, you know, and it, it like started at my feet, and, and it worked its way all the way up through my body. And it was just my whole body was like tingling, really, really bad. And I don't know why, but you know, my hands seemed to, to feel the worst. This sounds kind of crazy, I know, but like a day or two later all of the skin on the palms of my hands peeled off. I don't know what that was, but it, it had to have been some sort of a physical reaction to what was going on.

But something else that stuck out in my mind was before Teena Griffin started her closing, and before I came into the courtroom, the bailiffs wouldn't let my family into the courtroom because they packed all of the first four or five rows of seats directly behind me with uniformed police officers. So, my family was forced to sit in the, in, in the back, the very back rows. And, and what's crazy about that is I, I read an appellate case years later, where a guy actually got a new trial date in part because that's exactly what the state had done in his case. The court in that case recognized it was an unfair and prejudicial thing to do to the defendant. When I read that, I thought these prosecutors across the state have learned these tricks and games to manipulate juries. You know, I don't think it's a coincidence they, they did it in a case in, in McClean you know, in McClean County. Uh, and then did it uh, you know, in a case in Chicago. It just seems like these dishonest cops and, and corrupt prosecutors use the same universal playbook.

Personally, I thought Frank Picl's closing was terrible. I mean, he had failed to introduce into evidence the witnesses and the evidence to counter the, the BS that you know Teena Griffin was putting out. I, I remember he came back to the table and whispered to me, you know what do you think? And my response was, is that it? And he said, yeah, and, and he again, you know, asked me, you know, what do you think and, and I remember saying, I'm, I'm dead. Even though in my heart of hearts, you know, I tried to hold on to the, you know, my belief that it was, it was impossible to find me guilty for something I didn't do. You know I, I just kept telling myself no way uh this, this can happen.

You know I, I thought about this a lot. I think the only people who knew the truth in that courtroom, and, and, and during the whole trial and, and especially during the closing arguments was Teena Griffin, Charles Reynard, Dan Katz, Rick Barkes, me and my wife, Tammy. And, and in reality, only Tammy and I actually cared about the outcome of the truth.

It was a, it was a long, long, nine days of people that I knew, people that I hardly knew, people that I didn't know, getting up there and testifying and, and, and then uh, you know, when Teena Griffin did her closing arguments it was just, it was the final, um, humiliation, I guess uh of, of the whole process. It's, uh... You know, it really angers me and I, I, it's hard for me to relive these, these things. I know I need to, but it's, it's, it's really hard and it, it anger, angers me so much because so much of the stuff that she was saying she knew wasn't true. And it's a terrible commentary on, uh, the justice system in this country, you know. It's, it's because of people like her and Charles Reynard that so many people don't believe in the, in the justice system. They don't trust in the justice system, they don't believe in attorneys, and it's because of, of people like that.

So, that's how I felt you know, and, and what I said earlier about, you know, I, you know had to get up and, and shave at four o'clock in the morning. You know, I cut my hair, I, I shaved, I did all this stuff, I, I shouldn't have done that because that wasn't me. I, I should have just left my hair the, the length that it was. I, I should have just kept my beard and, and just, you know, let, let the uh the jury see who I really was. I mean, and, and Teena Griffin took advantage of it. You know, she, she pointed out to the jury that, you know, I'd cut my hair and I shaved. And uh, you know did all this stuff like you know, I was trying to be uh dishonest and deceitful and I probably shouldn't have done that. So, that's really uh how, how, how I felt about the uh, the closing arguments. But it, it was tough. It was, it was really hard, it was really hard for me, you know, but uh.

Before I go, I want to, I want to give a shout out to a few people that have really been helping us out a lot. The people that, that have been transcribing the podcast have, have really put in a lot of time and effort and, and I am I'm really grateful for you guys, and I, I just want you know that I really appreciate you so Melinda Wargacki, Cathy McElhaney, Caywood Yamnik, Jinger Fiola, Pamela Westby. We appreciate you guys so much. And I appreciate you, uh, personally more than more than you probably know. It means everything to me. So thank you.

And, and I want to give a final shout out to a student of Ms. Wargacki's, Stuart Hilton. He made a flyer and I, and I think Tammy put it up on our website, he made a, he made a flyer for uh, about my case and, and I just want you to know Stuart I really, I really appreciate that. It, it it means, it means the world to me that you would take the time and, and put the effort into putting that together and, and it, it, it was awesome. You know if I could give you any advice I would just say, uh if, if this sort of thing is something that you find- You know, the forensic, uh, sciences part of your, your education there, you know, something that you really uh, you really find interesting and, and, and something you really like, it'd be a great thing to get into.

You know, you can really make a difference in, in people's lives. I mean uh, people like me, living a wrongful conviction need good honest people in that field. And on the other side of that coin, victims and family members of victims, you know, need good honest people in that field. So you could really make a difference so stick to it, man. And, and you know, thank you for, uh, for doing that for me.

I'll just end this here and, and just let everyone know that you know, I really appreciate you listening and being a part of this, this journey for me. I mean it's very important for me, I guess, uh, that people know my side of, of everything that's happened. So thank you.

*Transcribed by: Melinda Wargacki*

---

© 2020 Snow Files. All Rights Reserved.