

Bruce Barket, Donna Aldea and Aida Leisenring, are nearing the end of Cal Harris' 4th trial where he has been accused of murdering his wife, Michele Harris. Last week, evidence that was uncovered through the tireless work of the defense team was presented that two men from Texas are responsible for Michele Harris' disappearance, evidence that was not presented at any of Mr. Harris' three previous trials.

This case has been covered extensively by 48 Hours, Dateline, ABC news and other news outlets. The first two trials, when Mr. Harris was represented by other lawyers, ended in convictions. Both of those verdicts were overturned. Before the 3rd trial, Cal hired Barket Marion and that trial in ended with an evenly split hung jury. This time Cal's fate rests with the judge. He waived his right to a jury trial.



Michele Harris left her boyfriend's (the Harris's were going through a divorce) house at about 11:00 p.m. on the night of September 11, 2001. Her van was found at the foot of the family's ¼ mile long driveway in rural NY with the keys still in the ignition. Almost immediately, the police suspected Cal and began their focus on the inside of the Harris home instead of looking at Michele's activities that night. They did not find a body, a weapon or anything resembling a crime scene. Instead they found a minute amount of red staining, some of which turned out to be human blood with less than .5 ml confirmed to be Michele's blood. That is right; Cal was twice convicted of murder based on the amount of blood that one could get from a paper cut.

But last week, the defense team led by Bruce Barket began to present evidence that two men working in NY from Texas were responsible for Michele Harris' disappearance. First, the court heard from an acquaintance of Stacy Stewart, one of the men, who quoted Stewart as admitting that he was "the last person seen with her when she was alive." This corroborated an account given by Kevin Tubbs who saw Stewart and Michele Harris at the foot of the Harris driveway only 90 minutes from when her van was found. The defense presented another witness who heard Thomason admit that he and Stewart were with Michele Harris the evening before. A third witness testified that Thomason admitted

to burning bloody clothing the day after Michele disappeared, claiming that it was from killing and skinning a deer. That same witness testified that Stewart admitted that “no one killed a deer.” Next, a forensic investigator testified that a burn pit located on Stewart’s property was excavated and that remnants of burned clothing were found—along with the blade of a knife.

The defense has subpoenaed both Thomason and Stewart to testify but Stewart has avoided being served with a subpoena and Thomason who is in prison for an unrelated matter took the 5th and refused to testify.

Testimony continues this week.