

Speaking the Language of Prosecutors – Taking a Case from Investigation to Verdict

Ben David

District Attorney
New Hanover and Pender Counties
North Carolina





Challenges to Bringing These Cases

- 1. Shame and underreporting-vulnerable victims who are embarrassed
- 2. Complexity of cases—voluminous files with lots of math involved
- 3. Foreign defendants—extradition more expensive than amount of restitution
- 4. Emphasis on violent crime—prison time and prosecutors' priorities

This is Not Insurance Fraud



This is Arson and Murder

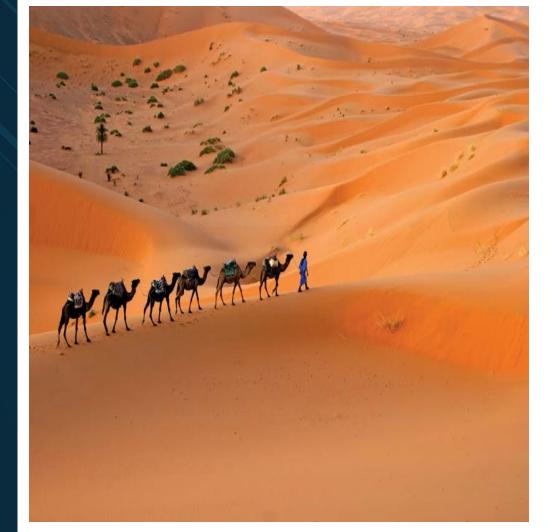
F - Facts

I – Issues

R – Rules

A – Application

C - Conclusion





Five Types of Evidence

1. Direct

2. Circumstantial

3. Physical

4. Testimonial

5. Other Crimes







Five Defenses

1. Some Other Dude Did It (SODDI)

2. I Didn't Do <u>lt</u>

3. Of Course I Did It

4. The Devil Made Me Do It

5. Maybe You Did It

Embezzlement



Beverly Brown



Elijah's Restaurant

Obtaining Property by False Pretense



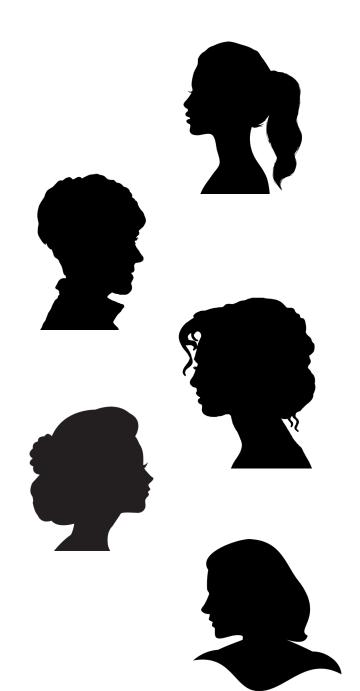
Oliver Wells



Extortion



Otis Lee Howell



Price Gouging

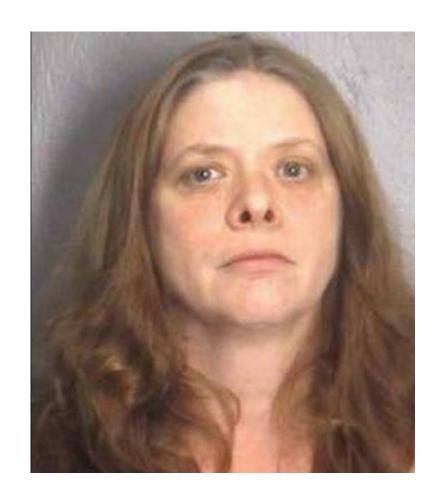


Public Corruption



Billy Williams

Pension Scam





Amy Stewart

Phone Scams





Turn Weaknesses to Strengths

1. Shame \rightarrow Innocent victims

2. Complex -> We like a challenge

3. Extradition -> Getting justice at home

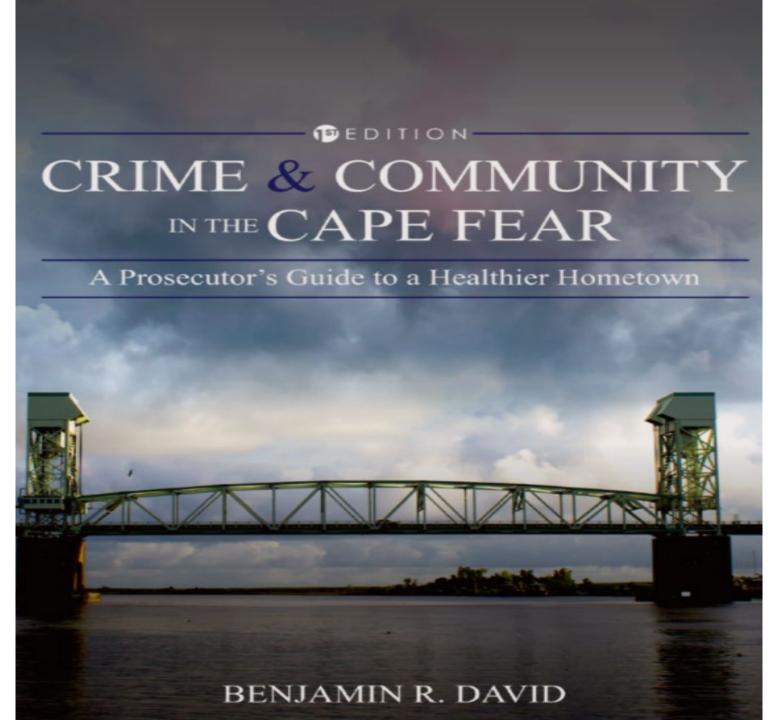
4. Violent Crime -> Greatest harm

Speak the Language of Prosecutors

1. FIRAC

2. Five Types of Evidence

3. The Five Defenses



District Attorney Benjamin R. David

Sixth Prosecutorial District Wilmington, NC USA

Benjaminrdavid.com

Benjamin.R.David@nccourts.org 001 910 772 6943