UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

United States of America,

Respondent,

vs.

Ralph Chavous Duke,

Petitioner.

AFFIDAVIT OF VINCENT CARRAHER

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

Vincent Carraher, being first duly sworn upon oath, states and deposes as follows:

1. I am 66 years of age and reside at [redacted] Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011.

2. I am a semi-retired criminal defense investigator with experience in civil investigations, beginning in 1963 as an insurance adjuster-investigator with the Hartford Insurance Company.

3. In 1965, I was hired by Meshbesher & Spence, Ltd., as a staff investigator to conduct both civil and criminal investigations. In 1976, I became an independent contractor working with numerous attorneys in the State of Minnesota and also continued to do work for the law firm of Meshbesher & Spence, Ltd.

4. I was not a friend of Ralph Duke, but had met him perhaps on six occasions over a 28-year period of time. I was never asked to do any kind of investigative work on behalf of Mr. Duke.

5. In 1989-1990, my wife and I were working at a mission school in a third world country and had no knowledge of Mr. Duke's trial and conviction.

6. In the latter part of 1997, Mr. Duke contacted me by telephone requesting investigative work be done on his behalf on a pro bono basis. At that time, Mr. Duke was without legal counsel. After a great deal of consideration and consulting with the Honorable Jack Nordby, who had represented Mr. Duke on an appeal, I agreed to assist Mr. Duke by commencing an investigation, even though there still was no attorney representing him. Ultimately, Howard Bass, an attorney employed by Meshbesher & Spence, Ltd., agreed to represent Mr. Duke, also on a pro bono basis. I was aware that Mr. Bass had commitments to Meshbesher & Spence clients, as well as other pro bono cases, and explained that to Mr. Duke.

7. The investigation of Mr. Duke's case presented many difficulties due to the fact that numerous witnesses involved in his case were incarcerated in various correctional facilities throughout the United States. Those who were not incarcerated were often difficult to locate, and upon locating the majority of these witnesses they did not wish to cooperate out of fear that there would be repercussions coming from the government because many of them were still on probation or supervised release. Ultimately, I succeeded in interviewing approximately twenty witnesses. I am still attempting to locate and interview approximately thirteen additional witnesses who may have important information concerning Mr. Duke's innocence.

8. While I was investigating Mr. Duke's case, public information surfaced through the media regarding Andrew Chambers, the informant in his case. At the direction of Mr. Duke's lawyer, Howard Bass, I continued to attempt to locate and interview every individual that had information relevant to Mr. Duke's innocence. The investigation into this matter continues as do my efforts to locate and interview the remaining witnesses.

9. Further your affiant sayeth naught.

Vincent B. Carraher
Vincent Carraher

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 18th day of December, 2001.

Renee M. Kinney
Notary Public

RENEE M. KINNEY
NOTARY PUBLIC-MINNESOTA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 1-31-2005