

# MENTAL ILLNESS

LeGrande fired his court-appointed attorneys and was permitted to represent himself at trial.

Standby counsel were appointed but could not do anything without LeGrande's permission. They filed a motion suggesting that LeGrande was severely mentally ill and not competent to represent himself, but they were not allowed to be heard.



They also were not allowed to tell the court that **LeGrande believed that he was receiving signals from Oprah Winfrey and Dan Rather over the TV**, that he suffered from delusions of grandeur and extreme mood swings, and that he believed he would receive a large monetary settlement after his acquittal. The judge asked LeGrande, who was wearing a Superman t-shirt, if he wanted him to



disregard the motion; LeGrande's response was to tear the document in half. The judge allowed the trial to proceed.



After the North Carolina Supreme Court affirmed the conviction and death sentence, LeGrande continued to represent himself, and refused to properly preserve his legal issues in state court because he did not trust the state of North Carolina and believed he would win in federal court.

After the death sentence, experts evaluated LeGrande and concluded that he suffers from psychosis, specifically, a delusional disorder with grandiose and persecutory delusions. His delusions make it impossible for him to participate in a meaningful way in the defense of his life. His thinking is very disorganized and rambling.

LeGrande has refused to see his lawyers for several years. In prior conversations with his counsel, he has said that he can see other people's thoughts and true desires. In one conversation, LeGrande insisted he could see a "circle of smoke" around his lawyer's head.

After filing scores of frivolous documents in court on his own, a federal judge finally appointed two lawyers to represent him. But the lawyers had little to present in federal court since courts will not hear issues that are not first raised properly in state court. Guy LeGrande's case has been denied cert by the US Supreme Court. An execution date will soon be set by the NC Department of Corrections.

# Take Action

Ask NC's Governor Michael Easley to halt this execution and to impose a sentence of life without parole.

- 1. Contact your local newspaper.**  
Encourage them to cover problems in this case.  
Without widespread public attention from communities across the state, Governor Easley is likely to deny clemency as he has done in 28 of 30 cases that have come before him.
- 2. Ask your state legislator to urge the Governor to impose a sentence of life without parole.**  
Go to [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net) or look in the front of your local phone book for your legislator's contact information.
- 3. Contact Governor Easley TODAY!**

**Write a Letter:**  
Governor's Office  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

**Email:**  
[clemency@ncmail.net](mailto:clemency@ncmail.net)



**Call or Send a Fax:**  
1-800-662-7952  
or  
(919) 733-5811  
Fax: (919) 733-2120

Remind the Governor that clemency is designed to consider factors that may not be considered in the court process - such as fairness.

Let Governor Easley know that you want him to include the consideration of fairness as he makes his decision.

# STOP THE EXECUTION OF GUY LeGRANDE



Photo: [www.bendib.com/black/12-4-Death%20Penalty-.jpg](http://www.bendib.com/black/12-4-Death%20Penalty-.jpg)

**Flaws continue to plague NC's Death Penalty System.**

**RACIAL BIAS**

**MENTAL ILLNESS**

**ALL WHITE JURIES**

**HANGMAN'S NOOSES**



# OVERVIEW

Guy Tobias LeGrande was sentenced to death in 1996 in Stanly County, NC for the murder of Ellen Munford.

Tommy Munford, Ms. Munford's estranged husband, plotted to kill his wife for the insurance proceeds and, after failing to convince another man to do the killing, he recruited a mentally ill LeGrande to help him.

Munford had previously been arrested several times for harassing and assaulting his wife and her boyfriend. Munford told numerous people he wanted to "do in" his wife. He bought a gun and ammunition and gave them to LeGrande.

On the day of the murder, Munford arranged to take his and Ms. Munford's two children to the beach; when he picked up the children, he dropped LeGrande off in the woods by the house. After hours of sitting in the woods, LeGrande entered the house and shot Ms. Munford.

Tommy Munford was sentenced to a term of years and is eligible for parole after serving ten years.

## REPRESENTATION FOR GUY LeGRANDE

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# RACIAL BIAS

*DA Ken Honeycutt built a reputation for securing death sentences with all-white juries and gained notoriety for wearing a gold lapel pin shaped like a noose.*

Tommy Munford, who is white, was allowed to plead to second-degree murder and received a life sentence after testifying against LeGrande.

**All White Jury** - LeGrande was sentenced to death by an all-white jury. The victim, Ms. Munford, was also white.

This was not an unusual pattern in Judicial District 20 where District Attorney Ken Honeycutt built a reputation for securing death sentences with all-white juries. At least three other men of color prosecuted by Honeycutt's office in

the 1990s were sentenced to death by all-white juries.

**Noose Lapel Pins** - LeGrande was prosecuted by Honeycutt. Honeycutt gained notoriety for wearing a gold lapel pin shaped like a noose, and for awarding the nooses to assistant district attorneys who won death penalty cases to "boost morale."

Honeycutt currently is being investigated for hiding key evidence in a death penalty case. That case and another capital case he prosecuted were both

overturned because he withheld critical evidence.

In the NC Supreme Court opinion in LeGrande's case, Chief Justice Burley Mitchell compared LeGrande's case to that of Robert Bacon, which he called "very similar." Bacon was duped into killing his white girlfriend's white husband. The victim's wife, who clearly was



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*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere - MLK, Jr.*

the mastermind, was sentenced to life. Bacon was sentenced to death by an all-white jury. Ultimately, Bacon was granted clemency based on issues of racial bias and the unequal treatment of the two co-defendants.

Tommy Munford, the victim's husband and mastermind of the crime, referred to LeGrande as "a nigger from Wadesboro," when talking to Greg Laton, the man whom he had unsuccessfully tried to solicit to commit the murder. The gun that Munford gave to LeGrande for the murder was given to Munford by Laton, who knew exactly why Munford wanted it. Laton was never charged with anything in connection with the conspiracy.

*Advocate  
for  
Change*