



**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
ERIC M. HOFFMAN, PROSECUTOR  
46TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA**

3100 S. TILLOTSON AVE., SUITE 270  
MUNCIE, IN 47302-6548

TELEPHONE 765-747-7801  
FAX: 765-747-7830

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Eric M. Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney  
prosecutor @co.delaware.in.us  
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**CONVICTED MURDERER DENIED ATTEMPT AT NEW TRIAL**

*Muncie Indiana* – On August 23, 2023, the Honorable Linda Ralu Wolf, Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 3 denied a petition filed by Michael L. Bruno (DOB 1/22/1977) for a new trial. On July 21, 2000, Bruno was convicted of Murder, and three counts of Criminal Recklessness, all Class C Felonies.



The facts most favorable to the judgment indicate the following. On the night of October 30, 1999, a local chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity held a fundraiser at a local YWCA. After the fundraiser, there was a party at the house of a few of the fraternity members (“Kappa house”). Defendant and seven or eight of his friends went to the Kappa house, but were turned away at the door. They were told that the party was full and it was only for Kappa members. Defendant and his friends exchanged words with the Kappas and finally left the party. Upon leaving, [one of the members in the group] said, “we’ll be back and you better have the police here.”

As the group left the party they split up into separate groups. [Co-defendant Artie Thomas] said he was “going to the hood to get his [gun].” (R. at 929.) One of Defendant’s friends, Terrence Manley, said, “I ain’t go to do nothing but go down the street.” (R. at 929.) Another member of the group, Tyrone Mason, took Louis Abrams to get Abrams’s gun.

The group met up again in the parking lot of a store near the Kappa house. Defendant, [Artie Thomas], Abrams, and Manley had guns. The group parked their cars on a dark residential street so as not to be seen. They walked toward the back of the Kappa house. At some point, someone said, “let’s do this shit,” and Defendant, Manley, [Thomas], and Abrams began shooting into the house. Four people were shot. One victim, Julian Brown, died and three other women were injured.

*Bruno v. State*, 774 N.E.2d 880, 882 (Ind. 2002). On September 11, 2002, Bruno's convictions were upheld by the Indiana Supreme Court on appeal.

On December 23, 2021, Bruno filed a Petition for Post-Conviction Relief which alleged various grounds for a new trial. On June 30, 2023, the Court held a hearing on the Petition. All of the grounds raised by Bruno were rejected by the Court. A copy of the Court's findings and Order is attached.

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