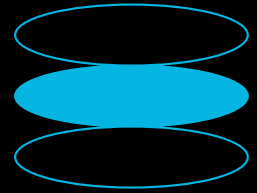




CASE BRIEF

Smith & Smith Law Offices



Case Background

Richmond v. Keller

In 1994, Daniel Richmond was convicted of murder after a man was shot and killed during a failed home invasion in California. Richmond claimed he was defending himself. The prosecution presented expert testimony suggesting the position of the body and blood evidence didn't match his version of events. Richmond's lawyer did not call a forensic expert to challenge this. Years later, Richmond argued his Sixth Amendment right to effective counsel was violated.

Demographics

- **Age:** 25
- **Gender:** Male
- **Ethnicity:** White
- **Location:** Los Angeles, California
- **Occupation:** Handyman
- **Education:** High School Diploma
- **Marital Status:** Single
- **Prior Convictions:** Yes

Client Narrative

My name's Daniel Richmond, and I'm doing time for murder. But I swear, I never meant for anyone to die that night.

It started as a bad idea—a robbery, yes—but I didn't go there planning to kill anyone. When things got messy, the guy I was with pulled a weapon, and the victim ended up dead. I panicked. The story they told at trial made me sound like a cold-blooded killer.

But here's the thing—my lawyer didn't even try to challenge what the prosecution said about the crime scene. They had this blood spatter expert saying I shot the guy while he was lying on the ground. That I

executed him. But my lawyer? He didn't call anyone to disagree. No expert. No challenge. Just let the jury hear one side.

He told me bringing in our own forensic expert would "confuse the jury" and make things worse. I didn't know enough to push back—I trusted him. But I've read enough since to know that if he had called even one expert, it could have changed everything.

Previous Attorney Information

I had a public defender. Mr. Keller was a smart guy, experienced, but overloaded. He didn't have a budget for experts. He told me the best strategy was to focus on cross-examining the state's witnesses and avoid overcomplicating things with "science." He never hired a forensics analyst, never showed the jury an alternate version of what could've happened. I never stood a chance.

Summary

I'm not saying I'm innocent. I'm saying I deserved a fair fight in court. I deserved a lawyer who would push back, not one who played it safe while my life was on the line. How can a jury find the truth if they only hear one side?