

ASIA MCCLAIN

1. I swear to the following, to the best of my recollection, under penalty of perjury:
2. I am 33 years old and competent to testify in a court of law.
3. I currently reside in Washington State.
4. I grew up in Baltimore County, MD, and attended high school at Woodlawn High School. I graduated in 1999 and attended college at Catonsville Community College.
5. While a senior at Woodlawn, I knew both Adnan Syed and Hae Min Lee. I was not particularly close friends with either.
6. On January 13, 1999, I got out of school early. At some point in the early afternoon, I went to Woodlawn Public Library, which was right next to the high school.
7. I was in the library when school let out around 2:15 p.m. I was waiting for my boyfriend, Derrick Banks, to pick me up. He was running late.
8. At around 2:30 p.m., I saw Adnan Syed enter the library. Syed and I had a conversation. We talked about his ex-girlfriend Hae Min Lee and he seemed extremely calm and caring. He explained that he wanted her to be happy and that he had no ill will towards her.
9. Eventually my boyfriend arrived to pick me up. He was with his best friend, Jerrod Johnson. We left the library around 2:40. Syed was still at the library when we left.
10. I remember that my boyfriend seemed jealous that I had been talking to Syed. I was angry at him for being extremely late.
11. The 13th of January 1999 was memorable because the following two school days were cancelled due to hazardous winter weather.
12. I did not think much of this interaction with Syed until he was later arrested and charged in the murder of Hae Min Lee.
13. Upon learning that he was charged with murder related to Lee's disappearance on the 13th, I promptly attempted to contact him.
14. I mailed him two letters to the Baltimore City Jail, one dated March 1, the other dated March 2. (See letters, attached). In these letters I reminded him that we had been in the library together after school. At the time when I wrote these letters, I did not know that the State theorized that the murder took place just before 2:36 pm on January 13, 1999.
15. I also made it clear in those letters that I wanted to speak to Syed's lawyer about what I remembered, and that I would have been willing to help his defense if necessary.
16. The content of both of those letters was true and accurate to the best of my recollection.

17. After sending those letters to Syed in early March, 1999, I never heard from anybody from the legal team representing Syed. Nobody ever contacted me to find out my story.
18. If someone had contacted me, I would have been willing to tell my story and testify at trial. My testimony would have been consistent with the letters described above, as well as the affidavit I would later provide. *See below.*
19. After Syed was convicted at trial, I was contacted by a friend of the Syed family named Rabia Chaudry.
20. I told my story to Chaudry on March 25, 2000, and wrote out an affidavit, which we had notarized. (Affidavit attached).
21. The affidavit was entirely accurate to the best of my recollection and I gave it by my own free will. I was not pressured into writing it.
22. At the time when I wrote the affidavit I did not know that the State had argued at trial that the murder took place just before 2:36 pm on January 13, 1999.
23. After writing the affidavit and giving it to Chaudry, I did not think much about the Syed case, although I was aware he had been convicted and he was in prison.
24. Eventually I left Maryland and moved to North Carolina and then out west.
25. In the late spring of 2010, I learned that members of the Syed defense team were attempting to contact me. I was initially caught off guard by this and I did not talk to them.
26. After encountering the Syed defense team, I began to have many case questions that I did not want to ask the Syed defense team. After not knowing who else to contact, I made telephone contact with one of the State prosecutors from the case, Kevin Urick.
27. I had a telephone conversation with Urick in which I asked him why I was being contacted and what was going on in the case.
28. He told me there was no merit to any claims that Syed did not get a fair trial. Urick discussed the evidence of the case in a manner that seemed designed to get me to think Syed was guilty and that I should not bother participating in the case, by telling what I knew about January 13, 1999. Urick convinced me into believing that I should not participate in any ongoing proceedings. Based on my conversation with Kevin Urick, the comments made by him and what he conveyed to me during that conversation, I determined that I wished to have no further involvement with the Syed defense team, at that time.
29. Urick and I discussed the affidavit that I had previously provided to Chaudry. I wanted to know why I was being contacted if they already had the affidavit on file and what the ramifications of that document were. I never told Urick that I recanted my story or affidavit about January 13, 1999. In addition I did not write the March 1999 letters or the affidavit because of pressure from Syed's family. I did not write them to please Syed's family or to get them off my back. What actually happened is that I wrote the affidavit because I wanted to provide the truth about what I remembered. My only goal has always been, to provide the truth about what I remembered.

30. I took, and retained, contemporaneous notations of the telephone conversation with Urick.
31. Sometime in January of 2014, I had a conversation with Sarah Koenig, a reporter for National Public Radio. I spoke to her on the phone and she recorded the conversation. It was an impromptu conversation and I misunderstood her reasons for the interview and did not expect it to be broadcasted to so many people. While Ms. Koenig did not misrepresent herself or the purpose of the conversation and interview, it is fair to say that I misconstrued that it was a formal interview that would be played on the Serial Podcast. I rather thought that it was a meticulous means of information gathering, for a future (typed) online news article. Due to dialogue with Jerrod Johnson in 2011 concerning Derrick Banks, I recommended that Sarah Koenig reach out to both Jerrod Johnson and Derrick Banks, to see if they remember January 13, 1999. Later on, when Sarah Koenig asked to re-record my statement in a professional sound studio, I became confused and unwilling to participate in any further interview activity. As a result my interview with Sarah Koenig was incomplete in the Serial Podcast.
32. After I learned about the podcast, I learned more about Koenig's reporting, and more about the Syed case. I was shocked by the testimony of Kevin Urick and the podcast itself; however I came to understand my importance to the case. I realized I needed to step forward and make my story known to the court system.
33. I contacted Syed's lawyer, Justin Brown, on December 15, 2014, and told him my story. I told him I would be willing to provide this affidavit.
34. I am also willing to appear in court in Maryland to testify, if subpoenaed.
35. I am now married, and my legal surname is no longer McClain. However, due to the wealth of publicity that this case has had, and the fact that all previous mention of my name has been with my maiden name, I am signing below as Asia McClain.
36. I have retained counsel in Baltimore, Gary Proctor, and I respectfully ask that any attempts to contact me be made through him.
37. I have reviewed this affidavit with my attorney before providing it to Syed's attorney, Justin Brown.


ASIA McCLAIN

DATE 1/13/15