

**AFFIDAVIT OF JENNIFER BEARDEN**

State of Arkansas    )  
                                  ) ss.  
County of Saline    )

Before the undersigned Notary Public, duly qualified and acting in and for said county and state, appeared Jennifer Bearden, to me well known to be the affiant herein, who stated the following under oath:

- “1. My name is Jennifer Bearden. I reside in Bryant, Arkansas. I am 23 years old.
2. In 1993, I attended Ellendale Elementary School in Bartlett.
3. Holly George was a friend of mine at the time.
4. In February or March of 1993 Holly and I went to a skating rink in West Memphis, Arkansas where we met Jason Baldwin and Damien Echols. The name of the rink was Skateworld.
5. A number of young persons used to go to Skateworld. It was in either late February or March of 1993 that Holly and I met Jason and Damien. We started to socialize with Jason and Damien, and saw them at Skateworld on more than one occasion.
6. We also saw them in two other places. At one point, my mother drove Holly and I to Lakeshore, and we went to the trailer park where we met Jason, Damien and two other guys. One was Buddy Lucas and the other

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one was named Ken.

7. Holly and I also went with Jason and Damien to the Esperanza Bonanza Carnival which I believe was in May of 1993. The Carnival was in Marion. My mother also took us to the Carnival.
8. The last contact that I had with either Jason or Damien was the day prior to their arrest.
9. From the time that I met them to the last day that I had any contact with them, I talked to Damien almost every day on the phone. I recall talking to Jason on the phone, but only when Damien was with Jason. I believe I also spoke with Jason when Holly George phoned him and I was on the phone call with Holly.
10. I also saw Jason and Damien at Skateworld almost every weekend after we first met them. Our contacts lasted roughly three months.
11. My recollection is that Holly and I obtained Jason and Damien's phone numbers after we first met them at Skateworld. We all hit it off well.
12. I had grown up in West Memphis until I was six years old. I was aware that there were not many diversions for teenagers in West Memphis. Skateworld was one of the places that teenagers would socialize. They used to have an all night skate which I recall happening one Saturday every month. Holly and I went to at least one, and probably more, of the all night skates.

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13. I knew who Jessie Misskelley was. Whenever Holly and I socialized with Jason and Damien, I noticed that they would not have anything to do with Jessie, who was always in trouble. Based on my contacts with Damien and Jason, it was my opinion that they did not like Jessie, and I did not like him either.
14. I became aware that Jessie stole the 8-ball from the pool table at Skateworld. He showed all four of us, Holly, Jason, Damien, and myself the 8-ball. The owner of Skateworld, Kenny, found out about it. Jessie blamed Damien and Jason for having stolen the 8-ball, and Kenny told both Damien and Jason to leave Skateworld. They were excluded for that night. Jason and Damien told Kenny, the owner, that Jessie had stolen the 8-ball.
15. On the one occasion that Holly and I visited Lakeshore Trailer Park, Damien left the park with a guy named Murray and a girl named Domini Teer. At the time, I did not know who Domini was. I was unaware of her having a relationship with Damien, and thought that she might have been with Murray for all I knew.
16. At no time do I remember either Jason or Damien talking to me about witchcraft, cults, or other matters of that kind which I was later asked about by the police. I never saw any indication of unusual behavior, or anything that would have led me to believe that they had unusual beliefs.
17. I recall learning that Jason and Damien had been arrested when my mother

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called to say that they had been arrested. I turned on the television and saw the story. I was completely shocked.

18. I do not believe that my mother was ever aware of my knowledge of, or socializing with, Damien and Jason until sometime in 1993 when a private investigator contacted Holly's mother. That led to Holly and I being interviewed, and my mother finding out about my contacts with Damien and Jason. My mother was angry at me for concealing my relationship with them.
19. I recall that the contact with the private investigator happened at Holly's house either at the end of July or in August of 1993. It was just after my 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. Holly and I sat at the kitchen table in Holly's house. Our mothers were there. We were all interviewed together by an investigator named Ron Lax, and a woman who was present with him.
20. I had previously been interviewed by police officers in around September of 1993. I believe that the officers were Detectives Ridge and Allen. I also believed I talked to Mr. Fogelman on the phone. I was due to be called as a witness in the Misskelley case. I never was called.
21. My routine when I was at school in Ellendale Elementary in May of 1993 is that Holly and I would be picked up from school at about 3:00 p.m. by Holly's mother. She would drop me at home.
22. During the time period that Damien, Jason and I were socializing, and all

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through May of 1993, after I got to my house, Holly would telephone either Damien or me first, and then the other would get on the line, and the three of us, Holly, Damien, and I would wind up together on a three-way call. Often, my experience was that Damien and Jason would be together. But Damien would talk more than Jason. I remember talking with Damien on the phone just about every day. If Holly did not initiate the call, I would phone to find Damien either at his place or at Jason's. Damien was usually at one of the two places.

23. This case has made a big impression on me. It influenced me to become a criminology major in college. I have thought a lot about the period of time in question because it was just an extraordinary time period. I do recall that on May 5, 1993, which is the day before the children's bodies were discovered, and the news about the discovery was on the television, I was talking to Damien by phone.

24. I remember that we first talked that day after I got home, which means it would have been a conversation that had taken place after 3:00 p.m. I recall that we had to get off the phone because Holly's mother had to use the phone. It was a three-way call. I told Damien that I would call him back. Either during that call, or when I called Damien back myself after Holly had hung up, I spoke with Damien who told me to call him at Jason's trailer.

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25. I am not exactly sure of the time of the next call, but I remember that I became irritated because the two were playing video games and not really talking to me. Damien was there, and I believe it was Jason who answered and then gave the phone to Damien. When I called Jason's house I could only talk to one of them at the time. During that call, Damien told me that he and Jason were going to Jason's uncle's house. He told me to call him later on at night. I believe he told me he thought he would be home at around 9:00 p.m.
26. Between calls to Damien and Jason, it is likely that I talked by phone with Holly. If Holly and I were not talking to Jason and Damien during that period of time, we were usually on the phone with each other. Holly was interested in a guy named Matt Thorpe. We would talk about various things, including our interest in the boys.
27. I recall making a call to Damien's house that night, May 5, 1993. I believe the call was made around 9:00 p.m. This was the night before the announcement of the killings of the three young boys. The first time I called I got a busy signal. The phone at Damien's house did not have call-waiting. I called again and Damien's grandmother answered. She told me that Damien was not home yet.
28. At some point later on I called again and I got Damien on the phone. I believe I stayed on the phone with him for about a half hour. My

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impression is that this call began at around 9:30 p.m. and ended around 10:00 p.m.

29. My recollection is that there were several phones in my house, and therefore, that I could originate phone calls from my room. I had a telephone in my bedroom.
30. As far as I know, neither Jason nor Damien had my telephone number. My recollection is that when I talked to Damien or Jason it was because either Holly or I originated the call.
31. The pattern of phone calls between myself and Damien continued as I have described until the time of Damien's arrest. Either Holly or I would originate the calls. I would find Damien either at Jason's or at his house. It was not unusual for Damien's number to be busy and for me to have to call several times before I contacted him.
32. Based on my habit at the time, I believe that I did have telephone contacts with Damien and/or Damien and Jason on the day that the three boys' bodies were discovered, and the news came out. I do not remember anything unusual being discussed during that phone call, or during any of the phone calls I had with Damien and/or Damien and Jason between May 5, 1993 and the day on which I found out that Damien and Jason had been arrested.
33. I believe that the next personal contact I had with Jason and Damien after

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the day on which the bodies of the three young boys were discovered was that weekend either at Skateworld or at the Esperanza Bonanza in Marion.

34. I have reviewed my interview with the police of September 1993. I know that I did not tell the police at the time that Damien and I had been an item, meaning that Damien and I had a teenager's boy-girl relationship. I had been interested in him at the time. I was nervous when I spoke with the police. I did not want my mother to know.
35. Together with private investigator Tom Quinn I reviewed the transcript of my interview with police officers of September 10, 1993. I understand that I told the officers that I called Damien back at around 9:20 p.m. or 9:30 p.m. on the night of May 5, 1993. I was not supposed to be on the phone after 9:30 p.m., so I explained that I called him no later than 9:30 p.m. But my belief is that the phone call lasted past 9:30 p.m. I was supposed to have been in bed by 10:00 p.m. I was concerned that if my mother learned that I had been on the phone past 9:30 p.m., she would have thought I had not been obeying her, or conducting myself as she would have expected.
36. I have read the foregoing statements and state that they are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief."

Further the affiant sayeth naught.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 2004

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Jennifer Bearden  
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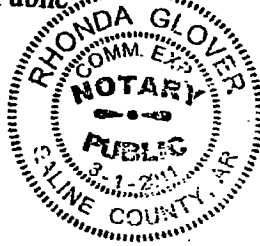
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Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2004.

Rhonda Glover  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 3-1-2011



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