

00:03.23

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
Amy, welcome to the show.

00:04.95

Amy Ward  
Hi, how are you?

00:06.63

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
I'm doing great, how are you doing?

00:08.46

Amy Ward  
I'm doing really well.

00:10.78

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
Boy, it's barely covering you. I still got such a low volume on the, say, would you talk for a minute, say some things.

00:18.52

Amy Ward  
Okay, um what did what did you do today?

00:22.32

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
and Nothing good, I got a crick in my neck, but.

00:25.93

Amy Ward  
Oh no.

00:28.18

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
Man, I have no idea why it's doing this. It may it's it may still be, it may still work. I mean, but I'm getting a, you know, normally as it records, I don't know what you're seeing.

00:38.48

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
You should be seeing that line that goes across.

00:41.16

Amy Ward  
I do, I see a line.

00:42.75

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
And you see how mine has a little bumps and all. That's my audio and

yours is just straight.

00:48.06

Amy Ward

Yeah, I see that.

00:50.49

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

That's just weird. I don't know what the deal is.

00:55.75

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Oi, yoi, yoi, man.

00:56.33

Amy Ward

Do you think i' the mic is too close to my face?

01:00.30

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

No, i it it looks like it's not getting any audio at all. I mean, it says health check passed, but see how my, ah the local backup underneath my is is changing the, how much memory?

01:16.36

Amy Ward

Yeah, I do see that.

01:17.70

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah, that's, it's recording me talking, but when you talk, it doesn't.

01:22.21

Amy Ward

Okay, does that seem to be any better?

01:24.53

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah, that's better, but oh, yeah, I saw a little bump there.

01:26.03

Amy Ward

Okay.

01:30.01

Amy Ward

Yeah, I have it like right up against my face now.

01:30.47

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
but What did you do?

01:33.90

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
Okay. Yeah. i'm I'm sorry, but that may be what we're going to have to do.

01:38.14

Amy Ward  
Okay, no problem.

01:39.92

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
um All right. And then, I mean, I can amplify it, but I just want to make sure it was there to begin with.

01:45.33

Amy Ward  
Okay, this is like my first rodeo, so I'm just learning.

01:49.62

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
That's okay. That's all right. All right. Well, just keep your mouth close to the microphone and we'll we'll go from there. Let me just start over then.

01:57.50

Amy Ward  
Okay, sounds good.

02:00.31

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
Amy, welcome to the show.

02:02.16

Amy Ward  
Hi, how are you?

02:03.93

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
I am doing good, doing all right. Well, not really. i I slept wrong on my neck, so I've got a crook in my neck. But other than that, a crook in my neck, whatever it is, i still I'm still doing good.

02:16.61

Amy Ward  
OK, that's good.

02:16.74

A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
You are a Army veteran just like I am.

02:20.06  
Amy Ward  
I am.

02:21.20  
A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
And what did you do in the Army?

02:22.95  
Amy Ward  
I was actually a heavy equipment operator.

02:26.37  
A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
So what did you, I mean, were you like working on working on roads or  
or you worked with an engineer unit?

02:33.12  
Amy Ward  
We did we worked on Fort Stewart there in the 92nd engineers and we  
actually were building a road when I was there I I drove a lot of dump  
trucks and ah you know dozers scrapers bucket loaders that kind of  
thing.

02:50.72  
A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
And how did you come to choose that MOS?

02:54.68  
Amy Ward  
Oh, I joined under what's called the split option program. And that is  
a program when you're 17 years old, you go to basic during your right  
before your summer of your senior year.

03:11.49  
Amy Ward  
And ah then you do the MOS part ah the summer after your senior year.  
So I had three choices. I had either a mortuary assistant, heavy  
equipment operator, or a cook.

03:25.35  
A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
You made the right choice.

03:25.47  
Amy Ward  
So the I did. I did. I think that was the best.

03:30.28

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

i was in I was only in for four years, but I was on KP once and that was a living hell. It was like 24 hours straight of hell, but yeah, I would rather be in a ah heavy equipment operator and not a mortuary assistant either.

03:39.54

Amy Ward

Yeah. let's

03:43.12

Amy Ward

Yeah, let's face it. They don't get much time off.

03:47.61

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

What's that?

03:48.46

Amy Ward

and They don't get much time off on the weekends.

03:51.05

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

No, no.

03:51.46

Amy Ward

They work all the time.

03:51.61

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And this was out in the field. It's just go, go, go. By the time you finish breakfast, lunch starts. And by the time you finish lunch, dinner starts. And by the time you clean up from dinner, you sleep for about four hours and you get up for breakfast.

04:02.07

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

So it was it was bad. But we're not going to talk about the army, although I could.

04:04.03

Amy Ward

Right.

04:06.29

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

We're going to talk about self-defense today. And we're looking at five different cases where the defendants claimed self-defense. And a couple of these are very well known to the public. Some of them maybe not so much, unless you live in Florida. But first, what is a self-defense claim? I know it's self-explanatory, but what elements have to be present for a self-defense claim to be successful?

04:33.88

Amy Ward

Right, self-defense claim is actually a legal defense for someone who is charged with a crime. And so what it relies on is the assertion that reasonable force can be used to protect yourself or your property from an immediate threat. And so the elements of that um that are really ah required to have a successful self-defense claim and and And I'm really looking at Texas because obviously we're in Texas. um You have several elements that must be met ah for it to be considered a valid claim. First, you must reasonably believe that the use of force is immediately necessary to protect themselves against another use's ah yeah i've ah use of attempted ah unlawful force.

05:22.40

Amy Ward

Second, the force must be proportionate to the threat faced. So some examples of this might be, you know, someone using their pepper spray, if someone's coming towards them, or pushing someone away if they try to grab you. um Specifically here in Texas, the law does not require a duty to retreat before using force if the individual is in a place where you have a legal right to be.

05:50.37

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

We're going to get to a little bit more specifics about that. But let's talk about the first case, case number one. And this is probably one of the most well-known cases. It happened in Sanford, Florida in 2012. Neighborhood Watch volunteer George Zimmerman fatally shot 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. And Zimmerman claims self-defense. So can you walk me through this case and and tell me what happened?

06:14.26

Amy Ward

Right. um Like you said, back in ah February of 2012, we have Trayvon Martin. He's a 17-year-old African-American. And he's walking back ah to his father's fiancé's house there in Sanford. um He's been over to the convenience store. He's got some Skittles, some tea. You know, he's He's dressed in a ah dark hoodie and ah George and and Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer, he was patrolling the area. um There had been some recent burglaries in that area and he spotted Martin.

06:54.78

Amy Ward

um And he called the police, he actually called to report it, um and he considered ah Trayvon's behavior suspicious. um Whether or not ah Trayvon was displaying suspicious behavior, I don't i don't know.

07:11.20

Amy Ward

You know, because that really wasn't outlined. um So the dispatcher told him, hey, don't follow Trayvon Martin. um But Zimmerman didn't listen. He approached ah Trayvon and there was some type of confrontation. um And again, the details, we don't we don't know.

07:33.23

Amy Ward

um But it ended in Zimmerman fatally shooting Trayvon Martin. And then like you said, he claimed self defense. He said that ah Trayvon had attacked him and that he feared for his life.

07:49.77

Amy Ward

And um as we discussed, this the case was national attention. There were all kinds of debates, whether um that was racial profiling. um they A lot of people called for gun control. um And ah you know the Stand Your Ground law here there in Florida was under attack. When Zimmerman's trial began in June of 2013,

08:16.81

Amy Ward

um He ended up being acquitted of second-degree murder and manslaughter charges, um and there was a lot of protest. um People wanted to discuss ah racial equality in the United States, so that was a big case, and that was ah springboard ah for the standard ground law.

08:40.95

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, you and I are both in the great state of Texas and we're not neither, you're not a lawyer, right? um We're neither of certain lawyers.

08:48.49

Amy Ward

I am not a lawyer, I'm a licensed investigator.

08:49.78

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Okay. So this is not, we're not giving out legal advice and we're just giving you some definitions, but I know in the self-defense, he cited the Florida's Stand Your Ground law.

09:03.08

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

can you What does it stand your ground law? Because I mean, some states have stand your ground laws and others have a duty to retreat. Can you explain what they are and what the difference is?

09:15.10

Amy Ward

Right, okay, so Texas and Florida had the have a Stand Your Ground law, um and they allow individuals to use force, including deadly force, to defend themselves. um They don't have the obligation to retreat, regardless of whether they're in their home, their workplace, public space.

09:35.61

Amy Ward

And so here are um the key features of this stand your ground law. So in Texas and especially in Florida, you do not have a duty to retreat. um So you don't have to try to escape or, ah you know, avoid that threat.

09:53.10

Amy Ward

um if you're legally If you have a legal right to be there, um that is important. You have to legally be present, ah be in a place where you're ah both supposed to be, yeah obviously, and there must be an immediate threat um that that You know, you're going to need to use force to protect yourself.

10:16.02

Amy Ward

And the response must be proportional. um So the amount of forces has to be proportionate to the threat that is faced.

10:24.59

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

So in other words, if someone comes at you and ah points a gun at you and you shoot them with your gun 10, 15 times, that would not be proportional to the threat.

10:36.04

Amy Ward

Right. Shooting them might be proportional, however, 10 times. That might be a bit of an overkill.

10:41.79

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah, that's what I would, I mean, once or twice should be enough.

10:46.00



Amy Ward  
Right, right, exactly.

10:46.53

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, let's go on to case number two. It's ah it's it's also a very well-known case and it occurred in 2010. And this is Kyle Rittenhouse, the case in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the cheese and dairy state, but I digress.

11:01.92

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

This incident happened during some street protests.

11:02.28

Amy Ward

Right, right.

11:04.44

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I guess there was a police shooting of an African-American a kid named Jacob Blake. And so street protests and civil unrest and riots kind of broke out.

11:16.43

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

ah Tell me about Rittenhouse's actions and and what happened what why we see there and what happened.

11:22.34

Amy Ward

Right, we have Kyle Rittenhouse. He's a 17-year-old male. He owns an AR-15, which he's actually not old enough to own, but he does. He owns a ah gun that's maintained by his dad. And um during the officer-involved shooting there, um and and I think it's interesting that um all of this unrest and these demonstrations Um, took place when they, uh, the officer and shot Jacob Blake, but he actually survived. Um, he, he was ah paralyzed and that kind of stuff, but everybody was out, um, you know, mostly at first.

12:06.70

Amy Ward

peaceful They were protesting peacefully and everything was ah good and then it got out of hand. You know, it led to, ah you know, burning businesses and, um you know, looting and that kind of stuff. And so the city of Kenosha actually declared a state of emergency and you have some private citizens that are out patrolling their property.

12:30.64

Amy Ward

um In that situation, Rittenhouse, having been a police cadet before and private civilians were asked to come out um on Facebook and that kind of stuff, he took his AR-15 over to Kenosha. And um what Rittenhouse stated was that his intent was to protect the businesses and offer medical assistance.

12:59.53

Amy Ward

In this situation, Kyle was patrolling, he ah was patrolling with another partner and they became separated. And he received some kind of call or some kind of information that the property that he was there protecting had become damaged. So I can see that he probably was nervous and what happened was um He came, ah you know, he was walking around trying to find his way back and he met this first individual named Joseph Rosenbaum and he pursued Rittenhouse. He tried to take his rifle and that's when Rittenhouse did fire and that caused rosenbot Rosenbaum's death.

13:51.11

Amy Ward

He fled and he first pursued surrounded by a crowd of folks um and a second party struck Rittenhouse in the head with a skateboard and tried to grab his gun.

14:06.58

Amy Ward

Rittenhouse then fired and and fatally wounded that gentleman and then there was actually even a third person um who was armed with a Glock and he pointed that at him. Rittenhouse did fire and wounded him, he didn't die. So in the end, prosecutors charged Rittenhouse with two counts of attempted homicide, um two counts of reckless endangerment, and he asserted the self-defense claim. And later, the jury did acquit him on all accounts, citing the self-defense investigation, or self-defense, citing self-defense.

14:53.42

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

i's see It seems in these, in these incidences that Rittenhouse had a, I mean, I'm just reading after the fact, but he had a reasonable fear of imminent harm based on the, the conflict that you just described. but And whether or not force was used, was it proportional to the threat? Was the force he used proportional to threat? Do you think he did have a reasonable fear of of imminent harm?

15:17.85

Amy Ward

That's a hard one. um As much as a loss of life isn't ideal, and mean it is tragic, um as an investigator in this situation, my job is not to form an opinion. And you kind of have to remain impartial. But in this case, I remember wondering which way the jury would go, because

not all self-defense cases ended in an acquittal.

15:45.65

Amy Ward

But when I look at the evidence that his defense team presented a trial, they were able to convince the jury that Rittenhouse did feel for his life and his response was proportional. And I definitely can see why the jury believed that self-defense claim.

16:02.51

Amy Ward

and and the that they chose to acquit him. And I think in this case, this case could have went either way. um Wisconsin doesn't have a stand in your ground law, and and they don't have a duty to retreat. They actually have a castle doctrine, which means that you must be able to prove that they had a genuine fear for their life, or they would suffer from great bodily harm. And I think that probably applied in this case.

16:31.51

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah, grabbing someone's rifle is not a good move, that's for sure.

16:35.23

Amy Ward

Right.

16:36.53

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah, I have a concealed weapon license and it's a heavy responsibility to walk around with a firearm like that because if you get into some kind of conflict, there's a good chance of you getting shot with your own weapon, which is not good.

16:52.69

Amy Ward

Right. right

16:53.27

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

So you definitely have to be responsible, a responsible gun owner. All right, well, let's take a quick break and I will be right back.

17:04.65

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Okay, I'm back with private investigator Amy Ward. She's a ah PI and the CEO of Investigative Results out of Texas. You want to give your company a plug? What kind of work do you do?

17:17.89

Amy Ward

Oh, I do basically interview-based investigations, so I do a lot of different things. One of the things that I do work on is criminal defense. um I do backgrounds of federal and state employees, and I do a lot of insurance interviews and that kind of thing. um I do a lot of missing persons work, and I do do some volunteer work with ah victims of domestic violence.

17:47.93

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Awesome. That's great. Well, we're talking about cases where the self-defense claim has been asserted. And let's continue with case number three. And this case, like Trayvon Martin, also happened in Florida in Jacksonville in November 2012. This one is particularly sad because it was over loud music. So Michael Dunn pulled into a gas station. What happened?

18:13.74

Amy Ward

Right, so Dunn pulls into a gas station and like all old folks, the music seems too loud, but for a 17 or 18 year old, it can't be loud enough.

18:28.22

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

If it's too loud, you're too young, right?

18:28.41

Amy Ward

ah

18:30.47

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Or you're too old, sorry.

18:30.88

Amy Ward

Right, right, right. um So Dunn said and that he asked the teens to turn down the music, and they did. They turned it down. um Later, one of the other guys said, hey, turn it back up. And ah possibly there was a verbal or altercation you know based on you know all accounts. It was a verbal altercation.

18:56.51

Amy Ward

um eventually done pulled his pistol and he shot at the teens. um The teens reversed the car backed away from the situation, but it was too late. One of the teens was shot, the one in the back, ah the back, ah the back seat, the one, the teen in the back seat was shot. And that was a fatal shot.

19:23.56

Amy Ward

um When all was said and done, about 10 shots were fired um at the 14s and um probably the backing up saved the other three teens. um But then Dunn claimed that the teens were armed and he feared for his life. So of course, his defense team asserted ah the self-defense claim.

19:50.16

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Now, it kind of seems clear to me it wasn't justified. Again, I'm not an attorney, but ah it it seems to me that Michael Dunn's actions were not justified. In fact, but I think they were, they appeared to be racially motivated because he was white and the four boys were were black, were African Americans. What was the outcome?

20:09.96

Amy Ward

Right, so he had some issues with his credibility. um The officers found there were no guns. There was no gun. And even after he continued, he continued to shoot. you know Obviously, ah the teens weren't shooting at him. They didn't have a gun. um When he talked to his girlfriend, he never mentioned the teens having a gun. um So he was charged with three counts of attempted murder.

20:40.33

Amy Ward

um And in this case, it doesn't appear that the force was proportional to the threat. um When the shooting began, the vehicle moved away. He kept shooting. He left the scene. He didn't report it to anyone. um When all was said and done, the teens were found to be unarmed. And eventually, Dunn was convicted. He appealed and his appeal was denied.

21:08.06

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Well, that's good. Yeah, this was definitely unjustified. I mean, ah he was in this car at a gas station. His female companion went in to get something. i get I think to get a bottle of wine.

21:19.68

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

You know, he wasn't going to be there forever. It's just loud music. It's not the end of the world. But anyway, I guess it was something that got into his crawl for sure.

21:24.38

Amy Ward

Right. Definite overreaction.

21:28.99

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I know he also referred to the music as thug music. But as the woman he was with said, he called it Let me rephrase that. and um His companion with him at the time of the shooting said that Dunn referred to his music as, referred to the music as thug music, but Dunn had said he, I had just called it rap crap. Either way, it just seems that that may have been a ah racial aspect of that.

21:58.19

Amy Ward

It could have been, um I have watched his interview from the police and he does mention the word thug.

22:06.31

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

There you go. Case number four also happened in Florida in Jacksonville. Amy, I'm sensing a Florida theme here.

22:15.20

Amy Ward

Right, right.

22:17.20

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Anyway, in 2010, Marissa Alexander fired a warning shot at her estranged husband, Rico Gray. This is ah one of the cases where the individual did not was not killed, but she fired a warning shot at him. Tell me a little bit about their relationship prior to this and and then what happened.

22:38.77

Amy Ward

Right. Right. So Marissa was actually a victim of domestic violence. um She was there at her ex-husband's house and he had previously ah put his hands on her. He had um hit her.

22:54.56

Amy Ward

So she knew when he threatened to kill her, there was some merit to that. ah She actually did try to escape and and get out of the garage, but I don't know if it was an emotional thing, whatever, she couldn't get out. She couldn't get away from him. um The police didn't have any problem accessing the garage when they came, so I don't know if this was you know an emotional response.

23:17.12

Amy Ward

um So I guess having had enough, she retrieved her gun and she went inside to the kitchen and she fired that warning shot. I don't know if

she was trying to ask him to leave and he wouldn't leave. um They did have a protective order they weren't supposed to be.

23:33.37

Amy Ward

um with each other. um She didn't harm him. um No one was hurt. And then she was arrested. And she also asserted self-defense under the Florida Stand Your Ground law as well.

23:47.97

Amy Ward

But the jury disagreed. And she was actually sentenced under the mandatory minimum law and she received 20 years.

23:55.76

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah, that's ridiculous.

23:56.17

Amy Ward

20 years. um And then she appealed and um Eventually a new trial was ordered after she served three years But it is really extremely difficult to prove self-defense when no one was injured Right, um I am not exactly sure on the charge

24:10.40

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Yeah, that 20 year sentence though for essentially was it aggravated assault was at the charge.

24:19.67

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I think there was assault and maybe even attempted murder. But anyway, and talking about proportional 20 years does seem excessive for shooting a warning shot at someone. But I think she was released after three years.

24:30.40

Amy Ward

right, especially when there were no injuries.

24:33.16

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Is that right?

24:34.16

Amy Ward

Three years, yes. And I think ah she has really changed. She has advocated for domestic violence ah victims.

24:44.92

Amy Ward

And actually, I've seen several cases like Alexander's, and we have just here in Texas, Um, a lot of folks that are in prison for, um, you know, that were involved in domestic violence and they finally fought back and they received lengthy sentences and there, some of them are still serving today.

25:07.49

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

Some of those cases are a real fine line. I mean, I guess they look off look at a cooling off period if the person had time to you know to cool down and or if they went right at it. But I would, anyone who's so suffered from domestic violence, is it's terrible. And I can understand how they would want to finally ah protect themselves.

25:29.75

Amy Ward

Right, and I think sometimes there's a delayed response where maybe they don't have the courage to fight back um during the time that they're being abused, but later um somehow they just get tired and they just kind of snap.

25:46.20

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I just had enough.

25:48.18

Amy Ward

Right?

25:48.36

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I get it. All right. The last case we're going to look at, this is case number five, and this was your case.

25:52.38

Amy Ward

In my case.

25:54.94

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And it involved a ah fun little family barbecue that that was attended by Julie and Vera and their Aunt Beth and and several others.

26:07.64

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

How does this barbecue get out of control? Tell me how this started and tell me a little bit about your case.



26:13.87

Amy Ward

Right, right. um So I actually was court appointed in this case. um And I, there were two bottle biologically related defendants. One was Julie and one was Aunt Beth.

26:30.75

Amy Ward

um They were all you know from a small town in Texas. You know how small towns, everybody knows each other. As a matter of fact, most people are related in some kind of way. And that was the case during this barbecue. You have a family, they're celebrating, having a barbecue. Everybody having a good time. You got kids playing in the yard, but they didn't invite everyone. um So Aunt Beth asked Julie and Vera, who were sisters,

26:59.61

Amy Ward

um to run over to the store and and get some small items that they were missing you know maybe ketchup or whatever it might be and while they're at the store in the small town they encounter a couple of cousins.

27:13.69

Amy Ward

um you You know, obviously the cousins weren't invited and they exchanged some nice not so nice words. So Vera and Julie run, ah run grab the stuff and go back to Aunt Beth's. And then those two cousins, they go back to their house and they tell their dad, their brothers, their friends about their interaction. You know, they're mad, they're angry. They all jump into their cars, like three or four cars and they head over to Aunt Beth's and they're ready to confront Vera and Julie.

27:44.76

Amy Ward

um When they arrive, ah Julie tells the cousins, or and their uncle leave, but they don't leave. They advance into the yard. um These cousins are significantly larger, and now Julie and Vera are outnumbered. So Julie wants to keep the peace, and she locates the firearm that Aunt Beth has for protection. And she shows her cousins, hey,

28:14.52

Amy Ward

Leave. Please leave. They don't leave. They start to advance. And Julie is fearing for the children and and those are you that are in the yard and she shoots one ground right into the ground. you know Doesn't shoot anybody and she sets the firearm and she's ready to fight.

28:34.49

Amy Ward

Then Vera starts screaming. She's being chased by her cousins. She's asking for help and Aunt Beth comes out to see what is going on. The cousins and several others, they advance. They start just beating the snot out of them and Aunt Beth, she gets knocked onto the ground somehow. She gains control of the firearm that that Julie sat down and she shoots four shots in an upward direction. You know, she's on the ground and when all is said and done, ah three individuals are shot. Two of them fatally and one, ah you know, is harmed. You have multi-agency response. It's chaotic.

29:22.93

Amy Ward

um Aunt Beth freaks out and she leaves and Julie stays and talks with the police and she's charged with just a minor offense and Aunt Beth is charged with capital murder. Eventually the prosecution decides to charge Julie with the same crime capital murder. So you have two defendants and two different trials. You have one acquitted and one convicted. Who do you think was convicted?

29:50.66

Amy Ward

the one who brought the firearm or the one who actually shot the ah fatal shots.

29:58.30

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

I guess it's not going to be the one I think.

30:04.30

Amy Ward

Right? So, you know, the one who introduced the firearm, Julie, she is convicted. She sentenced immediately ah to, you know, life in prison. And Aunt Beth is actually acquitted because the jury could believe that she shot those folks in self-defense but could not believe that Julie fired or acted in self-defense.

30:32.43

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

That's crazy.

30:34.19

Amy Ward

It is it's a crazy case.

30:34.26

A Study in Crime™ Podcast

And who who owned the firearm?

30:36.46  
Amy Ward  
um It was the best firearm.

30:40.37  
A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
And you worked for the defense on this case?

30:43.09  
Amy Ward  
I did.

30:44.43  
A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
And is it still I mean, do they appeal their their conviction or how's that going now?

30:51.69  
Amy Ward  
Right. It has been appealed and it's still pending.

30:57.30  
A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
Wow, I mean, there's a lot of a lot of moving Moving parts to this, family, boy, it's crazy.

31:05.14  
Amy Ward  
Right? You who would think that you're family.

31:06.42  
A Study in Crime™ Podcast  
All right, Amy, I'll give you the last word. What would you like to say about self-defense cases or um about any of the cases that we talked about?

31:08.83  
Amy Ward  
Okay.

31:14.22  
Amy Ward  
Right? I think it's important um that you understand that self-defense is not an absolute right. It has to be interpreted by a jury. It's essential to understand your state laws, especially if you have a fire or a knife. As you stated, you know, there's a big ah burden that you have if you're carrying a firearm, you need to know what your state laws are. um If you do ever face ah ah the situation, you make sure that you have a competent defense team, including a licensed investigator who has um experience in a criminal defense case.

