**"The Frank LaPena Story," A Punishment Without Crime and the biggest Mob Murder Coverup in Nevada History**

In 1974, a very good looking and charismatic Las Vegas Bell Captain named Frank LaPena and his girlfriend, Rosalie Maxwell, a stunningly beautiful Cocktail Server from Caesars Palace, were charged with the alleged contract murder of Hilda Krause; a Caesars Palace Executive's wife. Also charged in the robbery/murder was a former Caesars Palace pool boy named Gerald Weakland. Weakland implicated LaPena and Maxwell as the masterminds. At seperate trials, Maxwell was acquitted in August 1976. LaPena, having the exact same evidence, was found guilty in March 1977. LaPena suffered over 37 years in the hells of prison because of his refusal to buckle under Sin City's "Good Ole Boy" system. His case is the biggest mob murder coverup in Nevada history. LaPena became a media living legend because of all of this . On two prior occasions LaPena even reversed his murder conviction. LaPena won his freedom for the third time when former retired Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, E.M. Gunderson, came forward at LaPena's Pardon Board Hearing on December 12, 2003. It was at this hearing the Gunderson presented unrefuted testimonial evidence that LaPena was, "actually innocent," of the most publicized contract murder. The state of Nevada concealed and covered up the evidence for over 25 years. Gerald Weakland first named Marvin Krause, the victim's husband, as the person who hired him to murder his wife, NOT LaPena.  
  
LaPena's case is probably the first time in American history that a former Chief Justice of the highest state court had testified on behalf of a prisoner who had steadfastly maintained his innocence; despite intense pressure from the State to say that he was guilty.  
  
In 1999, former Caesars Palace Cocktail Waitress, Barbara Lynn Brady, came forward and claimed that in 1973, 2 months prior to the robbery/murder, the victim's husband, Marvin Krause, asked her and 2 other people to "help him" pull a "fake robbery" at his residence. It would be at this staged robbery where they would steal his wife's jewelry and furs so that he could collect the insurance money. When the 3 individuals refused Krause's plan he asked them if the "knew" someone who would do it or if they could "put him in touch" with someone that would do this for him. Again, the 3 people refused. Lynn Brady told the prosecution of this in 1974 and provided them with a taped statement. NOTE: Weakland and Marvin Krause knew eachother, unbeknownst to LaPena, at his 2 murder trials in 1977 and 1989.  
  
The prosecution kept the oral and taped statemed information quiet for 25 years and always argued before the jurors and judges that it was LaPena who masterminded the fake robbery of the Krause residence. The prosecution knew all along that it was Marvin Krause who was the real mastermind behind the staged robbery, NOT LaPena. LaPena was finally released on life parole on February 8, 2005 but the saga still continues.  
  
After an intense 37 year battle with the State of Nevada LaPena has been represented by many high profile and colorful attorneys. Former mayor of Las vegas, Oscar Goodman, represented LaPena and is considered one of the best criminal attorneys in the US. He was also represented by Senator Harry Reid, Assistant U.S. Attorney, LaMond Mills, Richard Wright, Carmine Colucci, and David Scheik.  
  
This story not only includes mob mafia history of Bugsy Segal's partner, Meyer Lansky, and Miami crime Boss, Santo Trafficante Jr. (whom the Krauses were partners with in Batista's Cuban Capri Casino and who helped build Las Vegas) it also includes Mob Boss, "Tough Tony (The Ant)" Spilotro, who LaPena has done legal work for in the past.  
  
This is the powerful story of one man's intense 37 year battle with the State of Nevada. The harsh realities that LaPena endured and the struggles that he succumed to in prison are forever grained in his soul. LaPena has always stayed true to himself and his convictions regardless of the price he had to pay; half of his life in prison for a CRIME HE DID NOT COMMITT   
  
Presently, DNA testing is under investigation.

**Pictured here, Frank LaPena, in 1974.**

