

## **DETROIT MEN GRANTED NEW TRIALS IN 1988 STABBING OF PROSTITUTE**

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Author: Associated Press

LANSING -- The Michigan Supreme Court granted new trials to two men convicted in the 1988 stabbing death of a Detroit prostitute, saying their juries were not told that a co-defendant had admitted stabbing the victim.

In a 5-1 opinion released Tuesday, the court said that excluding the co-defendant's confession violated the Detroit residents' constitutional right to present a defense.

The ruling stemmed from the convictions of **Mark Barrera** and Patrick M. Musall in Detroit Recorder's Court, who are serving life prison terms for stabbing Deborah Haynes in Balduck Park, on Detroit's east side, in October 1988.

The slaying attracted attention because the four men accused of the crime were members of a skinhead gang that espoused white supremacist views. Haynes, 29, a drug addict and prostitute who had contracted AIDS, was black.

**Barrera**, then 21, and Musall, who was 17, admitted going to the park for sex with her. But they insisted that another in the group, Matthew Copeland, had stabbed her.

Copeland told police he had been drinking and was on drugs when he became convinced Haynes was his former girlfriend as he watched her having oral sex with one of the men, so he alone stabbed her. Copeland was later convicted of first-degree murder. A fourth man, Fred Johnson of Detroit, was acquitted.

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