

The People v. Willie Monroe ***Sociology 313---Law and Society***

1. Given that this case takes place in Alameda County, California with has a population that is fifty percent Black, why is it that there are no Black jurors involved in the Willie Monroe trial?
2. What facts pertaining to this case were the most damaging and incriminating as they related to Willie Monroe being charged with armed robbery?
3. Explain why it was that the rifle found in Willie's car (actually his mother's 1963 Plymouth) was not admissible evidence (procedural law) while the hat and bullets found in the same car were?
4. How convinced are you of the accuracy of Mrs. Drummond's identification of the rifle that was used in her store robbery?
5. How might the accuracy of Mrs. Drummond's eyewitness identification of Willie Monroe been challenged and discredited significantly?
6. How might you give credible argument that the race and poverty of Willie Monroe worked against his chances of getting a fair trial judgment? Or alternately, if Willie had been born into an affluent White family, how might his chances of acquittal been improved?
7. What was the verdict rendered in this case by the jury?
8. Explain why it was that Willie Monroe accepted the guilty plea bargain assuming that he was in fact innocent. And why was this guilty plea not such a good bargain for Willie?
9. In your opinion was justice done in this case? Explain your view.