

A Tale of Two Policeman

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/07/us/minneapolis-mohamed-noor-sentenced/index.html>

2019, Former Minneapolis police officer **Mohamed Noor** was sentenced by a Minnesota judge to 12½ years in prison for the fatal shooting of a woman while responding to her 911 call.

Authorities said Rusczyk called 911 the night of **July 15, 2017**, to report a possible sexual assault in an alley behind her house.

Officers Matthew Harrity and Noor were dispatched to the scene and arrived at 11:37 p.m., according to a criminal complaint. Prosecutors said **Noor was sitting in the passenger seat**, pulled out his gun and shot across the vehicle to hit Rusczyk, **who was outside the driver's side door**.

Speaking in court Friday, Noor said: “The moment I pulled the trigger, I felt fear. The moment I walked around and saw **Miss Rusczyk dying on the ground**, I felt horror. **I knew in that instant that I was wrong.**”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-race-georgefloyd/ex-officer-on-trial-for-deadly-arrest-asks-to-show-jury-an-earlier-george-floyd-arrest-idUSKBN2B82AO>

<https://www.fox9.com/news/judge-rules-some-body-cam-video-from-george-floyds-2019-arrest-admissible-in-derek-chauvin-trial>

May 2019, In the May 6, 2019 arrest, a panicked Floyd swallowed several opioid pain-killer pills as police approached and was later treated at a hospital. **When approached, he refuses to follow police directions.** He calls out for his “Mama”. He says I can’t breathe. He says don’t shoot me. He is acting incoherent at times, per arresting officers. The police check his blood pressure, due to his hysterical behavior. Officers sit with Mr Floyd in the squad car trying to calm him down. He is eventually taken to the hospital to be checked out, as a precaution. **His hospital treatment for a drug overdose**, possibly saved his life that day.

<https://minnlawyer.com/2020/02/07/2019-attorneys-of-the-year-amy-sweasy/>

2019, Amy Sweasy wins **lawyer of the year** for co-leading the successful prosecution of Minneapolis Police Officer Mohamed Noor. This was one of the most high profile successful prosecutions, in the state of Minnesota. Amy was a 25 year employee of the Hennepin County Attorneys Office. She was a seasoned prosecutor and a leader in the Hennepin County Attorneys Office.

<https://spectator.org/minnesota-v-derek-chauvin-et-al-the-prosecutions-dirty-little-secret/>

<https://www.fox9.com/news/2-officers-involved-in-george-floyd-death-were-rookies-attorney-says-1-was-on-his-4th-day>

05/25/20 George Floyd dies while being arrested by Minneapolis Police. His behavior during this arrest is very similar to his 2019 arrest, just one year earlier. **The first 2 officers on the scene are rookies.** They struggle handling the defiant George Floyd. They get him in the squad car but let him out after he becomes hysterical. Derek Chauvin and his partner arrive as backup, but soon assumes control over the arrest. He restrains George Floyd on the ground by kneeling on his neck/back. The rookie officers request Floyd be rolled over but are over ruled by 19 yr veteran officer, Derek Chauvin. Chauvin feels Floyd was in a state of opioid delirium. He felt George Floyd needed to be restrained to protect himself and the public. George Floyd is later pronounced dead at the hospital.

05/29/20, Hennepin County Attorneys Office charges Derek Chauvin with 3rd degree murder. This is the same charge they prosecuted police officer Mohamed Noor for. ***Note, the toxicology screen has not been released yet.*** Only the preliminary autopsy from the Coroner. The 3 other officers are charged with aiding and abetting 3rd degree murder at the same time. This preliminary autopsy shows no damage to George Floyd's neck from the restraint technique used.

05/31/20, the toxicology screen is provided to the coroner to add to his autopsy report.

05/31/20, SUNDAY NIGHT, 7:30pm, Hennepin County attorneys **Amy Sweasy** and **Patrick Lofton**, meet with the coroner via Skype to discuss the toxicology screen report.

1) blood tested is “hospital blood”. This is better for toxicity testing than autopsy blood.

2) George Floyd's lungs were full of fluid and weighed 2-3 times normal weight at autopsy. This is a sign of pulmonary edema, possibly caused by a **fentanyl overdose**.

3) Coroner states the level of fentanyl in the blood is **normally fatal**. If George Floyd had been found at home dead (with no signs of foul play) he would have ruled the death an overdose.

Amy Sweasy writes this all up in a Memorandum and shares the information with the County Attorney prosecution team. **This memorandum is placed under a gag order.** This memo was hidden for 3 months (until August 25, 2020)...

<https://www.fox9.com/news/minnesota-governor-puts-ag-ellison-in-charge-of-george-floyd-case>

05/31/20, SUNDAY NIGHT, Gov Tim Waltz puts AG KEITH ELLISON in charge of the prosecution of the George Floyd death. **Note: same date as toxicology screen being released!** Governor Tim Waltz replaces Hennepin County attorney Amy Sweasy, **who was 2019 Lawyer of the year**, to install “defund the police” AG Keith Ellison in charge of this case...

<https://www.minnpost.com/metro/2020/06/five-takeaways-from-ellisons-decision-to-prosecute-the-three-other-ex-mpd-officers-add-2nd-degree-murder-charge-against-chauvin/>

06/03/20 Three days after taking over the case, Keith Ellison ups the charges to **2nd degree murder** for Derek Chauvin. This ups the aiding and abetting charges for the other 3 officers **also to 2nd degree murder**. The maximum penalty for all 4 officers is now **40 years**.

https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/Communications/2020/07/13_FloydCaseAttorneys.asp

July 13, 2020, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison today announced that **four seasoned attorneys and trial lawyers** have joined the prosecution team he leads in the George Floyd case. They are working on a pro bono basis.

The attorneys joining the prosecution team, each of whom Attorney General Ellison has **appointed a Special Assistant Attorney General**, are:

- **Neal Katyal**, **partner at the international law firm Hogan Lovells**, and former acting Solicitor General and former Principal Deputy Solicitor General of the United States under Obama.
- **Lola Velázquez-Aguilu**, litigation and investigation counsel for Medtronic, and former prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota. During her tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, she prosecuted complex multi-defendant, white-collar crimes, including the successful prosecution and trial of several former executives from Starkey Hearing Technologies. Until today, she served as Chairwoman of the Commission on Judicial Selection, to which position she was appointed by Governor Tim Walz.
- **Jerry Blackwell**, trial lawyer and founding partner, CEO, and chairman of the Minneapolis law firm Blackwell Burke, P.A. In June 2020, he won a full, first-ever posthumous pardon for Max Mason, who was wrongly convicted of rape in connection with the infamous Duluth lynchings of June 1920.
- **Steven L. Schleicher**, partner at the Minneapolis law firm Maslon LLP; former prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, the Winona County Attorney's Office, and U.S. Army Reserve JAG Corps. In 2016, he led the successful prosecution of the person responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Jacob Wetterling.

<https://apnews.com/article/derek-chauvin-trial-steve-schleicher-e1a14774fe5d88666232187c1413d5b8>

<https://www.twincities.com/2021/03/27/derek-chauvin-george-floyd-trial-attorneys-judge-defense-prosecution/>

Per the AP, the AG Keith Ellison prosecution team has **13 lawyers**, said John Stiles, Ellison's spokesman, and **a 14th acting as a jury consultant**. Each lawyer has a specialty and performs specific tasks for this case. (9) of the (14) are "outside" lawyers that are all working pro bono.

Multiple prosecution attorneys work for Hogan Lovell, including **Neal Katyal**, who is a **Partner at the DC office**. Katyal was also the former Obama administration acting Solicitor General. **Hogan Lovell is an international law firm** with over 2,500 lawyers on staff. The co-headquarters are in **Washington DC** and **London England**.

<https://rightwingtribune.com/2020/09/20/george-floyds-brother-account/>

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2022/01/black-lives-matter-finances.html>

08/25/20 The gag order is removed from the autopsy toxicology memorandum by the prosecution team. The police have already been found guilty in the public's mind, by the negative non stop media coverage, for the 3 month duration of the gag order.

George Floyd's family shuts down a “go fund me” account at the same time this autopsy memorandum becomes public. The account was worth **\$14 million** at the time it was shut down.

BLM said it had raised more than **\$90 million** in 2020.

<https://www.startribune.com/judge-disqualifies-freeman-for-sloppy-work-in-floyd-case/572378842/>

09/12/20 County Attorney Mike Freeman and (3) other county attorneys are removed from the case by Judge Peter Cahill for “**sloppy work**”. Per Judge Cahill, Amy Sweasy did not follow proper procedure by not having a non attorney present for the coroner skype call. **Both she and Lofton had resigned from the case on 06/02/20. Either could have fulfilled that requirement, per the state of MN rules.** The Judge also ruled that Floyd’s 2019 arrest was not relevant to the trial and would not be allowed. Even though that arrest was very similar to the 2020 arrest where he died. The judge also would not allow a change of venue.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/23/us/derek-chauvin-sentencing-george-floyd/index.html>

April 2021, Derek Chauvin is found guilty of 2nd Degree Murder, 3rd Degree Murder and 2nd Degree Manslaughter. He was scheduled to be sentenced on June 16th.

Judge Cahill sentenced Derek Chauvin to 22.5 years in prison on his second-degree murder charge. The second-degree manslaughter and third-degree murder charges were not adjudicated, as they are with other people convicted of murder, Chauvin is prohibited from possessing any firearms, ammunition, or explosives.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGlcM2J90hE>

Don Lemon of CNN interviews the jury on why they convicted Derek Chauvin. There were multiple votes held by the jury that were split on the murder charge. At about the 7:00 minute mark, a woman says the jury had an **“ah ha” moment** in the round of voting where he was found guilty. She said it was **not what Derek Chauvin did** that made him guilty **but what he did not do**. She “felt” Derek Chauvin should have performed CPR.

<https://alphanews.org/court-filing-four-prosecutors-opposed-charging-chauvins-partners/>

May 2022, Amy Sweasy settles a sexual harassment suit with Hennepin County for \$190,000 dollars. Testimony in this case provided some additional information regarding the George Floyd prosecution.

Four prosecutors in the Hennepin County attorneys office **disagreed with the prosecution** of (3) police officers in the George Floyd case. This was disclosed in the Amy Sweasy sexual harassment case filing. These attorneys **removed themselves from the case due to it being improper and unethical, in their opinion**.

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2022/06/24/mohammed-noor-exminneapolis-officer-who-killed-911-caller-to-be-released>

06/24/22, Former Minneapolis Police Officer Mohamed Noor is to be released from Prison. **The Minnesota Supreme Court** tossed out his murder conviction along with his 12 ½ year prison sentence. He was **re-sentenced to 4 ½ years** for the manslaughter conviction. **The justices said the murder charge did not fit the circumstances of this case.**

“His release after a trivial sentence **shows great disrespect to the wishes of the jury** who represented the communities of Minneapolis” said **Damond's father, John Ruszczuk.**

In Minnesota, the DOC releases prisoners, **on parole**, after serving two thirds of their sentence. **Mr Noor will be totally free of probation on 01/24/2024.**

Days after Mohamed Noor’s conviction, Minneapolis agreed to pay **\$20 million** to Justine Damond’s family.

Minneapolis agreed to a **\$27 million** settlement in George Floyd’s death **just as Derek Chauvin was going on trial.**

<https://thegrio.com/2022/12/11/jerry-blackwell-appointed-federal-judge/>

The U.S. Senate has confirmed **Jerry Blackwell** — one of the prosecutors who helped convict a former Minneapolis police officer of murder in the killing of George Floyd — as the **next federal judge in Minnesota.**

Blackwell is a Minneapolis attorney and a founding partner of the law firm Blackwell Burke. He has 35 years of trial experience, and worked pro bono as **he helped prosecute Derek Chauvin** for the May 2020 killing Floyd, **delivering a powerful rebuttal during the state’s closing arguments.**

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-minneapolis-police-officer-derek-chauvin-sentenced-more-20-years-prison-depriving>

12/15/2021, Chauvin pleaded guilty in **federal court** to violating a **federal criminal civil rights statute** on two separate occasions. **This was a plea deal.**

07/14/22, The **Justice Department** (DOJ) announced today that former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, 46, was sentenced to serve 252 months in prison with credit for time served for **depriving George Floyd Jr. and a then-14-year-old child of their constitutional rights**. This plea deal includes not only the George Floyd case but a previous case involving a 14 year old minor where Mr Chauvin used the same restraint technique that he used on George Floyd. This restraint technique was legal to use at the time he used it, as a Minneapolis Police Officer. This restraint technique is now illegal.

<https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/george-floyd/former-minneapolis-police-department-officers-convicted-in-george-floyds-m>

Thomas Lane

Lane pleaded guilty to **one count of aiding and abetting manslaughter in the second degree**. On September 21, 2022, Lane was sentenced to 3 years in prison. **Lane was a rookie Police Officer that was on the job for 4 days.**

On May 7, 2021, a federal grand jury indicted Lane **for violating Floyd's civil rights and depriving him of medical care**. Lane was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in federal prison, followed by two years of supervised release. He is serving his state and federal sentences congruently at a federal prison in Colorado.

J. Alexander Kueng

Kueng pleaded guilty to **aiding and abetting manslaughter**. On Dec. 9, 2022, Kueng was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison, with prosecutors agreeing to drop the charge of aiding and abetting second-degree murder. **Kueng was a rookie Officer.**

On May 7, 2021, a federal grand jury indicted Kueng for depriving Floyd of medical care, in addition to failing to intervene. Kueng was found guilty of **depriving Floyd of his right to medical care and failure to intervene**. On July 27, 2022, Kueng was

sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison to be served concurrently with his state sentence. He is currently behind bars at a federal prison in Ohio.

Tou Thao

On May 1, 2023, Thao was found guilty of **aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter**. On Aug. 7, Thao was sentenced to 57 months in prison on his state conviction of aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

On May 7, 2021, a federal grand jury indicted Thao for depriving Floyd of medical care and failure to intervene. Thao was convicted of **depriving Floyd of his right to medical care and failure to intervene**. On July 27, 2022, Thao was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison, which he is currently serving while he waits for his sentencing in state court. He is currently incarcerated at a federal facility in Kentucky.

<https://www.fox9.com/news/court-orders-minneapolis-to-employ-a-minimum-of-731-police-officers>

06/20/2022, The **Minnesota Supreme Court** has ordered Minneapolis to immediately hire more police officers or prove why it can't. The city charter gives Mayor Jacob Frey a "clear legal duty" **to maintain at least 731 officers** in the Minneapolis Police Department, justices wrote in their Monday afternoon order.

Interim City Attorney Peter Ginder in a statement following the announcement. "**Over the last two years, the Minneapolis Police Department has lost almost 300 peace officers**. This is an **unprecedented loss of personnel** that is not easily corrected.

<https://alphanews.org/court-docs-reveal-extreme-public-pressure-on-prosecutors-in-george-floyd-case/>

In the summer of 2023, transcripts of Hennepin County prosecutor testimony has been released to the public. **Liz Collin** (formerly of CBS, WCCO) wrote this article for Alpha News... **Her husband was a Minneapolis Police Officer.**

The article talks about the extreme pressure the county attorneys were under. There was insane pressure coming from **“outside”** of the Hennepin County Attorneys Office to charge **all the police officers**. Two of the officers were novices with one being on the job just one week. According to the deposition of a former Hennepin County prosecutor, Amy Sweasy, the county’s medical examiner told her in a phone call that there **“were no medical indications of asphyxia or strangulation.”** **“He said to me, ‘Amy, what happens when the actual evidence doesn’t match up with the public narrative that everyone’s already decided on?’ And then he said, ‘This is the kind of case that ends careers.’”**

<https://alphanews.org/dfl-leader-who-wanted-to-dismantle-police-now-benefiting-from-extra-patrols/>

09/12/23, A Minnesota **DFL leader** who once expressed support for “dismantling” the police is now **benefiting from a heightened police presence** in her neighborhood after she was carjacked. Sources told Alpha News that Minneapolis police were “instructed to do extra patrols in her neighborhood,” saying the request “came from downtown.”

The Minneapolis Police Department confirmed that it has added extra patrols to **DFL Second Vice Chair Shivanthi Sathanandan’s** north Minneapolis neighborhood.

Sathanandan was **carjacked in front of her children in the driveway of her home** Sept. 5. A photo she posted online shows blood streaming down her face from a laceration to the side of her head. She said she also **suffered a broken leg** along with other cuts and bruises.

On Facebook, in 2020, she wrote **“We are going to dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department.** Say it with me,” she wrote, thanking two Minneapolis City Council members for their **“radical leadership.”**

In another 2020 post, Sathanandan thanked the **Minneapolis Board of Education for removing school resource officers** from the district, saying **“MPD should have no place in our children’s schools.”**

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/24/us/derek-chauvin-stabbed-prison-george-floyd/index.html>

11/24/2023, Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer who was convicted in the [2020 murder of George Floyd](#), **was stabbed Friday** in a federal prison in Arizona, the office of **Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison** has confirmed.

“An incarcerated individual” was assaulted at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tucson at approximately 12:30 p.m., the Bureau of Prisons said Friday.

“Responding employees initiated life-saving measures for one incarcerated individual,” and **that person was transferred to a hospital for treatment**, the bureau said in a release. “No employees were injured during the incident,” the release said.

In April 2021, Chauvin [was convicted](#) on **state charges** of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. He was [sentenced to 22 and a half years in prison](#). Months later, Chauvin [pleaded guilty](#) to **federal charges** of depriving Floyd of his civil rights and was [sentenced to 21 years in prison](#).