

State of Wisconsin v David Kahl

TrueAllele finds match for DNA mixture in cold case homicide of college student



“We want to thank you for your ongoing help in this case. It would not have been charged but for the work of you and your team. Your work helped bring justice after 14 ½ years to the family of a murdered college student. Our state crime lab did a great job, but we would not have had a determination on the presence of the defendant’s DNA in the mixtures without you.”

- ADA Erin Hanson

Crime In 2008, Brittany Zimmerman, a 21-year old University of Wisconsin-Madison student, was strangled and stabbed in her home in the middle of the day.

Evidence Police collected Zimmermann’s shirt and jeans as evidence as the assailant’s DNA was likely left behind during the attack.

DNA The Wisconsin Crime Laboratory analyzed the DNA samples from the jeans and shirt, producing DNA data.

Match The crime lab’s manual interpretation results for these items were inconclusive due to the number of contributors and low DNA amounts.

TrueAllele On the same data, TrueAllele found match statistics between the victim’s shirt and defendant David Kahl that ranged from 226 thousand to 12.4 million. The match statistics between the victim’s jeans and Mr. Kahl ranged from 18.7 million to 341 billion.

Cybergenetics Cybergenetics analyst Jennifer Bracamontes testified in a preliminary hearing in July 2021.

Outcome In October 2022, the defendant pled guilty to first-degree homicide before trial. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Ask for a free TrueAllele screening of DNA data from your crime case.

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