

BACKGROUNDER - A *Test of Wills* Key Dates

February 15, 2002	Linda Mariani reported missing.
March 2002	Richard Wills makes separation agreement with wife.
June 4, 2002	Wills transfers \$120,000 to wife from bank credit line.
June 6, 2002	Wills transfers joint interest in property to wife.
June-December 2002	Wills hires lawyers Timothy and Peter Danson, surrenders to police, is charged with murder, pays the Dansons \$30,000; fires them.
December 4, 2002- September 2003	Wills hires lawyer Todd White, pays him \$50,000; fires him, receives \$10,000 back, gives it to wife; also begins transferring interest in five properties to family members, cashes in RRSPs and pension.
September 2003	Wills applies for legal aid; Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) offers aid to be paid back at \$500/month; Wills refuses, asks court to appoint lawyer, court refuses.
December 3, 2003	Justice Joseph F. Kenkel appoints Howard Borenstein as <i>amicus curiae</i> (“friend of the court”) to ensure Wills’ legal rights.
February 27, 2004	Wills again offered aid that must be repaid at \$500/month; he refuses.
March 10, 2004	Justice Alan W. Bryant hears application for Rowbotham order (to have the Ministry of the Attorney General [MAG] fund Wills’ defence); dismisses it.
March 15, 2004	Preliminary hearing begins.
November 12, 2004	Preliminary hearing ends when Attorney General invokes rarely used power to send the case directly to trial.
January 4- February 2, 2005	Justice J. Bryan Shaughnessy reappoints Mr. Borenstein to assist with second Rowbotham order application; grants the order.
April 28, 2005	Justice Shaughnessy makes Fisher order directing MAG to pay legal fees in excess of legal aid rates; lawyer Cynthia Wasser hired at \$200/hour.

September 6, 2005	Wills fires Ms. Wasser and co-counsel Breese Davies.
October 28, 2005	Justice Shaughnessy reappoints Mr. Borenstein as <i>amicus curiae</i> .
January 19- June 2006	Lawyer Munyonzwe Hamalengwa hired at \$200/hour. Directed to submit his accounts to LAO for review; he protests.
June 6, 2006	Justice Shaughnessy rules that LAO should “vet” Mr. Hamalengwa’s accounts, LAO asks Mr. Hamalengwa to meet and set a budget.
July 31, 2006	Crown pre-trial motions begin.
August 18, 2006	Mr. Hamalengwa tells LAO’s Big Case Management Director that LAO’s role is only to “add up the math”; the director sends letter to MAG and judge indicating LAO is reviewing the bills.
January 9, 2007	Defence pre-trial motions begin.
May 14, 2007	Wills’ trial begins with jury selection before Justice Michelle Fuerst.
May 18, 2007	Raj Napal replaces Mr. Hamalengwa as lead counsel (Mr. Hamalengwa fired); submits list of 18 expert witnesses he intends to call at trial.
May 31, 2007	MAG learns LAO has been merely “adding up the math” on the Wills case.
June 14, 2007	Justice Shaughnessy issues new order explicitly stating LAO’s responsibility for financial controls in the case.
October 31, 2007	Wills convicted of first-degree murder; reports of costs break in media.
November 5, 2007	Attorney General Chris Bentley announces acceleration of protocol between LAO and MAG for the handling of cases similar to Wills.
November 6, 2007	Ombudsman André Marin announces investigation.
December 12, 2007	MAG protocol with LAO announced.
February 6, 2008	Wills files appeal.
February 26, 2008	Ombudsman releases report with recommendations.