



# Sharen Wilson Criminal District Attorney



## For Immediate Release

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## Glen McCurley Sentenced to Life in 1974 Murder of Carla Walker

(Fort Worth, TX) – Glen Samuel McCurley pleaded guilty in the middle of his trial Tuesday to the capital murder of Carla Walker, 17. Judge Elizabeth Beach sentenced him to life in prison.

This case drew national attention because it went unsolved for 46 years before advancements in DNA technology linked McCurley to Carla Walker. McCurley was arrested in 2020.

"Because the Fort Worth Police never gave up, justice for Carla has finally come," Sharen Wilson, Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney said.

Carla Walker was abducted, sexually assaulted and strangled after a Western Hills High School Valentine's Day dance on February 17, 1974. Her body was found three days later in a culvert on Pearl Ranch Road near Benbrook Lake.

Fort Worth Police detectives Jeff Bennett and Leah Wagner were the primary officers who reopened this case in 2019. New, advanced DNA testing matched McCurley's DNA to stains found on Carla Walker's clothing.

Assistant Criminal District Attorneys Kim D'Avignon and Emily Dixon prosecuted this case. Investigator Chris LaChance worked on the case as well.

"This case would not have been solved without the hard work of police," said Kim D'Avignon, chief of the TCCDA Adult Sexual Assault team. "We appreciate the investigators in the 1970s, who gathered evidence and conducted interviews trying to find Carla's murderer. We also appreciate the investigators, who, more than 40 years later, were able to use DNA technological advancements to link McCurley to Carla Walker."

This may be the first time genetic genealogy has been used in a trial. It was, however, used to identify the Golden State Killer in 2018.

Prosecutors announced in May that they would seek a sentence of life in prison, rather than the death penalty, for McCurley. His guilty plea came on the third day of trial.

"We want to thank everyone for their support in this case. The Walker family got some closure today that so many families need," Kim D'Avignon said.

"Getting to see this all the way through to closure was very emotional and very gratifying," said Emily Dixon, assistant chief of the Adult Sexual Assault team. "We are so proud to have had so much support from the community for this case."

