

# KEY FIGURES IN THE WILL SMITH MURDER TRIAL

## THE ACCUSED



### Cardell Hayes

Known as “Bear” to friends, Hayes is the 29-year-old tow truck driver accused of shooting the Smiths. Despite his 6-foot-4, 305-pound stature, friends at Hayes’ barber shop described him as a mild-mannered man devoted to his young son.

## THE JUDGE



### Judge Camille Buras

A New Orleans native and Loyola Law School graduate, Buras parlayed her position as former District Attorney Harry Connick Sr.’s first assistant into a judgeship in 1998. Observers say she runs a tight courtroom.

## LIKELY WITNESSES



### Kevin O’Neal

O’Neal was in the passenger seat of Hayes’ Hummer H2 as the confrontation with Will Smith began. O’Neal and Hayes played football together at

Warren Easton High School and for the minor league Crescent City Kings. In an interview with Sports Illustrated, he claimed that Smith was, “like a madman. ... Nobody was calming him down.”

### Amanda Williams

Williams, a rookie 6th District cop, was the first on-duty officer to respond to 911 calls about the Smith shooting.



### Bruce Brueggeman

Prosecutors will use this homicide detective’s testimony to guide jurors through the police investigation. Brueggeman,

who was featured on the A&E show “The First 48,” was a homicide detective in suburban Atlanta and transferred to the NOPD in 2013.

### Richard Hernandez

A friend of Will Smith’s from Kenner, Hernandez was inside the football player’s SUV when the confrontation began.



### Will Smith

Smith, who was 34 when he was killed, played for the Saints for his entire nine-year career, which included the team’s 2009 Super Bowl title. After retiring, Smith continued to reside in Kenner with his wife and their three children and ran a charitable foundation.



### Racquel Smith

Raquel Smith was by her husband’s side when he was shot to death. She suffered gunshot wounds to both legs as well. Smith’s attorney claims she was “holding her hands up, pleading with (Hayes) to back off” when he began to fire. Her testimony is expected to be the emotional centerpiece of the trial.

## THE DEFENSE



### John Fuller

Fuller is a high-profile and controversial member of the Orleans Parish criminal bar known for his splashy public statements and bitter rivalry with District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro.



### Jay Daniels

Daniels is Fuller’s more soft-spoken co-counsel who graduated from Tulane University Law School in 2008 and worked as a public defender before starting his own law practice.

## THE PROSECUTION



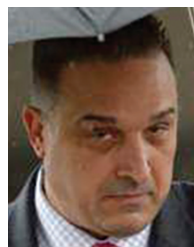
### Jason Napoli

Napoli is one of District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro’s most trusted lieutenants. He last faced off against defense attorney John Fuller in the trial of an alleged “black widow” murder case in September and lost.



### Laura Cannizzaro Rodrigue

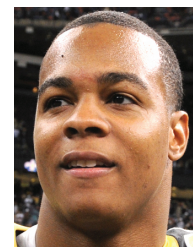
The district attorney’s daughter, Rodrigue handles some of his most high-profile cases. In January, she secured a manslaughter conviction for Trung Le, one of two gunmen in the 2014 Bourbon Street shootout.



### William Ceravolo

The former NOPD captain and longtime friend of Will Smith shared dinner and drinks with the Saints star at Sake Café

shortly before the shooting. Fuller has repeatedly insinuated that Ceravolo manipulated evidence at the scene.



### Pierre Thomas

Thomas was a key member of the Saints 2009 Super Bowl championship team and remained friends with Will Smith after Smith’s

retirement. Thomas was also at Sake Café with Smith and other friends shortly before the shooting.

### Rebecca Dooley Hernandez

Dooley Hernandez also was inside Will Smith’s SUV along with her husband when the confrontation with Cardell Hayes began.

### Jonathan Whipple

Whipple, Rebecca Dooley Hernandez’s brother, was driving a Chevrolet Impala that was hit from behind by Smith’s Mercedes SUV, which itself had been hit by Hayes’ Hummer.