

“A well-written analysis that rivals Netflix’s hit series Making a Murderer. Mr. Stuart’s analysis demonstrates that there are no winners in this story unless participants in the criminal justice system learn from it. A work well done.”

Mike Piccarella, Past President, Arizona State Bar Association;
Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers; Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers



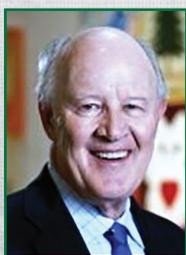
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MURDER. COERCION. PROSECUTORIAL MISCONDUCT.

Anatomy of a Confession: *The Debra Milke Case* is the story of the 1990 murder trial of Debra Milke. Two men murdered a four year-old boy. One of them casually implicated the boy's mother. Even before she was questioned, the police hung a guilty tag on her. The prosecutor believed it because the police did. The judge let the jury hear her confession, but not vital exculpatory evidence. The jury believed she did it because the cop was so convincing and the mother so unmotherly. That label came from her own family. No one in her courtroom presumed her innocence — not the cops, prosecutors, jurors, judge, or her own lawyer. America's most vaunted legal principle — the presumption of innocence — was nowhere to be found.

This book also tells the story of Detective Armando Saldade, his history of coercing confessions and violating *Miranda* standards, and the role the Phoenix Police Department played in the cover-up and misconduct in its handling of the Milke investigation.

Like the very best of true crime narratives, *Anatomy of a Confession* is a vivid and shocking reminder of what America's vaunted presumption of innocence is supposed to be all about, and what can happen when the criminal justice system fails and presumption of innocence becomes just the opposite, a presumption of guilt.



Author **GARY L. STUART** teaches law and writing at Arizona State University. Prior to teaching, he practiced law for thirty-two years with one of Arizona's largest law firms. He has published dozens of law review articles, op-eds, essays, and short stories, and is the author of eight previous books, including *The Gallup 14*, *Miranda: The Story of America's Right to Remain Silent*, and *Innocent Until Interrogated: The Story of the Buddhist Temple Massacre*.



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