

# White Collar Defense Blog

Recent Developments and Resources Involving White Collar Defense

Presented by Sheppard Mullin

## A Lesson From the Conrad Murray Conviction: Keep Your Mouth Shut!

*November 11th, 2011 by Charles Kreindler*

Are there any lessons to be learned from the Conrad Murray conviction? I am pretty sure that most of you aren't pumping a mega-celebrity with an anesthetic so powerful that it should only be administered in hospitals and then, before calling 911, contacting your girlfriend for a date. But even with all of that (and plenty more), Dr. Murray put his defense in a tight bind by his decision to speak to the police just days after Michael Jackson's death. Rather than invoking his right to shut up (also known as asserting his 5th Amendment rights), Dr. Murray admitted to police investigators that he repeatedly injected Jackson with the drug Propofol the very day he died.

The immediate effect of those admissions was to give the investigators the information they needed to get a search warrant, even before receiving the autopsy results. And the long term effect of the admissions was to lock Dr. Murray into a story (and timeline) that he could never recover from. Without those statements it would have been far more difficult for the prosecution to prove that it was Dr. Murray who actually gave Jackson the fatal dose. Those statements also made it virtually impossible for Dr. Murray to take the stand in his own defense.

Of course, no one knows whether Dr. Murray would have been convicted even if he hadn't made those admissions. Having 4 gallons of the drug on hand, telling the bodyguard to collect all of the vials prior to calling 911, and performing CPR while Jackson was still on the bed (rather than the floor), were not good moves. But nothing makes a prosecutor's life easier than a suspect's admissions. So the next time you find yourself in the middle of a criminal investigation, please give your lawyer a call before you speak to anyone. While you may think that you look like someone with something to hide, you are really just looking more intelligent than most.

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