

This document has been redacted for Public Interest Immunity claims made by Victoria Police. These claims are not yet resolved.

### Royal Commission Submission

**Name:** Dragan Arnautovic

**Current address:** H.M. Loddon Prison.

**First Dealings with (representation) with Lawyer X:** 1997 until 1999.

**Charges I was represented on --** Drug Trafficking.

**Outcome of the case:** Found guilty. On fabricated evidence.

**Points in question:**

Lawyer X conspired with all listed below

**Mr Alex Lewenberg** -(Lawyer X's employer) was well aware of her police involvement. Lewenberg's legal firm acted for all persons involved in the same police operation which was a gross conflict of interest. Lawyer X was responsible for encouraging ██████████ (referred as ██████████ in the ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ to turn ██████████ convincing ██████████ of the police operation to turn ██████████

**Damian Sheales** --Barrister representing me also assisting lawyer X and the police.

**Crown Prosecutor Andrew Jackson** -- denied the existence of ██████████ ██████████

██████████ - ██████████ turned ██████████ to prevent lengthy jail sentence. The ██████████ ██████████ at the time was Detective Wayne Strawhorn. ██████████ in money laundering with Mr Lewenberg (Lawyer X's employer) .

██████████ (referred as ██████████ in the ██████████) was also a close associate of ██████████ ██████████ and Lawyer X and her employer Mr Lewenberg were critically concerned that ██████████ might unearth the criminal scandal between ██████████ Lewenberg and the corrupt police.

**Daren Michael Jackson** -- (my co-accused) was ██████████ to the ██████████ ██████████ by ██████████ in Jackson statement of facts, Jackson named ██████████ as being ██████████

This submission was rejected by the Crown Prosecutor and my legal team for precautionary reasons, in order to prevent the exposure of police corruption and collusion between Lawyer X's employer and the corrupt police.

**Honourable Judge David Jones**- was cognisant of the fact that ██████████ did exist as he was the very judge who sentence ██████████ in ██████████ for ██████████

**Detective S/ Sergeant Wayne Strawhorn**- was a senior investigator within the drug squad and used Lawyer X and others named above for information.

As can be seen, Lawyer X conspired with all people listed to pervert the course of justice for financial gains. At the same time, using me as a scapegoat to justify the expensive police operation and to enhance her personal profile with the police.

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In conclusion, the court documents will validate that I was the first person to make complaints to various entities following the exposure of police corruption within the Victoria Police Drug Squad.

Complaints were made known to the, Chief Justice of Victorian Supreme Court Marilyn Warren, Chief Justice of County Court Honourable Judge Michael Rosen, Victorian Premier Steve Bracks, Opposition leader Robert Doyle, Director of Public Prosecutions Paul Coughlan, Graham Ashton who was at the time attached to OPI and Law institute of Victoria, Steven Fontana. This information was totally disregarded.

I have also filed a Petition of Mercy, which was subsequently rejected by the solicitor acting for the government.

I have enclosed for your information a précis of a future book detailing my life experience which will contain surprising revelations and will ensure far reaching collateral damage.

**The true story of Charlie 'Machine Gun Arnautovic, a man who triumphed over seemingly insurmountable odds of the police corruption.**

Following recent revelation concerning Lawyer X fiasco, I now feel compelled to write to all the reporters in order to dispel many inaccuracies that occurred during the course of my trial in 1999.

I have always maintained that the evidence against me were fabricated by the corrupt members of the old Victorian Police Drug Squad with the assistance of my legal team, Lawyer X (Nicola Gobbo) and Alex Lewenberg.

For some inexplicable reason my name has constantly been published in the crimes novels by Messrs John Silvester, Andrew Rule and other, due to my nickname, 'Machine Gun Charlie'. The moniker that was bestowed upon me by a kickboxing promoter due to my lightning speed during my kickboxing/boxing career.

My nickname has worked against me ever since for all the wrong reasons and has portrayed me in 'a bad light'. I have been labelled in the crime novels as a gangster, which could not be further from the truth.

The police records can unequivocally attest that I have never been associated with any criminal gangs nor have I ever been linked to any criminal syndicate and at no time have I ever posed a danger to the community.

In the 'underbelly 7' novel, Mr Silvester compered me to my dog Gus as being a "slobbering monster".

Mr Silvester had no personal or background knowledge of myself and my pet dog at the time of writing the novel, his categorisation of myself and my dog are totally hypothesised.

My dog was not a slobbering monster, he was a well-trained and obedient guard dog. At no time during my arrest did my dog attack the members of Victorian Police Special Operations Group (SOG), nor did I give my dog a command to attack the police as reported in the said book.

My dog was shot when he sat on my back as I was laying on the ground to protect me from being harmed. His actions are consistent with what he was trained to do at the very location where the arrest occurred on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1997.

**In respect to my arrest at the baseball stadium in 1997:**

Mr Silvester has erroneously stated in the said book, that I was Jackson drug supplier. The fact that I was in the vicinity when drug transactions took place between Darren Jackson and the [REDACTED] does not in any way constitute that I was Jacksons supplier.

My specific role on the said day was to safeguard Jackson from being mugged or harmed whilst conducting drug transaction. Irrespective of all the gobbledegook that has been written by the said author, there was never any concrete evidence to substantiate his assertions.

[REDACTED]

The police documents will confirm that Darren Michael Jackson was introduced to the [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] who is also referred in the [REDACTED] as [REDACTED]

On each of the occasions, the drugs were delivered to Jackson at the required locations by a third party (unknown to me). Prior to the meetings between Darren Jackson and the said [REDACTED] of which lawyer X was aware.

No evidence was ever presented during my trial to suggest that I was physically in possession of large amounts of heroin or that I had physically handed the drugs to Jackson prior to his meetings with [REDACTED]

Prior to the committal hearing, [REDACTED] to save his own hide and avoid a lengthy prison sentence. As a consequence, I was made a scapegoat in order to justify the expensive police operation.

**In respect to my 1999 Drug Trial:**

My trial was a complete travesty of justice. The drug trafficking charges that were levelled against me in 1997 were grossly magnified by both corrupt members of the Victorian Police Drug Squad and [REDACTED] Crown Prosecutor Mr Andrew Jackson.

Messrs Silvester and Rule have conveniently neglected to mention in their respective novels that every investigator including Senior Sergeant Wayne Strawhorn, were themselves convicted and incarcerated for the very same crime and corruption.

Given that I have never met the said authors it is fair to state that, their malicious and unfounded stories in respect to yours truly were based on lies and innuendoes.

**Junior Barrister: Nicola Gobbo (Lawyer X)**

Following my arrest in 1997, I was represented by Mr Alex Lewenberg's legal firm and Nicola Gobbo now referred to as (lawyer X) was assign as my solicitor prior to being elevated to the bar.

Upon her elevation as a barrister, I was obliged to engage her to act as a junior barrister at my trial. During the course of my trial Lawyer X became very friendly with the police informant Detective Senior Constable [REDACTED] which ultimately lead to an intimate relationship between them.

[REDACTED]

