

# Just Desserts case a mess, judge reveals

*Courtroom marathon rife with problems, he says*

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An Ontario Court judge has refused to throw out the charges against three men accused in the controversial Just Desserts murder case — and delivered a stinging indictment of the players who have turned it into one of the most complicated criminal matters ever to hit a Canadian courtroom.

Mr. Justice Brian Trafford's ruling yesterday offers the first official insight into what has gone wrong with the case, which began on April 5, 1994, with a black-on-white crime that transfixed the nation — the killing of 23-year-old Georgina (Vivi) Leimonis in a trendy Toronto

restaurant. The case has since submerged into the courts, rarely to re-surface.

Judge Trafford, of the Ontario Court's General Division, catalogues a long and damning series of problems that include professional misconduct, legal errors, racism, cover-ups and ill-advised legal tactics that have kept the case in the courts for years on end. It has yet to go to a jury.

Among legal insiders, Just Desserts has become a metaphor for everything that can go wrong in a criminal case — it is sometimes referred to as "justice deserted" and "the case from hell."

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