



Federal Civil Rights Attorney State License PA & NJ  
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PRESS RELEASE

RE: Steve Taylor killed by San Leandro Police Officer

Our office has been retained to represent the family of Steve Taylor concerning the excessive and unlawful use of deadly force by officers of the San Leandro Police Department. Video of the shooting captured by pedestrians does not depict the entire exchange but does show police repeatedly using force without proper justification. The recording captured the sound of a bat clanging to the floor after the administration of some form of use of force we believe to be both a gunshot and a taser. A trail of blood indicates the victim's body was severely punctured during the exchange. Taylor backs away and begins limping in the opposite direction of the officers. He was shot a second time with what appears to be a taser. This was no longer necessary as he had already been disarmed and was collapsing. After the second unnecessary shot Taylor falls to the floor and appears to be shot a third time by our count. At some point in this exchange the officers' behavior became criminal—namely when the suspect was disarmed. These officers are not only poorly trained to deal with individuals suffering from a mental health crisis; their intentional and repeated application of force despite the absence of a threat captured in these recordings is sufficient evidence for authorities to issue an arrest warrant for the shooting officers. Failure to identify and arrest the shooter unnecessarily exposes the public to a deadly threat.

Sincerely,

*S. Lee Merritt*

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