

Brady v. Maryland

Prior to trial, defendant's counsel requested examination of a companion's extrajudicial statements. The prosecution showed several of these to him, but withheld one in which the companion admitted the actual killing, which did not come to defendant's notice until after he had been tried, convicted, sentenced, and after his conviction had been affirmed by the Maryland Court of Appeals. The Court held that suppression by the prosecution of evidence favorable to an accused who has requested it violates due process where the evidence is material either to guilt or to punishment, irrespective of the good faith or bad faith of the prosecution.