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A CONSONANCE PUBLIC INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

BROKEN CHAIN

Nolan Wells + Cornell 7

Two public case files. One documentary question:

What happened to the evidence between collection and decision?

This report does not decide guilt, criminal liability, civil liability, or cause of death. It compares two public investigations through the narrower lens Consonance can audit: provenance, timing, transfer, review, contradiction, and the records still needed to resolve open questions.

FREE PUBLIC REPORT | OCTOBER 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What 'Broken Chain' means

The Nolan Wells and Cornell 7 matters are not the same case, and this report does not treat them as equivalent. The shared analytical frame is narrower: in both public records, important questions turn on how evidence was created, preserved, transmitted, reviewed, and reconciled before major institutional decisions were made.

PUBLIC RECORD

Nolan Wells

A No True Bill is confirmed while cause and manner remain reported as Undetermined. The unresolved work is documentary: phone artifacts, vessel GPS, Sea Tow metadata, pathology, witness originals, and recovery-scene records.

STATE-LED

Cornell 7

The criminal inquiry became state-led in October 2026. The documentary issue is what Cornell police transmitted, what prosecutors received, and what was actually reviewed in 2024.

METHOD

Shared lens

Consonance focuses on chain-of-custody and chain-of-review questions rather than replacing investigators, courts, prosecutors, medical examiners, or juries.

The proposition

A decision can be legally final for a particular stage and still leave documentary questions worth resolving. The useful question is not what theory feels right. It is: what evidence existed, who possessed it, what moved, what was actually reviewed, what conflicts remain, and which native records could settle them?

METHOD

How Consonance labels the record

CONFIRMED	An official action, disposition, or record established in the public file.
REPORTED / ATTRIBUTED	A claim publicly described by a source, expert, institution, or news organization; attribution remains attached.
UNRESOLVED	The public record contains a contradiction, missing link, incomplete provenance, or unanswered factual question.
REQUESTED / NEEDED	A native record or original file that could materially strengthen or resolve the analysis.

Core rules

1. Device movement is not automatically person movement.
2. A witness-time estimate is not the same as a verified system timestamp.
3. A summary is not automatically equivalent to the underlying interview or native record.
4. An institutional outcome is not a substitute for reconstructing what evidence informed it.
5. Contradiction is a reason to seek native records, not permission to invent a conclusion.

CASE FILE 01

Nolan Xavier Wells

Nolan Wells, 18, disappeared during a July 4, 2026 trip to Horn Island, Mississippi. His body was recovered July 6. The public Consonance hub reports cause and manner as Undetermined and records a unanimous Jackson County grand-jury No True Bill.

Anchor	Public record	Status
~2:17-2:18 PM	Last known phone use publicly presented by Garrett Discovery.	Attributed
~3:00 PM	Witness last-sighting estimate; not treated as a verified departure time.	Unresolved
4:31 PM	Released GPS summary begins sustained vessel movement.	Preserved record
4:36 / 4:48 PM	Sea Tow timing conflict between later reconstruction and preserved phone record.	Unresolved
July 6	Body recovered off Horn Island.	Confirmed
Sept. 21	Grand jury No True Bill announced.	Confirmed
Sept. 24	Public phone-forensics disclosures add device-movement and Snapchat questions.	Attributed

Key distinction

The phone returned toward the mainland while Nolan remained missing. Movement of the handset cannot by itself establish Nolan's movement.

NOLAN WELLS

What would materially move the case forward?

01 Where was Nolan after his last known phone use?

02 When exactly did Nolan and the phone separate, and who possessed the device afterward?

03 Who was aboard the vessel when sustained movement began around 4:31 PM?

04 What native record explains the 4:36 versus 4:48 Sea Tow timing conflict?

05 What contemporaneous evidence supports the alternate-ride / 'chose to stay' narrative?

06 What caused the documented posterior scalp injuries, and did they contribute to death?

07 What does the complete pathology, toxicology, and recovery-scene file establish?

08 Is there authenticated, material evidence that was not available to the grand jury?

Priority native records

Phone extraction and provider returns | native vessel GPS | Sea Tow telephony/dispatch metadata | pathology photographs, histology, toxicology worksheets and examiner notes | recovery-scene file | original witness interviews | 911/CAD and Coast Guard search records.

Live case page: consonanceintelligence.com/investigations/nolan-wells/

CASE FILE 02

Cornell 7

A former Cornell student, identified publicly as Jane Doe, alleges that seven men sexually assaulted her at the Chi Phi fraternity house in October 2024. The allegations are being litigated. In October 2026, New York Attorney General Letitia James was appointed special prosecutor. No criminal liability should be inferred from allegations, civil pleadings, university discipline, or news reporting.

Anchor	Public record	Status
Oct. 19, 2024	Reported incident at Chi Phi's Xi chapter house.	Official Cornell record
Nov. 14-15	CUPD interview later obtained by CBS.	Reported
Nov. 2024	DA declined charges; says decision relied on six-page signed statement.	Confirmed by DA
2024-2026	Cornell says internal process produced expulsions, suspensions and other outcomes.	Institutional assertion
Sept. 2026	Civil lawsuit filed; criminal investigation reopened.	Confirmed / litigated
Oct. 1, 2026	Attorney General appointed special prosecutor to lead the criminal investigation.	Confirmed
Oct. 3-4	Cornell president supports outside independent review and greater transparency.	Reported / institutional

CORNELL 7

The evidence-transfer chain

Interview transcript

CBS reports the full November 2024 interview contained substantially more detail than the six-page statement the DA says he reviewed.

QUESTION: Did CUPD transmit the complete transcript or recording?

Snapchat screenshot

Cornell says CUPD provided a screenshot to the DA; the DA says it was not part of the original legal analysis.

QUESTION: Who received, logged, routed, and reviewed it?

Accused interviews

The DA told CBS there was no indication Cornell police interviewed the seven men later named in the civil lawsuit.

QUESTION: Were any interviewed by law enforcement before the 2024 decision?

Internal process

Cornell says its internal process produced expulsions, suspensions and other outcomes.

QUESTION: Which evidence or findings, if any, were later shared with prosecutors?

Live case page: consonanceintelligence.com/investigations/cornell-7/

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Two cases, one records problem

Question	Nolan Wells	Cornell 7
Decision point	Grand jury returned No True Bill.	Original no-charge decision; inquiry later became state-led.
Unresolved	Mechanism of death, device/person separation, vessel/tow timing, injury mechanism.	What evidence was transferred, received, logged, and reviewed in 2024.
Native records	Phone extraction, GPS, Sea Tow metadata, pathology, recovery scene, witness originals.	Complete interview/recording, transmittal inventories, intake logs, Snapchat provenance, review file.
Do not infer	No public basis to identify a homicide participant or assert a cover-up.	No criminal guilt from allegations, civil filings, university outcomes, or news reports.
Consonance role	Separate clock anchors, source claims, contradictions, and requested native records.	Trace the evidence-transfer chain and seek sender/receiver records.

The point of the comparison

Broken Chain is not a theory that both institutions did the same thing. It is a method for locating where confidence weakens: between evidence creation and evidence review. That is where auditability matters most.

READ THE RECORD

Public pages and source posture

This brief is a compact companion to the live Consonance case pages. Those pages contain fuller timelines, evidence matrices, open questions, records requests, corrections, updates, and source links. They should be treated as living public records and corrected when stronger documentary evidence becomes available.

LIVE CASE PAGE

Nolan Wells public hub

consonanceintelligence.com/investigations/nolan-wells/

LIVE CASE PAGE

Cornell 7 public hub

consonanceintelligence.com/investigations/cornell-7/

Primary public-source families

- Nolan Wells: WLOX timeline, grand-jury reporting, phone-data and autopsy reporting, DA response, and preserved Consonance evidence review/addendum.
- Cornell 7: CBS reporting on interview and Snapchat evidence, Associated Press reporting, Cornell Student Assembly Resolution 15, New York Attorney General statements, and Reuters policy context.

Reader standard

Follow the evidence. Preserve attribution. Separate confirmed facts from reported claims. Treat missing provenance as a records question, not as proof of wrongdoing. Correct the record when better evidence arrives.

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