

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Sumter County
Honorable R. Ferrell Cothran, Circuit Court Judge

RECEIVED

Sep 18 2023

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

DAUNTE MAURICE JOHNSON,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2022-000931

RECORD ON APPEAL

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THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITS ARE ON FILE WITH THIS COURT:

STATE’S EXHIBITS NOS. 37-38 (PHOTOGRAPHS OF KNIFE IN COUCH)
STATE’S EXHIBIT NO. 64 (PHOTOGRAPH OF BONES)

Lee Reed - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 left-hand on the Bible and raise your right-hand and state
2 your name, sir.

3 THE WITNESS: Lee Reed.

4 LEE REED, being first duly sworn,
5 testified as follows:

6 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much, sir. Step around please.

7 THE WITNESS: All right.

8 THE COURT: State your name for the record and spell
9 your last name please.

10 THE WITNESS: My name is Lee Reed. Last name is
11 R-E-E-D.

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

14 Q. Good morning, Mr. Reed.

15 A. Hello.

16 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury what you do
17 for a living.

18 A. I'm a consultant with the National Center for Missing
19 and Exploited Children.

20 Q. And the National Center for Missing and Exploited
21 Children has been around for how long?

22 A. Since 1984.

23 Q. And prior to being a consultant for this group, tell us
24 what you did for a living.

25 A. I was a police officer in Abilene, Texas for 34 years

Lee Reed - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 and honorably retired.

2 Q. And while you were a police officer, did you have
3 special duties, patrol officer, investigations?

4 What were your duties?

5 A. I was a detective for 33 of my 34 years assigned to the
6 missing persons juvenile division.

7 Q. Do you still live in Abilene, Texas?

8 A. Yes, I do.

9 Q. All right. Tell us what the National Center of Missing
10 and Endangered Children does day in and day out.

11 A. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children,
12 what they do on a daily basis and what they were, under
13 federal law, created is to characterize all missing children
14 and possibly unidentified bodies and try to make a match,
15 provide leadership, also resources, to all law enforcement
16 agencies and parents.

17 Q. And you've been working with them for how many years?

18 A. Since they opened up in 1984.

19 Q. Do you have a specialty with the center?

20 A. Yes, I have several specialties. One of them is
21 runaways. The other is search and rescue and recovery and
22 the last one is landfill --

23 Q. All right.

24 A. -- search.

25 Q. Did you get a call from the authorities in Sumter

Lee Reed - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 asking for you to come in and help them put together a
2 search for Minor 1 ?

3 A. I received a call from our program manager saying they
4 were requesting our assistance, me and my partner.

5 Q. And did you and your partner come down to South
6 Carolina and meet with the people here?

7 A. Yes, we did.

8 Q. All right. So, how do you help local law enforcement
9 do a search for a missing child?

10 A. well, a lot of people don't realize, when you're
11 searching a, a land -- landfill, it is very complex. It's
12 not like most people think. It is truly a, a building built
13 underground, and to put it simplistically, every day's a
14 different floor of trash and the landfill is so compressed.
15 It is air and water tight. So nothing decomposes in a
16 landfill. It has to be or it pollutes your water table.

17 And so people don't realize when you say well, they're
18 like 10 feet down, they think like digging 10 feet in your
19 backyard for a swimming pool or something. That's nothing.
20 But when you start doing it with a landfill, it is a long
21 process.

22 Q. So, once you got here and got the facts that was known
23 to the law enforcement agencies, how did you help them put
24 together a process for going to search for Minor 1?

25 A. what we do is, my partner and I, we'll come in and, and

Lee Reed - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 get briefed by the law enforcement agency, what evidence
2 they have, cause the main evidence we're looking for is
3 you've got to have really conclusive evidence that the
4 dumpster and the day is identified. You can not just say
5 well, we think it's in the dumpster or we think it is. It's
6 got to be verified. That's the root of the search right
7 there. So that has to be verified.

8 So, once we do that, then what we'll do is, with Sumter
9 P.D., we went around to the collection agency and picked up
10 the GPS coordinates of the collection trucks. A lot of
11 collection trucks have GPS coordinates on them -- readers on
12 them for the collection truck.

13 And then what -- then we went to where the trash is
14 taken, the transfer station. Now, the transfer station's
15 cause the trash is so far -- the landfill's so far outside
16 of town it's cheaper to put it -- carry a big load and what
17 they have is open top semitrailers and they put the trash in
18 it and that is carried to the landfill. You got---

19 Q. Where is the landfill in this case?

20 A. It's Richland landfill.

21 Q. And how -- do you know how many miles away that is
22 approximately?

23 A. No, I don't.

24 Q. So, once the dumpsters are unloaded at the transfer
25 station, how is the -- then the other trucks are, are loaded

Lee Reed - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 up again?

2 A. Right. Once the trash truck is unloaded at the
3 transfer station, which is a big building, has a concrete
4 floor, and it's just dumped in there, and a front end loader
5 starts pushing the trash into these open top trailers, which
6 are below ground level at that point.

7 Q. All right. And then the transfer trailer, these are
8 large 18-wheelers?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. They take the trash to the landfill in Columbia?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. All right. Once the trash gets to the landfill in
13 Columbia, is there another process for having it stored?

14 A. Yes. What happens is that that transfer truck with a
15 big trailer pulls up, the tractor -- the, the cab of the
16 semi-trailer is pulled off and he's backed into this
17 little -- it's called a tipper and it picks that whole
18 trailer up upside down with the doors opened and all the
19 trash falls out by gravity. And then he puts it down, the
20 truck connects, and off they go.

21 Q. All right. Do you have certain calculations that you
22 are able to use, once you have found the GPS coordinates for
23 the trucks that picked up the dumpster, and have you -- and
24 you've looked at other records at the transfer station, are
25 you able to make an assessment on where and -- a, a, a load

Lee Reed - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 of trash from Sumter County may have been delivered to the
2 landfill?

3 A. Well, you have to realize that landfills are very good
4 about keeping records. They have to be. EPA requires it.

5 And so the situation is that, when we go there, we --
6 we'll talk to the landfill manager and the landfill actual
7 supervisors on the, on the deck with the trash, where's the
8 trash that was put in on so and so date and he tells us. He
9 says about right here.

10 That's called a cell and a cell can be 300 feet by
11 five -- 400 feet, 200 feet down -- I mean a hundred feet
12 down.

13 Okay. So situation is that what we try to do is
14 isolated in that cell where it was. So, using basic
15 geometry and just basically where the tippers -- the tippers
16 that lift that big thing up are GPS marked so we know where
17 that tipper was that day. And so we look at that and then
18 we watch the process, how they work it, do they go top to
19 bottom, bottom to top, right to left, left to right. They
20 do that eight hours -- 40 hours a week and they just do it
21 almost subconsciously.

22 And so we watch how they do that. So I knew they moved
23 it from right to left and it should be, you know, in this
24 particular area.

25 Q. I want to show you a document that purports to show

Lee Reed - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 some of the information that you gathered.

2 would you look at that and say did you gather that
3 information to help you do an assessment?

4 A. Yes, us and the Sumter P.D.

5 Q. All right. First question I have for you is when you
6 come in and, and gather information --

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. -- is it always your plan to do a search in the
9 landfill?

10 A. No, not by any means.

11 Q. Tell, tell us why.

12 A. Sometimes it's just not practical. First of all, you
13 don't have good enough information. You think it'd be one
14 of two dumpsters. It could of been one or five or six days.
15 And without that specific information on that dumpster, it's
16 impractical to do it because a landfill search is labor
17 intensive, it is time intensive, and it is expensive.

18 Q. The information on that sheet, is, is that the
19 technical information that you were able to gather from the,
20 the trash company that picked up the trash here in Sumter,
21 transferred it to the transfer station, and then eventually
22 took it to the landfill?

23 A. Yes, on Cell Number 6.

24 Q. All right. Tell me about Cell Number 6.

25 A. Cell Number 6 was about a hundred feet, about a hundred

Lee Reed - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 feet, about 25 feet down. That's where the trash was taken.

2 Q. And you were able to identify it based on the
3 information you received before the trash got there?

4 A. Right. This is, this is the information I received
5 once it -- trash is already been there when we got out
6 there. But the landfill provided this -- us and Sumter P.D.
7 that information.

8 Q. All right. So, some of the information you need to get
9 the process done is when the dumpster was emptied, the
10 dumpster at the -- in the Sumter location, when the dumpster
11 was emptied as far as the truck picking it up?

12 A. Right. Well, we know -- got to know, identified the
13 specific dumpster, then when it was picked up, when it was
14 transported, where it went, and we will chart where that
15 trash truck went, when they were picking up that trash on
16 the, on the target date. We do that for two reasons.

17 One, is it we want to know what's commingled with the
18 trash. You know, what else did they pick up, AutoZone,
19 McDonald's, you know, Chevrolet House. What else was in
20 that route of that trash truck cause that trash is all
21 commingled.

22 Second is it also shows the route of the truck and
23 didn't stop and pick up anything else on the way. They went
24 to these specific locations and picked up the trash and then
25 went specifically to the transfer station.

Lee Reed - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. In this case, in the search for Minor 1 , did you
2 feel like you had enough technical information to go ahead
3 and assess the landfill in Columbia and do a search?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. All right. And was the search undertaken and, and
6 started?

7 A. Yes, it was.

8 Q. Do, do you have any -- did you have a lot to do with
9 the landfill process once you told them that Cell 6 is where
10 they needed to look?

11 A. What we did is we provide them kind of an operational
12 plan. An operational plan is very simple. You know, cause
13 we all think about a lot of things when you do a landfill
14 search.

15 So what we, we provided them is okay, logistics, what
16 you're gonna need. You're gonna need shelter like a tent
17 for the searchers. You're gonna need hydration. As far as
18 equipment goes -- and then you're gonna need to have food
19 for them because landfills are not usually near restaurants.
20 I mean as is common.

21 And so, you know, you're gonna need food to feed them.
22 You know, if -- it's gonna be -- that particular time is
23 gonna be very hot. You need, you know, as far as equipment,
24 you're gonna need masks. You're gonna need puncture
25 resistant boots. You're gonna need puncture resistant

Lee Reed - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 gloves. You're gonna need glasses.

2 Then we're gonna show them the type of rakes you're
3 gonna need. It's called a potato rake also known as a
4 garden rake.

5 Okay. It is a very sturdy rake. You don't want to use
6 a leaf rake out there.

7 We're also going to tell them, you know, what equipment
8 as far as heavy, heavy equipment you're gonna need. You're
9 gonna need a excavator. You will need a front end loader.
10 You're gonna need a bulldozer and possibly a dump truck
11 cause once that particular stuff that's brought out and
12 searched, once that is done, then that has to be reprocessed
13 back into the landfill somewhere.

14 Under federal law, you can not leave trash out. In
15 fact, every night they can not leave a cell open. In other
16 words, trash is just sitting there. They've got to cover it
17 with a tarp or dirt every night.

18 Q. So, once you made the assessment and the search began
19 --

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. -- they were able to stay in touch with you to ask for
22 additional expertise if they ran into a problem?

23 A. Yes. But I was not at the search. So, my partner was
24 at the search.

25 Q. All right. Tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury

Lee Reed - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 how many searches the, the national center has been involved
2 in.

3 A. Well, I've done -- me, personally, I've done 61
4 searches and been successful on 49. But I've done hundreds
5 upon hundreds of assessments.

6 Q. And the assessments are different from a search because
7 --?

8 A. There's not enough evidence to search.

9 Q. All right. Thank you very much for coming this
10 morning, sir.

11 A. You bet.

12 Q. Answer any questions the lawyer may have.

13 CROSS-EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. NEYLE:

15 Q. Good morning, Mr. Reed.

16 A. Good morning.

17 Q. In your assessment, you made a series of suggestions to
18 the, the Sumter Police Department before the, the landfill
19 search began?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And, and one of those suggestions was to
22 corroborate the suspect's statement?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. Another suggestion you made was to analyze the
25 suspect's cellphone with regards to his movement?

Lee Reed - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 A. True.

2 Q. And you also suggested that they continue the current
3 investigation until all active leads had been examined and
4 exhausted, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 MS. NEYLE: I have no further questions. Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Anything further, solicitor?

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing further. Ask that the
9 witness be excused.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Any objection to him being excused?

11 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, sir. You're excused.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Call Mr. Chuck Banghart.

14 THE BAILIFF: Come around here, sir. Place your
15 left-hand, left-hand on the Bible. Raise your right-hand.
16 State your name.

17 THE WITNESS: Charles Mark Banghart.

18 CHARLES BANGHART, being first duly
19 sworn, testified as follows:

20 THE BAILIFF: Thank you. Have a seat. Come around
21 please. State your name for the record and spell your last
22 name please.

23 THE WITNESS: Charles Mark Banghart. B-A-N-G-H-A-R-T.

24 DIRECT EXAMINATION

25 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Good morning, sir.

2 A. Good morning.

3 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen a little bit about your
4 career.

5 You are now retired I believe?

6 A. Retired twice.

7 Q. All right. Where did you start your career?

8 A. So, I started with the Sumter Police Department in 1985
9 and --.

10 Q. And were, were, were you a patrol officer?

11 A. Started as a patrol officer. Did my last little over
12 year and a half as a narcotics investigator.

13 Q. All right. And after getting that time done, did you
14 go on to another --

15 A. Yeah, I---

16 Q. -- branch of service?

17 A. I left the Sumter Police Department. I was very
18 blessed to get a job with the United States Marshal Service
19 in, in Columbia, South Carolina. So, I was able to stay and
20 still live here in Sumter and did that for a little, a
21 little over 26 years or right around 26 years.

22 Q. All right. And that was your first retirement?

23 A. That would be my first -- that was my full retirement,
24 yes, sir.

25 Q. All right. Very good.

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 And did you come back to Sumter to work again as a, a
2 agent or officer here?

3 A. Yes, sir, I actually could of stayed with the marshals
4 a little longer. But I retired early to come back here,
5 work with the Sumter Police Department, and they wanted me
6 to work as a -- in a, in a investigations unit as a
7 detective kind of setting up a little special unit.

8 Q. All right. As a result of being back in Sumter and
9 working again with the Sumter P.D., did you have occasion to
10 be called in to be the project manager of the search for
11 Minor 1 ?

12 A. I did.

13 Q. All right. Tell us a little bit about how that
14 started.

15 A. Well, like I said, that unit I headed up with -- we did
16 a lot of different diverse things. It's kind of filled a
17 lot of gaps and plug in places. And so the chief, when,
18 when that -- when all that, that happened and went down and,
19 and we felt like we needed to go to the landfill to, to find
20 her, he, he asked me to start doing some research and
21 looking into what that would entail.

22 Q. And we've just heard from Mr. Reed.

23 Did Mr. Reed come in and give you a lot of expertise
24 and experience in landfill searches?

25 A. Invaluable expertise.

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Some of the things he told you about that you didn't
2 know about that you needed, tell us about it.

3 A. Yes, like, like a big key thing which we just never
4 would of thought of as police officers was that, that the
5 Sumter Police Department's trash trucks would have -- would
6 track everywhere they go and we, we didn't even think of
7 that. We, we, we were looking and we had searched a bunch
8 of stuff and -- but they came in right away and said, you
9 know, your trucks probably have GPS. And they did that and
10 it really helped us lock down exactly what time that
11 dumpster was picked up, what day, the -- you know, and then
12 that kind of just dominoed into everything else that, that
13 would of happened with the contents of that, that one
14 container all the way to the landfill.

15 Q. So, once you decided that you had technical information
16 to do a search, what was some of the boots on the ground
17 things that you had to do to get the search done?

18 A. So then you're, you're looking at -- and I'm -- I don't
19 know what he told the jury but you're looking at a major
20 undertaking, something that a police department couldn't
21 really do on their own at all.

22 So, one of the first things we started looking at is,
23 is who can help us and how can they help us and we explored
24 different avenues and the one we ended up landing on is
25 gonna be manpower intensive. It's physical, hard work

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 sorting through literally tons and tons and tons of, of
2 refuse and we got very lucky there -- well, back up a little
3 bit.

4 The State really kicked in, and when I say the State,
5 multiple agencies with the State. I mean -- and I hope I
6 don't forget any of them today because they were all so key
7 and instrumental.

8 But right off the bat, one of the things that was
9 really good was the State Fire Department and the Fire
10 Academy has a whole protocol set up for if they get like a
11 big wild fire or something going, some kind of big, mass
12 fire event in the State, they have a system already set up
13 to start calling in firemen from other jurisdictions to
14 help.

15 So, we were able to tap into that for a lot of manpower
16 and what's good about fireman is, number one, they're use to
17 working in hot, harsh conditions with a lot of heavy gear on
18 and they're use to sometimes the fires they respond to
19 involve arson. So, they're use to dealing with a crime
20 scene and, and knowing if they come across something that,
21 that might be suspicious or needed, that they know there's
22 protocols and they just don't go willy nilly tearing through
23 stuff like you might get if, if we used other, other -- like
24 if we used volunteers or something.

25 The South Carolina Department of Transportation, huge.

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 They set us up a -- just -- so we're at a landfill. We're
2 out in the middle of nowhere. There was a section of dirt
3 road that kind of rims the landfill that, that the landfill
4 wasn't using that area at the time as it's built up for
5 future use. And SCDOT came in with their heavy equipment
6 and basically built us a hard packed like gravel type,
7 really hard packed gravel road. Power was brought in so
8 that we could have electricity hooked up for different
9 things.

10 SCDOT, I guess sometimes when they have big projects,
11 they're use to having to get support gear for out in the
12 field. So we tapped into that resource. They did a great
13 job.

14 You know, a big tent with a portable air conditioner
15 hooked up to it and I'm not talking about like porta johns.
16 They had like, like a trailer that has real nice -- I mean
17 stuff that make, make it so that the people that were going
18 and doing that hard work in the protective gear could come
19 up and recover too. So it, it was -- they helped set all
20 that up.

21 (WHEREUPON, two photographs were marked as State's
22 Exhibit Nos. 62 and 63 for identification purposes only at
23 this time.)

24 Q. Mr. Banghart, I want to show you what's been marked as
25 State's Exhibit 62 and 63. Ask if you can look at them and

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 identify what's in those pictures.

2 A. I can.

3 Q. Tell us what it is.

4 A. So No. 62 is -- literally is that area I was just
5 trying to describe. It's the, it's the berm kind of around
6 the corner from where we were actually working and it has
7 the Forestry Commission command post, which they were very
8 instrumental. They just were like the logistic organizers
9 and they're really good at it.

10 And then the, the air conditioner of the tent, recovery
11 tent, the restrooms, and then you get down here and you have
12 where the fire marshal academy place set up and they brought
13 a lot of equipment, trailers with equipment. That's where
14 everybody would suit up. And then just past that, which you
15 can barely see on the edge of this picture, was our
16 decontamination area. So when a crew would come out, that's
17 where they would get decontaminated before they could go to
18 the rest area.

19 Q. All right. Sixty-three.

20 A. And 63 is a, a -- I believe it's a drone footage. It's
21 an aerial footage of where we actually were working. This
22 is the site that NC -- National Center for Missing and
23 Exploited Children. This is where, after they did all
24 their, their stuff, this is where they said this, this would
25 be the best place, the best chance to, to get a recovery.

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 And so that -- that's -- where, where you see this
2 heavy equipment in the very middle of the picture, off to
3 the side you see the tarps that we had to cover it up with
4 every night. And then on -- in-between the tarps and the,
5 and the recovery site are what we would call the search
6 fields and we had one on each side. And then, again, that's
7 where SCDOT would use their heavy equipment. Their skilled
8 operators would extract the material. They would lay it out
9 in tracks, spread it out thin enough that then teams the --
10 when you can see in this one on the right, the closest field
11 to the right of this pic -- you can actually see, see a team
12 down in there working.

13 Q. All right. So, this is an actual picture of the work
14 that was done out at the landfill to do the search for
15 Minor 1?

16 A. Yes.

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. I'd like to move these
18 two photographs in, 62 and 63.

19 MS. NEYLE: No objection, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Okay. They're in without objection.

21 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 62 and 63 were
22 received into evidence at this time.)

23 Q. Mr. Banghart, come over here a minute and let me just
24 ask you to give some details to the jury. I, I'm -- let's
25 do the, the ELMO.

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I can speak loud.

2 (WHEREUPON, the witness comes down from the stand.)

3 Q. Good.

4 So tell us what do we see in this picture, State's
5 Exhibit 63.

6 A. All right. Sixty-three is the overview of the actual
7 recovery site. So right there is the -- and it would of
8 been a blocked off area. You can't really see it in this
9 picture but it was about that size that we were directed to.
10 And then you could see this is -- this was obviously taken
11 early on in the exercise cause the, the site that they're --
12 the size of what they're digging in right there is not, not
13 as big as it ended up being.

14 And then this area and this area are the two search
15 fields and that's -- you can see how they spread it out with
16 the heavy equipment. And then you can see right here, it
17 shows up on that, you can barely see some of the yellow
18 reflective vests of the, of the team that was down there
19 searching that, that spread at that time. And then right
20 here you can barely see in this corner that blue tent.

21 That was, that was our forensics. That's where
22 anything that they found, anything that the team that was
23 searching found that they thought could have anything to do
24 with this case at all was brought up to that site and then
25 that's where the, the -- our evidence techs and the SLED

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 people, the --.

2 Q. Anthropologist?

3 A. Yeah, forensics people, the anthropologist, they go
4 there. Just the people that knew, knew that side of what
5 was going on.

6 Q. All right. How many people would be searching on the
7 search team?

8 A. So, it, it varied from day-to-day. But we tried to
9 have about 10, sometimes a little bit more, people on each
10 team.

11 Q. And would you have four teams down there or --?

12 A. We, we had three teams and we would rotate them because
13 they had to have recovery time. They had -- it was the
14 middle of summer. We were wearing PPE, protective --
15 personal protective equipment. It's really hot. I mean
16 even the, the gas masks we used would fill up with sweat
17 after, after a period of time. So we had to rotate them
18 through.

19 So we had -- we'd have there teams and one team would
20 start and then we just keep changing teams all through the
21 day and get back to one. You know one, two, three, back to
22 one, two, three and back to one, two, three.

23 Q. Okay. Can I ask you -- do you know how many days
24 you-all started -- once the search started, how many days
25 you were in the landfill.

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. We were in there I want, I want to say every Monday
2 through Friday. We did not work on Saturdays and Sundays
3 and I, I, I honestly -- I just don't remember how many weeks
4 it was.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And I know we've got the dates but I just don't
7 remember.

8 Q. All right. And were you there the day that something
9 came out of the landfill that we had to have SLED come in
10 and check?

11 A. I was there everyday. But, yes, I was there that day.

12 Q. Okay. Can you give us some idea just about that day,
13 what happened, and how things---

14 A. So---

15 Q. ---went?

16 A. Yeah, that day was really at the end of, of the
17 timeframe that we had and the timeframe was controlled by a
18 lot of factors. But that was the end of our timeframe that
19 we, we had to do this. And a lot of people put a lot of, a
20 lot of everything into that all, all and we were, honestly,
21 trying to do something at the end. We had always had food
22 for them but we were actually cooking a low country boil for
23 everybody and at -- it actually kind of took me away from
24 the day to day stuff. But, by that point, we had it
25 running. I was needed -- I was really more needed in the

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 beginning --

2 Q. I see.

3 A. -- to change things as people suggested things and
4 discovered things. So, at the end, it was kind of running
5 and we were trying to do that and it was about the time that
6 we got a call.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. And so we just shut that down and went and responded to
9 the call.

10 Q. All right. So, how was the protocol set up that if you
11 found something that you thought was a part of this case,
12 how would the next --?

13 A. So then we would get notified. They would kind of shut
14 down that, that area a little bit and, and that's why we had
15 two sides. It's (indiscernible) we had two sides but we
16 would respond. We would see what they had. They would call
17 in the anthropologist based on, on what we had and we would
18 start making notifications that, you know, hey, we've got
19 this. It could be something. It might not be something.
20 We don't know. We had to get the experts in.

21 So then the anthropologist came, came to the scene and
22 it was a little bit of a delay but I mean with travel time.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. He came pretty quick.

25 Q. Right.

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 And once he got there, he made a decision to go and
2 check things out?

3 A. Yeah, yeah. So once he, he looked at what he looked
4 at, he, he felt like we had what we were looking for --

5 Q. All right.

6 A. -- and then we kind of all decided that it, it might be
7 best to take the, the -- so what would happen, just to give
8 you a little thing.

9 A team would not bring what they found up till the end
10 of their, their little shift and then the next team would go
11 down. So, the next team would of already been down there
12 when they brought this up and then identified it and then
13 got him out and then -- but the good news is, because we had
14 two different sides like this, they were working on that
15 side, that side had not been taken out of our control yet.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. So then, yes, we were able to make the decision to say
18 okay, let's take this material that we found then and let's
19 respread it out really good, all hands on deck, let's get
20 all the teams suited up, team leaders, team everybody, and
21 let's go through the stuff with a fine tooth comb.

22 Q. Okay. I'm gonna get you to go back.

23 A. (WHEREUPON, the witness returns to the stand.)

24 Q. Once you got confirmation from the technical people
25 that, the anthropologist people, did the search stop then?

Charles Banghart - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. No. Like I said, we brought that other material back
2 and we, and we searched, we searched that again. But then
3 after we did that, after we did that search and I, I, I
4 can't remember if we finished those other two rows just out
5 of abundance of caution or not, but that was the, that was
6 the end.

7 Q. All right. All right. Thank you for coming today.

8 Answer any questions the other lawyer may have.

9 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no questions.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, sir. You can step down.

11 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Anybody need a break?

13 (WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

14 THE COURT: Okay. Okay.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Doctor Bill Stevens.

16 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible. Raise
17 your right-hand. Excuse me. State your name.

18 THE WITNESS: Williams Stevens.

19 WILLIAM STEVENS, being first duly
20 sworn, testified as follows:

21 THE BAILIFF: Come around here please. State your name
22 for the record and spell your last name please.

23 THE WITNESS: William Stevens. S-T-E-V-E-N-S.

24 DIRECT EXAMINATION

25 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

Williams Stevens - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Good morning, sir.

2 A. Good morning, sir.

3 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen where you work.

4 A. I work for Richland County Coroner's Office.

5 Q. And how long have you been associated with the
6 Coroner's Office?

7 A. Twenty-two years.

8 Q. All right, sir. And tell us a little bit about your
9 educational background.

10 A. Okay. I have a Master's Degree, sorry, Bachelor's
11 Degree in Anthropology, Master's Degree in Biological
12 Anthropology, and a Doctorate in Biological Anthropology and
13 Forensics Specialty.

14 Q. Did you earn those degrees in South Carolina?

15 A. University of Georgia undergraduate and then University
16 of South Carolina for the graduate school.

17 Q. All right. And anthropology is your field of
18 expertise?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. All right. How are you used, so to speak, with that
21 field of expertise in the Coroner's Office?

22 A. I -- my role is human identification. So we use the
23 science of anthropology, biological anthropology, to come up
24 with sex, age, and race of an individual from their bones,
25 from the human skeleton, and then ultimately identify the

Williams Stevens - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 remains. We also specialize in recovery of remains and of
2 determination of traumatic injury to a skeleton.

3 Q. Now, in the case of the search of the Richland County
4 landfill for Minor 1, were you called in to be a
5 technical expert, so to speak, or consultant?

6 A. I was. I was called by SLED for the search and
7 assisted the search.

8 Q. And did you go down to the landfill often?

9 A. I did. I was there for -- on and off for five weeks.

10 Q. All right. And during that time, would you have --
11 tell us what you did during that time at the landfill.

12 A. Me and other deputy coroners assisted in looking at
13 every bone that came out during the search. So,
14 determined -- we are trained to determine human from animal
15 remains.

16 Q. And during this five week period, did you -- you, you
17 were actually in the landfill.

18 So, how would they get the items for you to review?

19 How did you get that?

20 A. We manned a tent which was near the recovery site and
21 they would bring the remains up to us box by box over the,
22 the weeks of the search and we went through every box,
23 documented what we found, and then kept records of the
24 number of remains we were looking at.

25 Q. Okay. Do you remember the day that you got a call to

Williams Stevens - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 come and look at some bones?

2 I think it was October the 18th.

3 A. Yes, I remember that morning of the 18th.

4 Q. All right. Tell us what you remember about that day.

5 A. I was -- I received a picture sent by an investigator
6 and I confirmed that those were human remains --

7 Q. All right.

8 A. -- and then responded to the landfill that morning to
9 verify it in person.

10 Q. All right.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And when you responded to the landfill, what kind of
13 remains were you looking for?

14 You said human but was it more specific?

15 A. We, we were, you know, looking for the remains of a
16 child, of, of Minor 1, and, on that morning, I identified
17 those as leg bones.

18 Q. All right.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Did you have occasion to review the bones that were
21 collected and take a photograph of them?

22 A. I did. The, the bones were brought to my lab at
23 Richland County Coroner's Office and I, I produced that
24 photograph.

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Let me mark it for ID

Williams Stevens - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 only.

2 (WHEREUPON, the photograph was marked as State's
3 Exhibit No. 64 for identification purposes only at this
4 time.)

5 Q. For ID 64, tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury
6 what you took a photograph of.

7 This was -- the photograph was done at the Coroner's
8 office?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And why was the Richland County Coroner's Office
11 associated with this case?

12 A. We were contacted because of expertise in forensic
13 anthropology and of having an anthropology laboratory where
14 we receive human remains for identification and this took
15 place at, at our lab.

16 Q. And the Richland County landfill is under the
17 jurisdiction of the Richland County Coroner's Office?

18 A. Correct. And the remains were covered within Richland
19 County.

20 Q. Very good.

21 After you re -- laid -- did an examination on the, on
22 the skeletal remains, were you able to confirm that those
23 bones were---

24 THE COURT: Are you---

25 Q. ---more likely---

Williams Stevens - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: Mr. Solicitor, excuse me.

2 Are you offering him as an expert?

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir, I can.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Do you have any things you want to
5 ask him about that?

6 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MS. NEYLE: I just wanted to clarify for the record---

9 THE COURT: And the Court---

10 MS. NEYLE: ---as to what he's qualifying him as an
11 expert in.

12 THE COURT: Okay. The Court---

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Forensic anthropology.

14 THE COURT: The Court so finds that he's an expert in
15 the field of forensic anthropology based on his training and
16 testimony.

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. You can proceed.

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Okay.

20 Q. Doctor Stevens, were you able to confirm, after a
21 review, that those skeletal remains were of a young human
22 being?

23 A. Yes, we used anthropology methods to estimate age,
24 height, and sex of the individual. It's difficult because
25 she's not fully developed. But we used our methods and

Williams Stevens - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 confirmed it was a young, a young child, yeah.

2 Q. Did you also produce two sketches of skeletal, skeleton
3 sketches --

4 A. Yes, I---

5 Q. -- for this case file?

6 A. I produced those, yes.

7 Q. All right. Let, let me mark these two.

8 (WHEREUPON, two sketches were marked as State's
9 Exhibits Nos. 65 and 66 for identification purposes only at
10 this time.)

11 Q. For ID only, 65 and 66.

12 would you tell us about what you found and how -- why
13 did you put a sketch, a diagram in No. 66?

14 A. Okay. Six -- the -- it's the normal process, when we
15 recover skeletal remains, that we will do a document that
16 shows how much the, the percentage of the body that is
17 recovered was found in this case.

18 Q. And what you have done on that sketch is to identify
19 the actual remains that were brought up and recovered and
20 reviewed by you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. All right.

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And on Exhibit 65, what does that sketch show?

25 A. That shows the locations of DNA samples that we took.

Williams Stevens - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 We gave them item numbers with the SLED investigators and
2 then took, per the request of Sumter County, a sample from
3 every bone for submitting for DNA testing.

4 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Okay. I'd like to move Exhibit 66
5 and 65 into evidence.

6 THE COURT: What says defense?

7 MS. NEYLE: I have no objection.

8 THE COURT: All right. In without objection.

9 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 65 and 66 were
10 received into evidence at this time.)

11 Q. All right. Doctor, let me ask you to come over here to
12 the machine here again. I think the jury can see it better
13 on the machine here. Come around, doctor.

14 A. (WHEREUPON, the witness leaves that stand.)

15 Q. Can you tell us on this sketch, the jury can see it on
16 the, the, the big screen, what you have outlined as far as
17 being what you examined?

18 A. Okay. I examined the frontal bone of the skull, which
19 is right here. A portion of which, during the growth
20 process, is fused up. The sutures are not closed on a
21 child. So that is the, the, the frontal part of the skull
22 that we recovered. And then we also examined the legs, the
23 complete legs, and one foot were recovered when -- from the
24 process of the landfill separation remains.

25 So that shows everything highlighted in or colored in,

Williams Stevens - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 in black is what was, what was found.

2 Q. And would you now tell us a little bit about the other
3 sketch, which is State's Exhibit 65?

4 A. We gave each item that was recovered, based on the date
5 and the SLED and Item Number 1 through 3 and then we
6 indicate the, the DNA sample location in black for each
7 element -- each bone that we sample by cutting a sample off
8 and submitting to SLED's DNA lab.

9 Q. So the samples were taken from these areas that are,
10 are in black?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And the samples were then sent to the lab?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Did you take the cuttings?

15 A. I took the cuttings.

16 Q. All right.

17 A. They're about two -- 2-centimeters of bone from each
18 bone.

19 Q. And did you expect that each one of the samples would
20 give you a reading on DNA or is that why you took so many?

21 A. We were requested to by Sumter County and SLED and they
22 agreed to sample every bone.

23 Q. All right.

24 A. So --.

25 Q. Do you know if the lab found DNA on, on each of the

Williams Stevens - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 samples that you took?

2 A. I don't think they had success with every sample.

3 They, they said -- they got the results, the match made from
4 the patella, which is the knee cap.

5 Q. Can you show the judge -- the jury the --?

6 A. The knee cap is Item 3.2, left knee or patella bone.

7 Q. Is that this area here?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. All right. Good.

10 All right. And thank you, sir.

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. I'll let you return.

13 A. (WHEREUPON, the witness returns to the stand.)

14 Q. Once you, once you got back and took the samples and
15 sent them to SLED, did you have a further job to do in -- is
16 this -- as far as this case?

17 A. We just produced a report on the, on the analysis of
18 the skeleton, and once the identification was made, then we
19 were able to release the remains to the family for burial.

20 Q. All right. Get this.

21 Is the -- I believe you call it the patella?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Is that the knee cap?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Okay.

Williams Stevens - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And is that the item that was tested and led to
3 confirmation of the DNA?

4 A. It is, yes, sir.

5 Q. All right. Is that patella shown in the photograph
6 marked State's Exhibit 64?

7 A. Yes, it is here.

8 Q. All right. In that particular sample, does it have
9 anything that would lead you to believe that, more likely
10 than not -- well, for example, I'm asking is it just bone or
11 is there other soft tissue there?

12 A. There was other soft tissue that was preserved in the
13 landfill, yeah.

14 Q. All right. Did that help get the identification done?

15 A. The soft tissue I think was degraded/contaminated, you
16 know, bacteria and things that prevented it from being
17 useful for DNA.

18 Q. All right.

19 A. But the identification was made with the knee cap,
20 bone, yeah.

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Beg the Court's
22 indulgence.

23 (Pause.)

24 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Can we approach?

25 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the

Williams Stevens - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 hearing of the jury at this time.)

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. As far as State's Exhibit 64, you took this photograph?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. And this is a picture of all of the remains that were
6 found that are associated with the case?

7 A. That's correct. That's all the remains.

8 Q. And I see you have some numbers here, one, two, and
9 three.

10 Tell me what, what one is at the top of the picture.

11 A. One is the frontal bone of the skull. Two is the right
12 femur, upper leg, or I think it includes the whole right
13 leg, and three is the left leg.

14 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. I'd move this
15 photograph, 64, into evidence.

16 THE COURT: Okay. It is in over the objection of
17 defense counsel.

18 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you.

19 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 64 was received into
20 evidence at this time.)

21 Q. Doctor Stevens, thank you very much for coming. Answer
22 any questions --

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. -- the lawyer may have.

25 CROSS-EXAMINATION

William Stevens - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 BY MS. NEYLE:

2 Q. Doctor Stevens, good morning.

3 A. Good morning.

4 Q. You examined these bones, correct?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And you -- did you use a magnification tool to examine
7 them?

8 A. We examined them under 3X magnification --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- just in the, in the search for any type of injury
11 or -- that we might find.

12 Q. Okay. And, and during that, during that examination,
13 you didn't find any evidence of, of cut marks?

14 A. We did not.

15 Q. Okay. And during that examination you didn't find any
16 evidence of sharp force injury?

17 A. We did not.

18 Q. And during that examination, you didn't find any
19 evidence of tool marks?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. No evidence of tool marks.

23 Q. And during that examination, you didn't find any
24 evidence of perimortem injury?

25 A. That's correct.

William Stevens - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 Q. And can you explain what perimortem is?

2 A. Perimortem means it occurred at the time of death.
3 Something that causes death or occurs at the time when
4 someone is injured fatally and the -- I, I examined them in
5 conjunction with the forensic pathologist and pathologist
6 looking for hemorrhage of soft tissue, bleeding, and things
7 like that, and anthropologist look for fractures in the bone
8 that are of a certain pattern that indicate blunt force,
9 sharp force, of gunshot wound. So, that's what we were
10 looking for.

11 Q. And you didn't see any evidence of that perimortem
12 injury in your examination?

13 A. Correct. I -- we did not see anything that we could
14 link to being perimortem caused at the time of death.

15 Q. Thank you, Doctor Stevens.

16 A. You welcome.

17 THE COURT: Anything further?

18 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

20 Q. Doctor Stevens, just one question.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 Q. The -- if the little -- if the young lady had injuries
23 above her waist, you would of had to find remains in that
24 area to do an analysis of that.

25 Is that correct?

William Stevens - Redirect examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. That's correct. We only had a portion of skull and
2 legs.

3 Q. All right. And basically everything you found, except
4 for the skull piece, was below the waist?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. All right, sir. Thank you.

7 Nothing further.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Ask that the witness be excused.

10 THE COURT: Any objection?

11 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. You're excused.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

14 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Can we take 10 minutes, Your Honor?

15 THE COURT: Okay. We'll take a 10 minute break.

16 Ladies and gentlemen, don't discuss the case yet. I'll
17 get you back in a few minutes.

18 (Whereupon, the following takes place outside the
19 presence of the jury.)

20 THE COURT: All right. We'll be in recess 10 minutes.

21 (WHEREUPON, a short recess was taken at this time.)

22 THE COURT: Okay. We ready for the jury?

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

24 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I just want to put on the record --.

25 THE COURT: Oh, yeah.

1 MS. NEYLE: Judge---

2 THE COURT: Go ahead.

3 MS. NEYLE: Judge, you admitted State's 64 over my
4 objection -- over defense objection, Your Honor. I would
5 just note that objection for the record that the photo is a
6 photo of the bones, Minor 1's bones, judge. I, I would
7 object to it over Rule 403. I think it's highly prejudicial
8 more so than, than probative, judge.

9 I would point to the State v. Kornahrens case, 290 S.C.
10 281, dealing with photos, judge. They, they said that --
11 they admitted rather gruesome photos and they said they show
12 what the defendant himself did to the bodies and nothing
13 more. The appearance of the bodies as the defendant left
14 them has not been altered by decomposition or by any other
15 outside force. The bones that were shown in that photograph
16 have been heavily affected by decomposition. They were
17 found in a landfill and, judge, I argue that that photo's
18 highly prejudicial.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And, and I read that case and, and
20 basically the, the finding in that case was that if the --
21 if it's irrelevant or -- and is not substantially necessary
22 to show a material fact or condition, the photograph should
23 come in.

24 The photographs were in black and white. I didn't
25 think they were particularly gruesome. They were, in fact,

1 bones.

2 They were -- the, the prior witness had testified to
3 as, as to what they had gone through, the landfill, to de --
4 find her remains and that the fact that the bones were
5 found, this doctor testified that they were differentiating
6 his, his expertise with the -- was to tell the researchers
7 the difference between animal bones and human bones, and
8 that these series of bones were found to be human bones, and
9 that they had to identify these bones as belonging to the
10 victim in this case.

11 So -- and so the -- showing those photographs and the
12 DNA that, that they had taken from the kneecap, I think show
13 material facts that the solicitor needed to, to prove in
14 this case and the conditions. And so I think that the
15 probative value outweighs the prejudice effect. And so I
16 let them in. But your objection is noted for the record.

17 MS. NEYLE: Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Thank you so much.

19 Okay. Anything before I bring the jury in?

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing from the State.

21 THE COURT: Bring me the jury please, sir.

22 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the
23 presence of the jury.)

24 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are all seated, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

1 Mr. Solicitor, you may call your next witness.

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 I call SLED Agent Worley.

4 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible. Raise
5 your right-hand. State your name.

6 THE WITNESS: Melinda Worley.

7 MELINDA WORLEY, being first duly
8 sworn, testified as follows:

9 THE BAILIFF: Step around please. State your name for
10 the record and spell you last name please.

11 THE WITNESS: Melinda Worley. W-O-R-L-E-Y.

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

14 Q. Agent Worley, where are you employed?

15 A. At the State Law Enforcement Division.

16 Q. And do you work in the Columbia main office?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. All right. How long you been a SLED agent?

19 A. Just shy of 11 years.

20 Q. All right. And are you assigned to a particular task
21 at the agency?

22 A. I'm in the crime scene unit.

23 Q. All right. Tell us what your involvement was in terms
24 of the landfill search in Richland County back in 2019.

25 A. We, in, in the crime scene, had -- there were four of

Melinda Worley - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 us total that were assisting with the search at the
2 landfill. I spent a total of 10 days helping with the
3 search and I also, once remains were found, I was the one
4 who transported them to the lab.

5 Q. All right. So, were you actually out there raking in
6 the trash looking for evidence?

7 A. I looked -- yes, a little bit.

8 Q. All right. And the protocol was that, if you found
9 something, what would happen at that point?

10 A. I believe the -- there was -- there were flags that
11 were placed in the area where it was found. I wasn't there
12 when, when the remains were found. I wasn't actually there
13 when they were found.

14 Q. So they had to call you in --

15 A. Right.

16 Q. -- to the landfill?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. So you responded to the landfill.

19 Do you remember the date that was done?

20 A. It was October 18th.

21 Q. All right. The morning or afternoon?

22 A. I believe I was called in the morning.

23 Q. All right. And when you responded in, what were your
24 duties at that point?

25 A. Some bones had already been found. They were still

Melinda Worley - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 searching for more items, still finding more remains I
2 believe. So my, my only role was to take custody of the
3 bones and transport them to the lab at SLED for DNA
4 confirmation.

5 Q. All right. And the, the bones that you transported to
6 SLED, were -- had they been reviewed?

7 Do you know if Doctor Bill Stevens had reviewed them in
8 the landfill?

9 A. As far I remember, yes, he, he confirmed they were
10 human, and, as, as far as I can remember, yes.

11 Q. All right. And then you transported them, took them to
12 SLED to the lab there for them to do extra work?

13 A. Right.

14 Q. All right. And that was your job for that part of the
15 case?

16 A. Right. I, I logged them into our, our system at SLED,
17 assigned them to the lab number we already had for the case,
18 and gave them an item number and then I transferred them
19 directly to the DNA analyst.

20 Q. All right. Thank you. Answer any questions the
21 defense may have.

22 MS. NEYLE: I have no questions for Agent Worley.

23 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down. Thank you.

24 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Can we approach?

1 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

2 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
3 hearing of the jury at this time.)

4 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, we're gonna have to
5 break for lunch. We've come to the point that, that instead
6 of just having you sit around and wait -- and I'm, I'm gonna
7 send you to lunch. Don't discuss the case yet, allow anyone
8 to discuss it with you, read anything.

9 I will see you at two o'clock. I understand that's a
10 long lunch hour but I understand that's what we're gonna
11 need. So I'll see you at 2:00.

12 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
13 presence of the jury.)

14 THE COURT: Okay. Anything we need to put on the
15 record before lunch?

16 Let me, let me -- if not, let me talk to y'all in
17 chambers just a minute. Maybe we can speed this process up
18 a little bit.

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: And, judge, let me, before you leave
20 the bench, let me ask counsel to approach --

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: -- so we can just talk about one
23 issue.

24 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held at this time.)

25 THE COURT: Mr., Mr. Johnson, I'm informed by your

1 attorney at the bench that you do not plan to return after
2 lunch.

3 Is that right?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

5 THE COURT: So you, you want to stay in the jail
6 facility?

7 THE DEFENDANT: That's correct.

8 THE COURT: You understand you -- we're gonna proceed
9 without you. You have a constitutional right to be here but
10 you don't have to be here.

11 You understand that?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

13 THE COURT: So you -- so you do not want to be here?

14 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

15 THE COURT: Okay. And your attorney, at that point,
16 won't be able to confer with you about any potential
17 evidence or anything that comes into play.

18 You understand that?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

20 THE COURT: Okay. So that's what you want to do?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Are you planning on returning
23 tomorrow?

24 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

1 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, let me -- one thing that may
2 need to be addressed is his right to testify.

3 THE COURT: Right. And I -- okay. Cause I thought --
4 you understand, when the State does finish their case, and I
5 don't know when that's gonna be, you have a right to
6 testify. If -- you also have a constitutional right to
7 remain silent. If you give up that right to remain silent
8 and testify, you'll be treated like any other witness.
9 You'll be subject to cross-examination. I don't know
10 whether you've got a criminal record or not but, if you do,
11 parts of it may be brought out.

12 whether you testify or don't testify is your decision.
13 Your attorney can advise you as to what she thinks you
14 should do. But, ultimately, it is your decision whether you
15 testify or not.

16 Do you understand that?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

18 THE COURT: And you can confer with her and get her
19 advice. But, ultimately, it will, it will be your call.

20 You understand that?

21 (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

22 THE COURT: And, clearly, if you're not here, you can't
23 testify.

24 Do you understand that?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else you want me to cover
2 with him?

3 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Okay. We'll -- I'll see y'all -- well,
5 Court will be adjourned until 2:00 and let me talk to y'all
6 in chambers real -- see if we can speed some of this issues
7 up.

8 (WHEREUPON, Court was in recess for the lunch hour.)

9 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are present, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: All the jury is here?

11 THE BAILIFF: Yes, sir.

12 THE COURT: We ready?

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Ready.

14 THE COURT: All right. Anything before I bring the
15 jury in?

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: No, sir.

17 THE COURT: Bring me the jury.

18 THE BAILIFF: Yes, sir.

19 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the
20 presence of the jury.)

21 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are all seated, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

23 Solicitor, you may -- you can call your first witness
24 or next witness.

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

1 Please the Court.

2 Call Jim Allsbrook.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand. Raise your
5 right-hand. State your name.

6 THE WITNESS: James Allsbrook.

7 JAMES ALLSBROOK, being first duly
8 sworn, testified as follows:

9 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Step around. State your
10 name for the record and spell your last name please.

11 THE WITNESS: James Allsbrook. A-L-L-S-B-R-O-O-K.

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

14 Q. Good afternoon, detective.

15 A. Mr.

16 Q. Mr. Retired police officer.

17 Is that correct?

18 A. I was never an officer but I did work for the police
19 department.

20 Q. All right, sir. For how long?

21 A. Fourteen years some months.

22 Q. All right, sir. And you -- are you still residing in
23 Sumter?

24 A. Wedgefield, yes, sir.

25 Q. All right, sir. Good.

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 And you were working with the Sumter Police Department
2 for those years?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. All right. What were your duties back in 2019?

5 A. My responsibilities were to collect and maintain and
6 store evidence for court purposes or have items analyzed by
7 higher agencies and maintain them for court purposes.

8 Q. All right, sir. Based on the -- do you -- are you
9 familiar with the case of Daunte Johnson in regard to the
10 charges that have been brought against him and the evidence
11 that was collected?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. All right. And did you have occasion to go to the
14 scene of, of this Lantana Apartments or did officers bring
15 things to you at the evidence room?

16 A. Items were brought to me.

17 Q. Items were brought to you?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. What is the procedure that you would go through once
20 items from a crime scene are brought in?

21 A. The officer's required to complete a chain of custody
22 noting what item, how many items are contained on the
23 evidence chain of custody. Once they are placed in our
24 evidence lockers, they would be stored there until I came in
25 in the next day. I'd open the locker, verify that the

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 information and the items were one in one the same, take
2 them into my office, and log them all into a computer
3 database. And then, once that is done, depending upon what
4 the officer requested, would place them in appropriate
5 storage locations---

6 Q. All right, sir.

7 A. ---and hold them.

8 Q. Now, as far as having items taken to Columbia, how
9 would you transport items that needed to be taken to the
10 SLED lab in Columbia?

11 A. We would package them and annotate the -- with evidence
12 tamper tape, sealing the containers, transport them in our
13 issued vehicle. They would have to have been pre-logged
14 meaning we would have to go on to say SLED's database, note
15 through -- time -- type of item, description of item,
16 individuals involved in the cases, and that paperwork would
17 be present at SLED when we got there. That way they would
18 know what was coming and how to take care of the items. And
19 then we would hand -- usually hand to hand transfer or
20 possibly put them in their storage lockers for them to
21 retrieve.

22 Q. All right, sir. Let me ask you have you reviewed some
23 records to show how many trips you may of taken to go to the
24 SLED lab on this case?

25 A. Yes, sir.

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. How many?

2 A. Two to my best recollection.

3 Q. Okay. And do you know the dates of those travels?

4 A. I believe it was the 10th and 19th of June -- June or
5 July.

6 Q. And do you have records showing what you took over on
7 those occasions?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. All right, sir. I wanted to ask you, you have a number
10 associated with the item of evidence?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And does SLED use that same number when they receive
13 the evidence or do they change the number?

14 A. They change the number.

15 Q. All right, sir. So, let me ask you if you have a item
16 that would be Item 8, SLED Number Item 8, a swab from
17 exterior back doorframe?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And you transported that swab to SLED?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. On what date?

22 A. 8/9 of '19.

23 Q. All right. And did you have occasion to go back and
24 pick it up?

25 A. I did.

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. And when was that?
- 2 A. October 10 of the same year.
- 3 Q. All right. Very good.
- 4 Do you have a list there?
- 5 Maybe you can tell me better than I can ask you, what
- 6 items you took on the 9th.
- 7 Did -- that -- was that the only item you took on the
- 8 9th or other items were taken?
- 9 A. There were multiple items taken.
- 10 Q. Can you recite what you took over?
- 11 A. Without looking through 98 pages.
- 12 Q. Oh, okay.
- 13 So, how about Item 2.1, a cutting from the sofa?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. You took that on what date?
- 16 A. Technically I did not take it. The -- I took Item 2,
- 17 which was a cutting from the upholstery.
- 18 Q. Yes, sir.
- 19 A. And during the process of SLED's analysis, they created
- 20 Item 2.1.
- 21 Q. I understand.
- 22 A. So I retrieved 2.1 on same, October 10 of the same
- 23 year.
- 24 Q. All right.
- 25 A. '19.

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. So, tell the ladies and gentlemen how that works.

2 If there was a cutting taken into evidence here in
3 Sumter from the couch, you would transport that cutting to
4 the SLED lab?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And they might cut it again?

7 A. They would.

8 Q. All right. And they would create another number for
9 that new cut?

10 A. It would be a subset of the same member.

11 Q. All right, sir. Very good.

12 And after you went back in October, you picked that
13 item up?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. All right, sir. Did you also take over any beads of --
16 hair braids?

17 A. Oh beads.

18 Q. Beads.

19 A. Yes, sir, that would be Item 3.

20 Q. Yes, sir.

21 A. SLED number.

22 Q. Yes, sir.

23 A. I took that on 8/9 of '19 and did retrieve it 9/17 of
24 '19.

25 Q. All right, sir. Did you take an Item 12 on the SLED

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 list which would of been swabs from the floor.
- 2 A. Described as a swab from the floor under clothing pile?
- 3 Q. Yes, sir.
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. Did you---
- 6 A. I did.
- 7 Q. When did you take that?
- 8 A. 8/9 of '19.
- 9 Q. And when was it retrieved?
- 10 A. 10/10/19.
- 11 Q. And if you don't mind, let me go back to Item 2.2. I
- 12 talked to you about 2.1 was a cutting from the sofa.
- 13 Was there another cutting also submitted to the SLED
- 14 lab labeled B?
- 15 We had an A cutting and a B cutting.
- 16 A. Item 2.2 is a sealed plastic sleeve containing cuttings
- 17 described as -- labeled B from sofa upholstery. That was
- 18 another item generated by SLED from Item 2. I did retrieve
- 19 that from SLED on 10/10/19.
- 20 Q. All right, sir. Item 17, a swab from the floor.
- 21 A. Item 17?
- 22 Q. Yes, sir.
- 23 A. I was not the one who transported it to SLED.
- 24 Q. Who was that?
- 25 A. Officer Dan Buck.

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right, sir. Thank you.

2 How about Item 18?

3 A. Again, that was transported by Officer Buck to SLED.

4 But I did retrieve them from SLED, both items.

5 Q. All right. And when did you bring those 17 and 18
6 back?

7 A. Both on 10/10/19.

8 Q. All right, sir. How about Item 19?

9 A. I retrieved it from SLED 10/10/19.

10 Q. All right, sir. And someone else took it?

11 A. Officer Buck.

12 Q. Buck.

13 All right. How about Item 20?

14 A. Same process, sir.

15 Q. Same process.

16 And Item -- let me ask you.

17 On Item 20, is that something you brought back or
18 you---

19 A. I did.

20 Q. You did bring it back.

21 when?

22 A. 10/10/19.

23 Q. All right. And what about 21?

24 A. The same again. Officer Buck took it. I retrieved it,
25 same date.

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. All right.
- 2 A. 10/10/19.
- 3 Q. And would that be the same for Item 22?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. All right. How about Item 24?
- 6 A. Yes, sir, Officer Buck and myself.
- 7 Q. So he took it over. You brought it back.
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. And what date did you bring it back?
- 10 A. 10/10/19.
- 11 Q. All right, sir. And Item 25?
- 12 A. Officer Buck and myself.
- 13 Q. All right, sir.
- 14 A. Same date.
- 15 Q. All right, sir. Item 27 is cuttings from the edge of a
- 16 pink rug and Item 27.2, another cutting from the same pink
- 17 rug.
- 18 A. You said 27.2?
- 19 Q. 27 one -- .1 and 27.2.
- 20 A. Officer Buck took Item 27. I retrieved it on 19 or
- 21 9/17/19.
- 22 Q. All right, sir. And Item 27.2?
- 23 A. 27.1 and 27.2 were generated by SLED from 27.
- 24 Q. Yes, sir.
- 25 A. I retrieved both 10/10/19.

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right, sir. Now let me go back just for a minute.
2 Beg the Court's indulgence.

3 (Pause.)

4 Q. Mr. Allsbrook, let's go back to the beginning of the
5 list on the items that you took. Item 8 was the swab from
6 the backdoor.

7 I want to show you --.

8 (WHEREUPON, two DNA swabs were marked as State's
9 Exhibit No. 67 for identification purposes only at this
10 time.)

11 Q. I show you what's been marked as State's Exhibit 67.
12 Ask if you can identify that item.

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. How can you identify it?

15 A. The process for transporting and turning evidence over
16 to another agency, you see within here we have two manila
17 envelopes. On each envelope is a label stating what officer
18 collected it, the case number that's assigned to, the date
19 it was collected, the time, what is the item presumed to be,
20 and where collected from. This is the package that we would
21 of gotten in our evidence room with a chain of custody. We
22 generated a bar code label here.

23 Once the item is processed and prepared for SLED, you
24 can't really see it on -- inside the package. But there's
25 evidence tamper tape placed on the fold of the envelope.

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 The officer is suppose to put the evidence tamper tape,
2 which is a very fragile item, and they initial it. As long
3 as the seal is in tact, it is considered good.

4 We've gotten it. We've processed it. We've ensured
5 that its packaging is proper.

6 On transport to SLED, we're suppose to generate this
7 outer packaging. You'll see the item is gonna go to what we
8 presume to be DNA for analysis. This is the person that
9 took it, which is me, on that date from this location. The
10 case number that it's assigned to, it should match the
11 number on the envelope, who was the victim or suspect, and
12 what items are contained within this pouch.

13 It is heat sealed. The transporting person initials it
14 and dates it and then we write from what agency it's come --
15 it came from. These items are what are then placed into the
16 SLED locker room for hand to hand transfer and processed
17 from that point.

18 Q. All right. And that's Item 67, which is on your
19 records --?

20 A. There would be two numbers.

21 Q. Exhibit, Exhibit 67 is what I'm referring to.

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. And the -- it would be Item 8 on the report, on the
24 SLED report?

25 A. It should be, yes, sir.

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. And what was that?

2 A. A exterior door frame -- backdoor frame swab.

3 Q. And did you say there were two swabs?

4 A. There were two packages, yes, sir.

5 Q. Each would be a swab?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. All right. All right. I'm gonna put this up here.

8 We'll come back to it later.

9 (WHEREUPON, a cutting from the couch was marked as
10 State's Exhibit No. 68 for identification purposes only at
11 this time.)

12 Q. The next item I want to ask you about, officer, is 2.1,
13 cutting from the couch. I've marked it as State's Exhibit
14 68.

15 Do you have a record of delivering those to SLED?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. And did you also pick those up?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. All right. And they're two boxes in there?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. An so they're two cuttings according to your records?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. All right. I want to now bring your attention to Item
24 I think it's 3.1.

25 Is that the hair beads?

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. I need to put a sticker on it, sir.

3 (WHEREUPON, the hair beads were marked as State's
4 Exhibit No. 69 for identification purposes only at this
5 time.)

6 Q. State's Exhibit 69, can you confirm that that was taken
7 to SLED by you?

8 A. Yes, sir, the beads, beads were taken to and returned
9 by my -- by me.

10 Q. All right, sir. The next item would be Item 12.

11 A. Let me correct something, sir.

12 Q. Yes, sir.

13 A. This is a braid. Hair braid.

14 Q. Does it say with beads?

15 A. Yes, sir, I'm sorry. You are correct.

16 Q. Hair braid with beads?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Yes, sir.

19 All right. The next item would be I believe 55. This
20 is State's Exhibit No. 7.

21 A. Item Number 12. SLED Item Number 12.

22 Q. Yes, sir, SLED Item Number 12.

23 A. Yes, sir, taken to and returned by me.

24 Q. All right, sir. And would you look at State's Exhibit
25 71 and I believe that's going to be Item Number -- is that

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 17?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. I'll double-check that then. That item turned out to
4 be taken to SLED by somebody else.

5 Did you -- do you have records of receiving buccal
6 swabs that you turned over to the evidence, Sumter evidence,
7 and put into the evidence?

8 A. What SLED lab number would they be, sir?

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Did we put a sticker on it?

10 (WHEREUPON, the buccal swab of Daunte Johnson was
11 marked as State's Exhibit No. 72. The buccal swab of Dupray
12 Adams was marked as State's Exhibit No. 73. Both exhibits
13 were for identification purposes only at this time.)

14 Q. These will be Items 72 -- State's Exhibit 72 and 73 and
15 I can give you little bit more information, sir. Item
16 Number 6 on the SLED report, a buccal swab from Dupray
17 Adams.

18 A. Yes, sir, it was transported by me to SLED and
19 retrieved by me from SLED collected -- transferred on 8/9 of
20 '19. Returned 10/10 of '19.

21 Q. All right. And that would be item -- State's Exhibit
22 73 and tell me about State's Exhibit 72.

23 A. Item 72, State's evidence, excuse me, would be SLED
24 Item Number 4, a buccal swab from Daunte Maurice Johnson.

25 Q. All right, sir. Taken by you?

James Allsbrook - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Taken by me 8/9 of '19 and returned by me 10/10 of '19.

2 Q. All right. And that's State Exhibit 72.

3 All right. Beg the Court's indulgence.

4 (Pause.)

5 Q. Officer, I think that's all. Thank you very much for
6 your time today. Answer any questions the defense may have.

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 MS. NEYLE: I have no questions, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: May the witness be excused?

11 THE COURT: Any objection?

12 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Yes.

14 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Dan Buck.

15 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible. Raise
16 your right-hand. State your name.

17 THE WITNESS: Daniel Buck.

18 DAN BUCK, being first duly sworn,
19 testified as follows:

20 THE BAILIFF: Please have a seat. Watch your step
21 please. State your name for the record and spell your last
22 name.

23 THE WITNESS: Daniel buck. B-U-C-K.

24 DIRECT EXAMINATION

25 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

Daniel Buck - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Good afternoon, Officer Buck.

2 A. How are you, sir?

3 Q. Good, sir.

4 Tell the ladies and gentlemen where you work.

5 A. I currently am employed at the Sumter Police
6 Department.

7 Q. And how long have you been there?

8 A. I've been there since 2007.

9 Q. What are your duties these days?

10 A. I am an evidence, evidence custodian which I've been an
11 evidence custodian since 2014.

12 Q. All right. So, in 2019 you were working in the
13 evidence custodian department?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. All right. And is it -- tell the ladies and gentlemen
16 what are your duties in the evidence department.

17 A. Our duties is, in the evidence department, is to take
18 care of the evidence that's turned in by the officers and
19 detectives. So, we make sure it's packaged properly, stored
20 properly. If it needs to go somewhere else for analysis, we
21 ensure it gets there.

22 Q. And do you have, as part of your responsibility,
23 transporting items over to the SLED lab if they need to be
24 analyzed?

25 A. Absolutely.

Daniel Buck - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Do you---

2 A. Absolutely. We make trips weekly.

3 Q. All right, sir. Did you have occasion to work on the
4 State versus Daunte Johnson case we're -- that we're here on
5 today?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And did you go to the scene to collect evidence or was
8 evidence brought to you?

9 A. No, sir, I did not go to the scene. Evidence was, was
10 brought to me.

11 Q. All right. When you were -- were you tasked with
12 transporting evidence over to SLED in this case?

13 A. Yes, I did make a few trips.

14 Q. All right. Do you know the dates that you made those
15 trips?

16 A. I do not. It was mid August, 2019.

17 Q. All right. So, do you have the SLED report?

18 I was gonna ask you about some items that we've talked
19 about.

20 Item Number 12 on the SLED report is a swab under,
21 excuse me, swab from the floor under clothing pile.

22 Were you, were you the officer in -- with -- in charge
23 of that piece of evidence?

24 A. That, that was dropped off by Mr. Allsbrook.

25 Q. All right. Go to Number 17, swab from the floor near

Daniel Buck - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 the two armed couch.

2 A. That is correct. I dropped that off on it appears to
3 be the 15th of August.

4 Q. All right, sir. Is that item in court with you today?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. All right. Let's put a sticker on it.

7 A. Sir, there's more than one --

8 Q. Yes, sir.

9 A. -- item in that bag.

10 Q. All right, sir. So why is there more than one item in
11 this bag?

12 A. Frequently, and it's, it's SLED's -- it's -- we
13 packaged -- we have to package it according to SLED's
14 directives and that item was able to be packaged with other,
15 with item -- other items.

16 (WHEREUPON, DNA swabs were marked as State's Exhibit
17 No. 74 for identification purposes only at this time.)

18 Q. So, were all of these items, this is Item 17, 18, and
19 19, I'm looking at State's Exhibit No. 74.

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Seventeen, 18, and 19, were they taken over in this
22 plastic bag to SLED?

23 A. That is correct.

24 Q. All three?

25 A. Yes. And that is because -- it's right here. I'm the

Daniel Buck - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 sealing official and the day I sealed it, and when I heat
2 sealed the top, I put my initials and the date up top.
- 3 Q. All right. And you said you took it over?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. And did you -- who picked it up and brought it back?
- 6 A. Let me read. Mr. Allsbrook.
- 7 Q. All right. What date did he bring it back?
- 8 A. Looks like the 10th of October of 2019.
- 9 Q. All right. How about item -- well, we just talked
10 about 17, 18, and 19.
- 11 All those -- three of those are in that bag?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- 13 Q. All right. What about 20?
- 14 A. Be a heat sealed pouch. Swabs from the door near the
15 power cords.
- 16 Q. All right.
- 17 A. And I took that up on that same day, the 15th.
- 18 Q. You took it up the -- up -- items we just talked about?
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- 20 Q. All right.
- 21 A. And, once again, there's more than one item in that
22 bag.
- 23 Q. All right. How many does it say on the front---
- 24 A. There's---
- 25 Q. ---of this bag?

Daniel Buck - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, three. SLED Item 20, 21, and 22.

2 Q. And this is State's Exhibit 75 for, for ID.

3 Three items in this bag, you took them over to SLED?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. All right. What about Item 24?

6 A. Yes, that was also taken on that same day, 8/15/2019.

7 Q. And your records reflect -- was that a mop handle or a
8 swab?

9 A. That is a swab from a blue mop handle.

10 Q. All right. State's Exhibit No. 76 for ID.

11 When was it taken over to SLED?

12 A. The 15th on that.

13 Q. All right.

14 A. The 8/15/2019.

15 Q. And who picked it up?

16 A. Mr. Allsbrook.

17 Q. All right.

18 THE COURT: And what is 76?

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: It's a swab from the blue mop
20 handle.

21 THE COURT: Okay. So that's SLED Item 24?

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Twenty-four and 25.

23 THE COURT: Okay.

24 Q. And, sir, did you have a 27 or a 27.1 and 27.2 on your
25 list?

Daniel Buck - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir, it's a pink rug.

2 Q. All right.

3 A. Item 27.

4 Q. Can you tell the jury what's -- whether 27 was a rug or
5 parts of the rug?

6 A. The -- there was a pink rug and---

7 Q. Okay. So you took---

8 A. ---I believe we have it in a box over there.

9 Q. All right. All right.

10 Your Honor, I may of given the wrong information. On
11 the swabs that were put in in 76 --

12 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: -- there were two items. Item 24
14 was a swab from the mop. Item 25 was a swab from the tooth.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 Q. All right. Mr. Buck, this---

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. This is the pink rug?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Let me put a sticker on it.

21 (WHEREUPON, the pink rug was marked as State's Exhibit
22 No. 77 for identification purposes only at this time.)

23 Q. Item 77.

24 You took the pink rug?

25 A. Yes, sir, and then I -- my initials, the date I sealed

Daniel Buck - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 it, 8/15/2019.

2 Q. All right. And once you took the rug over, they did
3 some cutting on it as far as you can tell?

4 A. As far as I can tell from their -- the log --

5 Q. And---

6 A. -- their evidence log.

7 Q. And, and when you picked it up, you got the rug and the
8 cuttings back?

9 A. Mr. Allsbrook picked it up.

10 Q. All right.

11 A. But, yes, I believe that would be the case.

12 Q. All right, sir. Okay. And I believe that's it. Let
13 me check with my team.

14 Beg the Court's indulgence.

15 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

16 (Pause.)

17 Q. Mr. Buck, do have an Item 19, buccal swab?

18 A. Is that -- could I see the package, sir?

19 Q. Let me ask you if you can identify that.

20 A. Item 14 then.

21 Q. Item --?

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. Fourteen, yes, sir.

24 A. Yes, sir. Yes, I took this to SLED August 15th.

25 Q. Is it identified as a buccal swab?

Daniel Buck - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- 2 Q. All right.
- 3 A. From Cody Daney.
- 4 Q. Thank you, sir.
- 5 That's Item 78.
- 6 What about Item 23?
- 7 A. It's a buccal swab from Cermon James. That would be
- 8 correct. That's it.
- 9 Q. All right. Item 79.
- 10 And would you check this item please?
- 11 I think it's 44.
- 12 A. Want to do that one first?
- 13 Q. Yes, sir.
- 14 A. Minor 2 , which is --.
- 15 Q. Oh.
- 16 A. The -- this is the---
- 17 Q. Is it---
- 18 A. Minor 2 .
- 19 Q. Yes, sir, Minor 2 .
- 20 A. Minor 2 .
- 21 Q. All right.
- 22 A. That's Item 44. I'm sorry, sir.
- 23 What was the other number, 70 --?
- 24 Q. The last number we did was 79.
- 25 Oh, you talking about my number or your number?

Daniel Buck - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Well, 23 is---

2 A. Oh, maybe I was just confused your---

3 Q. Yes, sir, 23 is---

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. ---the last number, your number. This is 44.

6 This is State's Exhibit No. 80 for ID, buccal swab.

7 Is that right?

8 Did you carry it over?

9 A. No, Detective Kearney carried that one.

10 Q. All right. Did you pick it up?

11 A. Forty-four, Ms. Carter picked that up.

12 Q. All right. And I have one more.

13 Can you look at this and say if Sumter transported that
14 or was that something that came from SLED?

15 A. These were all generated from, from SLED.

16 Q. All right. So, the SLED lab would of produced these
17 items from the evidence that was brought in?

18 A. That's correct.

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Beg the Court's
20 indulgence.

21 (Pause.)

22 Q. Thank you, Mr. Buck. Answer any questions the defense
23 may have.

24 MS. NEYLE: I have no questions for Mr. Buck.

25 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down.

Nicholas Batalis - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: We're gonna call Doctor Nicholas
3 Batalis.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible. Raise
6 your right-hand and state your name.

7 THE WITNESS: Nicholas Ike Batalis.

8 NICHOLAS BATALIS, being first duly
9 sworn, testified as follows:

10 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much, sir. Step around please.
11 State your name for the record and spell your last name
12 please.

13 THE WITNESS: My name is Doctor Nicholas Ike Batalis.
14 B-A-T-A-L-I-S.

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

17 Q. All right. Doctor Batalis, welcome to Sumter.

18 A. Thank you.

19 Q. Where do you work, sir?

20 A. I work at the Medical University of South Carolina down
21 in Charleston.

22 Q. And what do you do there?

23 A. I'm employed there as professor in the pathology
24 department and specifically my main role is as a forensic
25 pathologist.

Nicholas Batalis - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. would you tell the ladies and gentlemen what a forensic
2 pathologist does?

3 A. sure. I'll back up just a second to explain pathology.
4 So pathology's a field of medicine that deals with
5 diagnosing diseases. So a, a general pathologist would be
6 the one to look at a biopsy and determine if it's cancer or
7 not cancer.

8 Forensic pathology is then a, a subspecialty of that.
9 So with additional training that deals with more the
10 medical/legal aspects of medicine specifically performing
11 autopsies to determine a cause and manner of death.

12 Q. And how long have you been doing forensic pathology and
13 autopsies?

14 A. I'm wrapping my, my 14th year at this point.

15 Q. All right. Have you testified before in courts across
16 the state?

17 A. I have close to somewhere around a hundred times here
18 in South Carolina, once or twice in Texas, and once or twice
19 in North Carolina.

20 Q. And have you been declared an expert in the field of
21 forensic pathology in those court hearings?

22 A. I believe each and every time, yes.

23 Q. All right. Tell us a little bit about your educational
24 background, college, medical school.

25 A. Sure. I went to -- for undergraduate, I went to Butler

Nicholas Batalis - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 University in Indianapolis, Indiana and had a -- graduated
2 with a degree, degree in biology. I then moved on to the
3 Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis,
4 Indiana for, for medical school.

5 After completing those four years of medical school, I
6 then came down to Charleston to MUSC for a general training
7 program or a residency training program in general
8 pathology. After completing that four years of becoming a,
9 a general pathologist, I passed an examination to become
10 nationally board certified to practice pathology.

11 After that -- after those four years, I then went on to
12 do another one year fellowship or specialty training
13 specifically in forensic pathology regarding the autopsies
14 and that was in Dallas, Texas. Again, at the end of that
15 year in Dallas, I passed another board exam to become
16 nationally certified. At that point I then returned to MUSC
17 and then took my current position.

18 Q. Doctor, your certification that you described to the
19 jury, is that something you have to renew annually or --?

20 A. At, at this point it's ongoing certification. So I
21 have to get a certain number of educational hours each year
22 to prove that I'm still active and still learning. We also
23 have to take quiz questions every three months and, and
24 achieve a certain level of correct answers in order to
25 maintain our license and, and certification.

Nicholas Batalis - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: At this time I would move Doctor
2 Batalis as an expert witness in the field of forensic
3 pathology.

4 THE COURT: What says defense?

5 MS. NEYLE: I have no objection.

6 THE COURT: The Court so finds.

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 Doctor Batalis, did you have occasion to do an autopsy
9 on Sharee Bradley in August of 2019?

10 A. Yes, I did. It looks like August 8th of 2019.

11 Q. All right. And that was done at the Medical University
12 in Charleston?

13 A. Yes, it was.

14 Q. All right, sir. And can you tell us some of the
15 findings?

16 When you begin an autopsy, what are the findings that
17 you normally -- procedure you go through?

18 A. Sure. So we, we kind of treat -- try to treat all our
19 cases the same for consistency.

20 So the first thing we do when we bring the body into
21 our autopsy suite would be to take photographs of the body
22 before we change things in any way. We would then document
23 any clothing, any evidence, anything that's on the body.
24 Remove that, clean the body, take another set of
25 photographs, and then what we call our external exam, which

Nicholas Batalis - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 is basically examining the body from head to toe. Some
2 basic stuff like height and weight and tattoos and that sort
3 of thing. But then also looking for evidence of natural
4 disease or trauma.

5 After that external examination, we would then use
6 surgical type incisions to examine the internal organs of
7 the body one by one again looking for evidence of trauma or
8 natural disease that could explain why the person is dead.

9 Q. Did you rule that the death of Sharee Bradley was a
10 homicide?

11 A. I did.

12 Q. And what does that mean in medical/legal terms?

13 A. Sure. So, in forensic pathology, we have a cause of
14 death and a manner of death. And so simply the cause of
15 death is just how they died. The manner of death is how
16 that came about.

17 So, for example, a, a gunshot wound could be a suicide
18 if you were to shoot yourself. Potentially if you were at
19 a, a hunting range and a gun discharged, it could be an
20 accident or, in our case, homicide is considered the death
21 at the hands of another. And so, in this case, it was felt
22 that the death was directly due to the behavior of another
23 individual.

24 Q. And would you tell us the summary of the injuries that
25 you noted on the body of Ms. Sharee Bradley and, and where

Nicholas Batalis - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 those injuries were?

2 A. Sure. On Ms. Bradley there were really two groups of
3 injuries. One what we call blunt force trauma, which is
4 just what it sounds like, being struck with a flat object or
5 being slammed into an object, and then we had evidence of
6 sharp force trauma. So, basically sharp force trauma would
7 be a cut with some sort of weapon that has a sharp edge to
8 it.

9 In her case, her blunt force trauma, the evidence that
10 we had there, she had several teeth that were missing
11 acutely. So it's not like they'd been missing for years
12 that -- but missing from right around the time of death.
13 Also several teeth that were fractured or broken.

14 And then, internally, in her neck we could see a
15 fracture of one of her, one of her vertebra. So, part of
16 her -- that her spine and her neck that she had a fracture.
17 That was the, the blunt force injuries.

18 As far as the, the sharp force injuries, she had 14
19 stab wounds and incised wounds, and, and, for us, a stab
20 wound is gonna go deeper than the wound is long. An incised
21 wound would be more kind of coming across the body where the
22 wound is longer than it is deep.

23 But, in her case, she had 14 different sharp force
24 injuries on her body including several on her arms, one in
25 the back of the neck, one in the right side of the neck, and

Nicholas Batalis - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 then I believe six lesions on the face.

2 Q. All right. Now, doctor, you said a minute ago that,
3 after you examine the body, you take photographs.

4 Did you, in this case, take photographs of Ms. Sharee's
5 body after you had done your initial examination?

6 A. We did.

7 Q. I want to show you what's been marked as State's 42,
8 43, 44, and 45. Ask you just to look at those.

9 Describe for the jury what you see in those.

10 A. State's Exhibit 42 is a picture of a stab wound that
11 was on the back of her neck.

12 Q. Is there anything unusual about the size or location of
13 that wound?

14 A. Nothing in particular. You know, different wounds
15 will, will appear different. It's a -- nothing in
16 particular.

17 Q. All right. And you say it was in the back of the neck.
18 was the, was the wound -- in other words, was it more
19 of a lateral coming into the neck or was it going down if
20 you can determine the angle of the blade of the injury?

21 A. Yes. So, in this case, predominately it was coming
22 from back to front. So, the decedent's back to front. Also
23 a little bit from her left to right and a little bit
24 downward. So, if I was to point at myself, somewhat like
25 this coming down like that.

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By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. And can you tell us, out of the 14 wounds that you
2 noted, were some of them more likely to cause death?

3 A. There, there was one in particular that I think that,
4 that was most responsible for death. But then there were
5 two others that would of led to more bleeding including the
6 one in the back of the neck.

7 Q. The back of the neck would of been a severe --?

8 A. Yes, it went deeper than some of the other ones and
9 severed some more -- none of the major blood vessels but
10 several other larger blood vessels that would of caused
11 significant bleeding.

12 Q. Okay. All right. Would you go to the next picture
13 please?

14 I think it's---

15 A. Sure.

16 Q. ---43.

17 A. Yeah. So, State's Exhibit 43, we can see predominately
18 two, two sharp force injuries. One is a large incised wound
19 that spans most of the left side of the forehead and that
20 one kind of went, again, across most of the forehead down to
21 the skull and then just below that there's another incised
22 wound that was over the left eyebrow.

23 Q. Would either of those cause death in Ms. Bradley?

24 A. Not, not directly. Although anything -- any injury to
25 the face can cause significant bleeding, and, again, with

Nicholas Batalis - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 the number of injuries she had, she's gonna have -- be
2 bleeding from multiple sources. So, it -- again, it would
3 of contributed to, to the bleeding she experienced. But
4 that -- not as severe as one of the other lesions.

5 Q. All right, sir. And the next picture. I think it's
6 44.

7 A. State's Exhibit 44 shows a stab wound on the right side
8 of the neck. So that one, again, will be basically, on me,
9 kind of right here. That, that wound was -- pretty much
10 went from her right to left. So, kind of straight into the
11 body and a little bit downward.

12 Q. And the last picture, 45.

13 A. State's Exhibit 45 shows one of the deeper stab wounds
14 that's in the right axillar or kind of the right armpit. So
15 the large stab wound in right armpit area.

16 Q. All right. Did you note other injuries on her body, on
17 her arms?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. And were those life threatening type injuries or were
20 they -- you, you describe them for us.

21 A. Sure. So working through here, she had two incised
22 wounds on her right forearm. So one was basically out here.
23 One was more at, at this aspect. So, inner area, outer
24 area. Those went through the skin and soft tissue. Do not
25 take out any major blood vessels. So, again, there would of

Nicholas Batalis - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 been a little bit of bleeding associated with them but they
2 were not the major in -- injuries.

3 In addition to that, on her left arm kind of right,
4 right about here, again, she had another -- this was an
5 incised wound again. So, a, a cut across the kind of deep
6 surface -- the deep tissue of the left arm and then, on the
7 right arm, kind of -- she had a, a lesion at the bottom kind
8 of near the elbow and then one up closer to the shoulder,
9 and during my examination, the two wounds connected.

10 So, it appears that that knife had kind of gone all the
11 way through in one and out the other. Although there could
12 of been two separate wounds on that arm as well.

13 Q. So, doctor, when you are asked to look at a body and
14 determine cause of death, is it difficult for you to
15 determine things like was the body standing, was the body
16 laying down, was the body moving?

17 Do you, do you have an idea?

18 A. So basically when we're determining her injuries and
19 the, the pathway, whether it's a bullet or in this case a
20 knife, we're speaking of the, the way the knife would of
21 been oriented to the body. But I can't say whether there
22 she was laying down, whether she was standing up.

23 I could say, you know, in certain situations this would
24 be consistent with that or this -- that couldn't have
25 happened. But I can't say exactly how the body would of

Nicholas Batalis - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 been positioned.

2 Q. Based on the photographs that I believe I sent to your
3 office along with the picture of a knife, did I ask you to
4 do some kind of comparison or, or, or examination to see if
5 the knife that we sent you pictures of could of been used to
6 cause those injuries?

7 A. Yes, you, you did send me a picture of a potential
8 weapon in order to compare to the injuries we saw in the
9 pictures, and the, the injuries seen in the picture, it
10 would be consistent with being caused by the, the knife that
11 was shown to me.

12 Q. All right. Let me show you what's been marked as
13 State's Exhibit 51. This is the blade of the knife. I
14 believe I sent you the pictures of that.

15 Did -- to, to your thinking, is that a standard sized
16 knife or is it a large knife?

17 A. That appears to be a large, you know, maybe possibly a
18 butchers type knife but it -- a fairly large knife, yes.

19 Q. And the injuries you observed on Ms. Bradley, were they
20 consistent with a large butcher type knife?

21 A. They certainly could be.

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: May we approach?

23 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
24 hearing of the jury at this time.)

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: The State would hereby move Exhibit

Nicholas Batalis - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 43, 44, 45, excuse me, 42, 43, 44, and 45 into evidence.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Ms. -- I'm sorry. Thank you. The
3 Court will allow those in over the objection of defense
4 counsel.

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 42 through 45 were
7 received into evidence at this time.)

8 Q. Doctor Batalis, thank you for coming today. Answer any
9 questions the defense may have.

10 A. Thank you.

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MS. NEYLE:

13 Q. Hi, Doctor Batalis.

14 A. Good afternoon.

15 Q. Did Ms. Bradley have any wounds on her hands?

16 A. She did not have any wounds specifically on her hands,
17 no.

18 Q. Okay. And based on your examination, you can't
19 determine an, an exact time of death for Ms. Bradley, can
20 you?

21 A. No, I can not.

22 Q. You, you testified the State sent you a picture of a,
23 of a knife?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And based on looking at that knife, the injuries that

Nicholas Batalis - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 she had could be consistent with having that knife being
2 used on her?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. But I could show you different pictures of knives and
5 those would be consistent with her injuries as well?

6 A. Possibly. I'll say that the injuries seen on the body
7 have certain characteristics to them and the knife shown to
8 me would certainly be one that could explain that. But I
9 guess, to your point, there was nothing unique that would
10 make that the only possible weapon that could of caused the
11 injuries.

12 Q. Cause knives have common characteristics, don't they?

13 A. Some of them, correct.

14 Q. And when you're talking about these types of injuries,
15 it depends on a, a lot of varying characteristics, correct,
16 such as---

17 A. I'm sure if -- could you restate?

18 Q. Such as the, the force exerted by the person with the
19 knife?

20 A. Sure. So, I mean with a -- when you're dealing with a
21 knife injury, there's different things at play. Sometimes,
22 if the knife is sharp enough, you wouldn't have to have a
23 ton of force exerted but also the location of the injuries.
24 So, if you have two equal stab wounds, and one just kind of
25 goes through the arm and one goes through the chest into the

Nicholas Batalis - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 heart, obviously the, the one that goes through the heart
2 would be more severe.

3 Q. So, you can not say definitively that that knife is the
4 knife that was used to kill Sharee Bradley, can you?

5 A. I can say that the injuries are consistent with that
6 knife. But I can not say definitively that that was the
7 knife that caused them.

8 MS. NEYLE: Thank you, Your Honor. I have no further
9 questions.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 SOLICITOR FINNEY: May I just ask a follow-up?

12 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

14 Q. Doctor Batalis, did you take measurements of the wounds
15 on Ms. Bradley?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. And let's just talk about the four that we have in
18 these pictures.

19 Can you, can you tell us about the depth of the injury
20 and -- shown in Picture 45?

21 A. Sure. So the, the picture in State's Exhibit 45 again
22 was a large lesion here in the right armpit or axillar area.
23 That wound was about 4-inches in length and the depth of it
24 was about 5 to 6-inches.

25 Q. So that couldn't have been caused by a 3-inch knife?

Nicholas Batalis - Redirect examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. It's possible for a smaller knife to cause a deeper
2 wound. Bodies are flexible. So if you press into the body,
3 you could get the blade to go deeper than, than just it's
4 blade.

5 Q. And that wound you said was how deep?

6 A. It was 5 to 6-inches deep.

7 Q. All right. And the depth and measurements of State's
8 Exhibit 44 in the neck?

9 A. So, State's Exhibit 44, this wound was 1-inch in
10 length, so a little more narrow, and it extended 3-inches
11 into the neck. So, a depth of 3-inches.

12 Q. And State's Exhibit 42.

13 A. Forty-two -- State's Exhibit 42 is the stab wound on
14 the back of the neck and that wound was an inch and a half
15 long. So kind of between the, the length of the two, and as
16 far as the depth of that one, that was approximately
17 4-inches.

18 Q. Thank you, sir.

19 Nothing further.

20 THE COURT: You can step down. Thank you, sir.

21 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Any reason the doctor can't be excused?

23 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

24 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

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1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, sir.

2 Paul Meeh.

3 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible. Raise
4 your right-hand. State your name.

5 THE WITNESS: My name's Paul Meeh.

6 PAUL MEEH, being first duly
7 sworn, testified as follows:

8 THE BAILIFF: Thank you. Come around please. State
9 your name for the record and spell your last name please.

10 THE WITNESS: My name is Paul Meeh. That's M-E-E-H.

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

13 Q. Good afternoon, Agent Meeh.

14 A. Good afternoon.

15 How are you, sir?

16 Q. I'm doing fine. Thank you.

17 Tell us a little bit about your work.

18 What do you do for a living?

19 A. Right now I'm a molecular biologist for a company
20 called DPX Technologies. But formerly I was a forensic
21 scientist for South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

22 Q. And how long, how long did you work for SLED?

23 A. Thirteen years.

24 Q. All right. And were you working there in 2019?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. All right. What department were you associated with in
2 2019?

3 A. The DNA department.

4 Q. All right. And did you have occasion to run DNA
5 testing on evidence submitted to you by Sumter City Police
6 Department?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. All right. Did you have a case number SLED Lab Number
9 L1914647?

10 A. Yes, I did.

11 Q. And items submitted would of all had that case number
12 on them if they were associated with that case?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. All right, sir. Can you tell us what is your job at
15 the SLED lab in the DNA department?

16 A. Yeah. My job at the SLED lab was to isolate DNA. I
17 had a lot of training there. I mean I -- when I started in
18 I guess 2007 or 2008 I did over a year and a half of
19 training there and that was to take DNA from cells. You've
20 got DNA in every cell in your body except your red blood
21 cells and I would isolate it from there, and then test it
22 and generate a DNA fingerprint that identifies you. It's
23 specific to you. Nobody else in the world has a DNA
24 fingerprint that would match up with yours --

25 Q. Okay. And---

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1 A. -- except an identical twin. Excuse me.

2 Q. All right, sir. And based on your experience in
3 working the lab, have you been qualified as an expert in DNA
4 analysis in courts in this state?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And would you say -- you've testified how many times?

7 A. Approximately 60 I would guess. Between 50 and 60.
8 Somewhere around there.

9 Q. Now, let me just ask you just a little bit about your
10 educational background.

11 College?

12 A. Yes, I got my bachelors in 2001. That was in biology.
13 Then I got my masters in 2003 and that was in bio --
14 biomedical science, which is really molecular biology, and
15 then I did four years of PhD work before I was hired away by
16 SLED and that was in 2007 or 2008. I, I can't remember.

17 Q. So from 2008 to 2019 when you saw this evidence, were
18 you required to keep your certification as a DNA analysis --
19 analyst?

20 A. Yes, sir, I had to do all the required testing twice a
21 year, and, and other testing actually, and then learn
22 techniques and learn different things that came into the
23 lab.

24 Q. All right.

25 A. Was constantly training.

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1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Your Honor, I'd offer
2 Agent -- Former Agent Paul Meeh as an expert in the field of
3 forensic DNA analysis.

4 THE COURT: What says the defense?

5 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

6 THE COURT: The Court so finds.

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you.

8 So, Agent Meeh, when these -- what do you normally get
9 when you are looking at -- I, I guess you may have prepared
10 a report.

11 Did you receive certain evidence samples from Sumter
12 and a report was prepared in March of 2020?

13 A. I did.

14 Q. All right. Can you tell us a little bit about what you
15 received and what's -- what analysis you did?

16 A. Yeah. So, the first thing I received -- well, I, I
17 received them all at the same time. But the most important
18 thing I received was known standards, what's called a known
19 standard. So that's something that comes from a person that
20 you know it's from them so you can use that to compare to
21 evidence later on. Like I need to know your DNA profile
22 before I compare it to evidence. So that's called a known
23 standard.

24 I got one from Sharee Bradley. I got one from Dupray
25 Adams and, and, and several -- several others. But I also

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1 got some evidence, a swab from an exterior backdoor, things
2 like that. It was just general evidence and general
3 standards in the case.

4 Q. I want to show you what's been marked as State's
5 Exhibit No. 67. See if you can identify it.

6 A. Well, I can immediately identify my initials and the
7 date here. So this would come in sealed to me. I make sure
8 it's closed because I don't want to work anything that, that
9 could be compromised.

10 It's difficult to tell what's in there. The items
11 inside the description is a little bit off because our SLED
12 case numbers are, are a little bit different than, than the
13 Sumter P.D.'s. But it looks like -- this is No. 8. I can
14 see my initials. This is Item Number 8 and then my
15 initials. So that would be identified as a swab from the
16 exterior backdoor frame that's in here and then I, I can't
17 tell the other one without opening it. I'm sorry.

18 Q. All right, sir. Well, we can open it up if you need
19 to.

20 A. No, it's okay. It just really appears to be written on
21 the front. It looks like there's an -- a swab from an
22 exterior doorframe and a swab from an interior.

23 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor.

24 May we approach?

25 THE COURT: Yes.

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1 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
2 hearing of the jury at this time.)

3 Q. So let's go back to this item.

4 This, this item has a markings of being -- is it -- can
5 you tell us what's in -- what, what did you analyze in --
6 out of this sample?

7 A. Well, I can see my initials and a, a case of SLED item
8 number on this one and it's a swab from an exterior
9 doorframe.

10 Q. All right. Now, when the item is put into evidence at
11 SLED, do you go down and take it out of the evidence room?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. All right. And then you bring, bring -- what do you do
14 with it?

15 A. Then I take it up to the laboratory, make sure it's
16 sealed, make sure it hasn't been tampered with. Then I,
17 then I cut it with a scalpel here. Take these out, analyze
18 what I'm gonna need, put them back in, heat seal it,
19 initial, date.

20 Q. All right. And as a result of the analysis that you
21 ran on that item, what DNA information do you have?

22 A. On that SLED Item Number 8, I, I developed a DNA
23 profile consistent with being from a biological offspring of
24 Sharee Bradley and Dupray Adams.

25 Q. All right.

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1 A. That's what I was asked to do. They -- this was going
2 to be used as what's an alternate known standard. So,
3 instead of it coming directly from Minor 1 , which we
4 didn't have at the time, Sumter P.D. informed me that they
5 had a hypo---

6 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor. Hearsay.

7 THE COURT: Come here a minute.

8 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
9 hearing of the jury at this time.)

10 Q. All right. Agent Meeh, in this case, you did not have
11 a known standard for Minor 1?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And so how were you able to get a standard when, when
14 you don't have the known standard?

15 A. Well, I analyzed this blood sample, Item 8, my Item 8,
16 and I compared it to the DNA profiles of Sharee, of Sharee
17 Bradley and Dupray Adams and I made sure it was consistent
18 with a biological offspring of them. And then I did a
19 statistic to, to measure how sure I could be that it was a
20 genetic offspring of those two people.

21 Q. All right.

22 A. And the result of that was, given the genetic evidence,
23 it was approximately 74 quadrillion times more likely that
24 Sharee Bradley and Dupray Adams are the biological parents
25 of the contributor to Item 8 as opposed to a random man and

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1 woman from the population unrelated to Sharee Bradley and
2 Dupray Adams.

3 Q. All right. And 74 quadrillion, is that a large number?

4 A. That is a massive number. It is almost inconceivably
5 big.

6 Q. All right. And what does that tell you as a
7 statistician, as a, as a scientist?

8 A. That gives me great confidence that this comes from a
9 biological offspring of those two people.

10 Q. All right. And so we're talking about a, a swab from
11 the exterior backdoor frame that was sent to your lab and
12 analysis was done by you to determine whose blood that was?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And whose blood was it in your opinion?

15 A. An offspring of Sharee Bradley and Dupray Adams and the
16 only offspring I knew of at -- was Minor 1 .

17 Q. Did you also have a chance to -- judge, at this point I
18 would move 64 into evidence. I'm sorry. Sixty-seven.

19 THE COURT: Okay. What says defense?

20 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I think we have a matter of law.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 All right. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm gonna have to
23 send you to the jury room for a few minutes. We'll get you
24 back as soon -- we'll get you back in here.

25 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the

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1 presence of the jury.)

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MS. NEYLE: Judge, Mr. Meeh was reading off of his
4 report, judge, but I don't believe that the chain has been
5 properly, properly laid, judge. Mr. Meeh testified that he,
6 he got it from the -- from downstairs or I guess the
7 evidence lab at SLED. But looking at the chain, there's a
8 Doris Yarborough, a Jackie Davis on there before he even
9 touches it.

10 THE COURT: Okay. I ain't had the benefit of the
11 chain.

12 Solicitor, ask him if he got it from the SLED box or
13 evidence room. So, I don't know.

14 MS. NEYLE: He -- I think he testified that's what
15 normally happens.

16 THE COURT: Right. He----

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Your Honor, I believe he did. I
18 believe I asked him about this and he said he got it out.

19 Could I ask the witness a question?

20 Do you know those names that were just read out?

21 A. Yes, I do.

22 Q. Can you tell the judge what those ladies do?

23 A. Yes, they just intake evidence and give it to us when
24 we ask for it.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

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1 MS. NEYLE: And they, they haven't established that
2 chain.

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Well, I think I did because when the
4 witness testified, he testified that he checked to see if it
5 had been tampered with. It was not and then he slit --
6 opened up the package and did the analysis.

7 THE COURT: Right. He testified to that. There's some
8 case law out there that is -- when you have a situation --
9 exactly -- I think that case dealt with exactly the same
10 situation with SLED when you got the intake people at SLED
11 who simply take it from whatever law enforcement agency
12 brings it, checks it, sealed, put it in whatever box
13 contained at SLED, and it's picked up by whoever analyzes
14 it, that they don't necessarily need to be in the chain
15 unless there's somehow been tampered with or opened in
16 anyway, and he testified that it had not been tampered with
17 because it did, it did not become practical across the state
18 that every time you have a criminal case you got to bring
19 the two ladies from SLED who touched it unless it's
20 something unusual unless it's been tampered with in any way.

21 So, I've got it basically from the crime scene to them
22 and I'm not really sure that I have to have them here unless
23 there's evidence that that package was tampered with or
24 sealed at some other time. And the evidence custodian,
25 Mr. Allsbrooks and those, said that they had sealed it and

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1 took it to SLED. And he's testified when he got it it was
2 still sealed, and if the seal had been breached, it would
3 show.

4 Now, do you think I'm wrong on that?

5 I mean do you think something's different?

6 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor. I would just object on the
7 record to the chain.

8 THE COURT: Okay. I mean it -- understanding if that's
9 the only breach, I think there's a couple cases that
10 basically say that it's, it's substantially met that unless
11 there's some unusual piece of evidence or something unusual
12 has happened or, in fact, that if it had not been in tact,
13 then, at that case, I would -- we would have to have
14 everybody that possibly could of touched it and what
15 security was in place.

16 But the fact that it was sealed, and, and when he got
17 it it was still in that same seal.

18 MS. NEYLE: I think when Kearney---

19 THE COURT: And---

20 MS. NEYLE: I'm sorry.

21 THE COURT: Of course, this absolutely doesn't -- this
22 piece of evidence is no good to the jury. I mean this, this
23 isn't a sealed thing. It's a sample.

24 what are they gonna do with it?

25 It's the report that's important to them. It's the

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1 report is whose blood it was that, that really is in
2 evidence. Now the jury's heard that.

3 The actual seal, when they go back to the jury room,
4 what are they gonna do it?

5 I mean it's, it's sealed in a package. And if they
6 open it, I'm -- so that actual thing he's put in really --
7 other than it's, it's there and the jury can see, it's not
8 something that they could examine or any way. I assume his
9 report is not sealed up in that bag and he's testified that
10 he took the samples of the, the mother and the father, and
11 in his opinion, 74 quadrillion that that's an offspring of
12 those two parents.

13 Okay.

14 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Unless -- so I'll allow it in even
16 though -- I don't know it -- that the actual sample from
17 SLED is gonna do them any good. Once he gets analyzed, it's
18 the report that's important.

19 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Any -- anything else we need to deal
21 with?

22 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 64 was previously
23 received into evidence.)

24 THE COURT: We'll take a five minute break then while I
25 got a jury out instead of giving my Court staff a chance to

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1 take a break and then -- how many, just from a practical
2 standpoint, solicitor, are we gonna finish today?

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I have three SLED agents. Officer
4 Meeh and two ladies and that's it for me.

5 THE COURT: Okay. We're gonna finish today.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

7 THE COURT: All right. We're gonna take a short break.

8 (WHEREUPON, a short recess was taken at this time.)

9 THE COURT: Is that stuff you intend to introduce?

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir, most of these have
11 developed samples and they are --.

12 THE COURT: Have they been marked?

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All of them have been marked.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Okay. I was just trying to be sure
17 we, we mark them but we -- is -- you gonna introduce them
18 all with this witness?

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: These are all through his lab.

20 THE COURT: Okay. So he -- you're gonna have -- he did
21 all the DNA?

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: No, sir.

23 THE COURT: We don't have somebody else.

24 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Somebody else came up behind him and
25 did -- some samples were developed, and because he left, the

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1 other ladies---

2 THE COURT: But those are his there?

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's correct.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MS. NEYLE: Judge, just to, just to clarify the record,
6 if -- we went back in chambers after you took a break,
7 judge, and explained that some of the confusion with the
8 chain was we didn't have a B chain of custody from Sumter
9 Police Department. I actually had the first page of his
10 chains, but never the back page, which had the actual chain
11 and the -- Solicitor Finney just provided us with those and
12 we looked through him. I believe all of them are sufficient
13 to establish the chain --

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MS. NEYLE: -- except maybe one, a pink rectangular mat
16 style rug.

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's coming in through Ms. Laura I
18 think.

19 THE COURT: And who's in the chain on that?

20 MS. NEYLE: There's a R. Morris.

21 THE COURT: Who?

22 MS. NEYLE: R. Morris.

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: So, Mr. Kearney collected the rug at
24 the scene. Mr. Morris filled out the evidence sheet as to
25 what was going into the evidence room.

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1 THE COURT: But who is Morris?

2 He's not---

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Morris is a technician that helps
4 Kearney at the scene. He fills out the paperwork while
5 Kearney -- Kearney's doing the swabs and collecting things.

6 THE COURT: So he didn't -- he wasn't in the chain?
7 He just filled out the paperwork?

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's correct.

9 THE COURT: And so what is, what is that?

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: A rug, a pink rug from inside the
11 house.

12 THE COURT: And so what -- and what does that rug have
13 to do -- is there evidence on that rug?

14 SOLICITOR FINNEY: It's got Sharee's blood on it.

15 THE COURT: Okay. But that wasn't the rug she was
16 wrapped up in?

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's --.

18 THE COURT: There's another rug.

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's correct. Another rug.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Of course -- but you've got her
21 blood on a bunch of stuff.

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

23 THE COURT: Okay. You think you need to put all that
24 in?

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

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1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor would like -- would you like to
3 see this?

4 THE COURT: Yeah, I mean is it -- that's the only one
5 you have an issue with?

6 MS. NEYLE: I believe so, yes.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Who's signature is this?

8 So show me how -- who's in it?

9 Who do you think's in that chain?

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: So that's Rick Morris' signature.

11 THE COURT: Yes. But is, is he the -- is he the chain?

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: He's the -- no, Kearney is the
13 chain, at the scene, collected 1 through 16, put them in the
14 bag, sealed them up. This man, Morris, wrote the paperwork
15 while they were being collected.

16 MS. NEYLE: But I believe it says relinquished by
17 Morris.

18 THE COURT: I know. So the fact that -- so both of
19 them are standing there and they're watching each other?

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's what the tech -- assistant
23 does.

24 THE COURT: Well, I know -- I understand that but the
25 jury don't know that and I didn't know that until you got to

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1 explain to me somehow.

2 So, do you have him available?

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I have -- Kearney, Kearney was the
4 one that got the evidence and sealed it and he already
5 testified. I can bring him back to testify that Morris was
6 his assistant and that Morris filled out the paperwork.

7 THE COURT: But Morris didn't put -- didn't -- Mor --
8 Morris is not in the chain.

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's correct.

10 THE COURT: He just filled out the paperwork.

11 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's correct.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Do you -- do y'all accept that or
13 you want him to -- Kearney to come back and say that?

14 Why would he, why would he be filling out the paperwork
15 and putting himself in the chain if he's not in the chain?

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Because it was a big scene. They
17 were collecting all night long and that Kearney needed some
18 help. So, instead of stopping from what he was doing as far
19 as collection to do paperwork, Kearney did the collection.
20 Morris did the paperwork.

21 THE COURT: Okay. But, but the paperwork is not a, is
22 not a piece of evidence. So, all he needed to do was
23 Kearney signed that I, I collected the evidence. He -- and
24 Morris shouldn't have signed the paperwork. He filled out
25 the paperwork but the evidence is what I need the chain

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1 about. Not a piece of paper.

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: But that's why we got Kearney to
3 come and say what did you do, did you collect it, did you
4 seal it, and did you take it to the evidence room, and
5 that's what he testified to. I didn't ask him about Morris
6 because Morris didn't collect any evidence.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: But I get Kearney---

9 THE COURT: But the---

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: ---back here.

11 THE COURT: But the chain of evidence -- I under -- I
12 understand what you're telling me.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: But the chain of evidence submitted to
15 defense counsel doesn't show -- there's no chain of evidence
16 showing that that, that -- other than you testifying in
17 Court. There's no paper chain that shows them that, that,
18 you know, who's actually in the chain, which normally you
19 fill out the paper chain of everybody that's touched the
20 evidence.

21 But we -- so there is no chain that shows Kearney to
22 the evidence room?

23 It's just -- right?

24 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Not on these items.

25 THE COURT: Okay. So -- and though one -- which one of

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1 those items you intend to put in?

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I don't --.

3 MS. NEYLE: And we don't have an issue with anything
4 else. We just reviewed the chain and we're, we're---

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MS. NEYLE: ---fine out -- we -- we're okay on the
7 other items.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: So it looks like the scooter was
10 collected --

11 THE COURT: On that?

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: -- because Kearney swabbed it. He
13 testified he swabbed it --

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: -- and it was collected.

16 THE COURT: He did.

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: And it was on here.

18 THE COURT: So you're putting the actual scooter in or
19 the swab?

20 You---

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: The swab.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: And then the, the mop, the mop
24 handle and---

25 THE COURT: Okay.

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1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: The mop is in.

2 THE COURT: So you -- but he didn't actually give
3 the -- did he give -- in the -- what's important, if he
4 didn't give the other guy the actual swab, if he just wrote
5 the paperwork down, then the swab never left his -- it went
6 from his hands to the evidence custodian. If it went from
7 his hands to that gentleman's hands and then to the evidence
8 custodian, I need that gentleman to say --.

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: The swab was done at SLED because,
10 when they received the mop handle, they looked for the blood
11 and found it and took the swab off of it at SLED and that's
12 what this witness can---

13 THE COURT: No, that, that ain't what I understood.
14 You told me they took a swab off the mop handle.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Not Sumter.

16 THE COURT: They actually sent the handle to SLED?

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I believe so.

18 THE COURT: And they sent the scooter to SLED?

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: No, the scooter did not go. Just
20 the --.

21 THE COURT: So they took a swab off the scooter?

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

23 THE COURT: And all I need to know is, when he took the
24 swab off the scooter, and put it and sealed it in the bag,
25 did he give that back to the evidence custodian or did he

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1 give it to whoever was it -- helping him at the scene to
2 give to the evidence custodian. I don't care who filled out
3 the paperwork. I want to know who touched the evidence.

4 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir, and my understanding is
5 Kearney loaded the evidence up, took it to the evidence room
6 after collecting it himself at the scene.

7 THE COURT: So, he's the only one in the chain from the
8 time it was collected---

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's correct.

10 THE COURT: ---until it got to the evidence room?
11 So that piece of paper showing all that other list,
12 he's actually not in the chain?

13 He just filled out the list?

14 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's correct.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Now -- so you don't have a chain of
16 evidence that puts Kearney to the evidence room on, on those
17 items you just showed me?

18 You don't have a paper chain?

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I don't have another piece of paper,
20 no, sir.

21 THE COURT: Okay. I -- what's y'all position?

22 I mean I -- he testified that he collected the evidence
23 and I assume that --?

24 MS. NEYLE: Judge, can I have that piece back from you
25 that's --?

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1 THE COURT: No, I don't, I don't -- he took it.

2 MS. NEYLE: Oh, okay.

3 If you look on the first page, judge, it says seized by
4 R. Morris.

5 THE COURT: I understand that. That's where I was
6 con -- having the same concern as to whether he actually
7 took -- whether he touched the evidence. He said he just
8 filled out the paperwork. The paper's not in evidence.
9 I've just got to be sure the integrity of the evidence that,
10 that SLED tested, I got a tight chain on, and that's why I
11 asked that question.

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: And the only person that can
13 convince the Court that -- of the -- of what happened that
14 night is Kearney cause he was in charge of collecting of the
15 evidence.

16 THE COURT: I understand that.

17 But these particular items that are on his sheet -- is
18 he still available?

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Kearney is, yes, sir.

20 THE COURT: Well maybe you need to get -- if he can
21 come back in here and say I took those items, I never gave
22 them to him---

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

24 THE COURT: ---even though the sheet -- the -- if he
25 tells me the sheet's wrong, that even though he filled out

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1 the sheet and signed his name, he never touched the items,
2 we're fine.

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

4 THE COURT: If he touched the items, I got to have both
5 of them.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I can have him here in one hour.

7 THE COURT: Try to do it quicker than that. It's 4:10.

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Well, it's gonna -- it's gonna take
9 me a long time to --.

10 THE COURT: I understand that. But we could clear this
11 up it's -- if we can clear this up cause some of the
12 evidence that he's gonna put in we got a problem with. If
13 we clear this up that no, nobody else touched it, then that
14 problem's gone away. So, maybe Kearney can clear it up
15 without the other person. If we can just get this cleared
16 up to satisfy defense counsel then no -- that the chain is
17 complete, we ought to be in good shape cause some of the
18 stuff you want to put in through him, right?

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

20 THE COURT: So I got to have a chain before he can do
21 it. That's why I want to be sure -- if --.

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: But I don't have to move it in now,
23 judge. I can let that man go back to Columbia and get
24 Kearney up here after he finishes testifying, move it in
25 once the---

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: I understand that. But you're moving in
2 something that does the jury absolutely no good. For them
3 to have a sealed envelope with blood -- it's the report that
4 it's important to the jury.

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

6 THE COURT: And the report can't come in if the
7 evidence is not good. They -- these actual blood doesn't
8 do -- they sealed. The jury -- they don't help this jury.
9 The jury wants to know whose DNA is where. That's what he's
10 gonna testify to. So his report is critical for the chain
11 to be in tact, and that's why -- and if the chain's in tact,
12 we're in great shape and basically -- they're satisfied with
13 everything but that one sheet.

14 Now, if, if nothing on that one sheet that he's gonna
15 testify to, we, we can roll.

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I understand that, judge, but there
17 are four or five items on that one sheet --

18 THE COURT: That he's gonna testify to?

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: -- that he analyzed and found
20 evidence in the case.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: A Razor scooter, he analyzed the
23 swabs. The blue color wood handle mop --

24 THE COURT: Right. And the blue colored mop is
25 important. The other stuff only tends to prove that there

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 was a murder in that room. The, the only thing that
2 leads -- that puts the defendant in that room is that mop.
3 That's a really important piece. I think you're pretty
4 established to this jury that it was a murder in that room
5 and that the victim's blood's all over that room.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

7 THE COURT: But the mop is a really important piece of
8 evidence cause that's one thing in that room that puts the
9 defendant in that room at some point. So that's important.

10 I don't know that, that, you know -- and it's -- the
11 rest of it is cumulative and that's your case and you put it
12 as you want to. But it's cumulative cause you're proving
13 there was, in fact, a murder in that room. I think you've
14 proven that pretty -- now -- the real issue is who did it.

15 So, you've proven there's a, a crime. You've proven
16 there was a murder at least from -- there's sufficient
17 evidence in this record and you can add as much as you want
18 to. But the mop is critical. So we need to establish --
19 cut -- we need to be sure that chain is tight on that mop
20 because that's what put their client, at least at some
21 point, in touching that mop.

22 So, if we, if he -- if, if he -- if he's gonna talk
23 about the mop, let's see if we can't at least clarify that
24 issue if the mop's on that list.

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

3 THE COURT: So you can send somebody to do that and
4 start -- can you start questioning him on other stuff or we
5 got to get the mop stuff straight?

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Let me ask.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 (Pause.)

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Mr. Meeh developed the profile from
10 the swab on the mop handle and it's in his report.

11 THE COURT: I understand and I don't have any problem
12 with his. My problem is they -- you tell me the chain is
13 not complete on the mop handle. From the time of the crime
14 scene, if, if we've established that Kearney is the one that
15 took it from the crime scene, which he said he did, if he
16 carried it to the evidence room, the chain is complete. But
17 the piece of paper you gave defense counsel puts somebody
18 else in that chain.

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I understand.

20 THE COURT: And so the question I have, if the other
21 person just filled out the paperwork and actually didn't
22 touch the sample --

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I understand.

24 THE COURT: -- or the mop handle, we're good. But if
25 he did touch it, I need him.

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Well, he's on his way.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Do you -- he should of been able to
3 tell you on the telephone whether he touched it or not and
4 he can't tell you that?

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Well, I didn't speak to him,
6 judge---

7 THE COURT: Oh.

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: ---cause I was in the courtroom with
9 you.

10 THE COURT: I understand. I didn't know whether
11 somebody -- okay. So how long -- is he just at the P.D. or
12 we got to -- he's coming from Columbia?

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Three minutes.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Okay.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: May I ask Mr. Meeh then to come off
16 the stand?

17 Is that what you---

18 THE COURT: Well, if he -- he may -- we may can resolve
19 this without switching witnesses.

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

21 THE COURT: If he -- we've already got the witnesses in
22 the chain in. If he didn't touch it, then we don't need
23 him, he just, he just -- tells me, you know, that he didn't
24 do it and they're satisfied, we can roll.

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: If he did do it, then I got to take him
2 off---

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

4 THE COURT: You got to take him off the stand and put
5 the other guy on unless -- now, if y'all disagree with that,
6 defense counsel, let me know.

7 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 (Pause.)

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: The judge wants to talk to you.

11 MR. KEARNEY: Apologies, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: That's okay.

13 And have y'all showed him the sheet?

14 Look at that sheet cause I --?

15 MS. NEYLE: Right here.

16 THE COURT: You probably have no clue what we're
17 talking about. So, at least --.

18 MR. KEARNEY: Which, which item are we talking about?

19 THE COURT: In particularly my -- what I'm trying to
20 find out is my understanding you were there assisting in
21 processing this crime scene.

22 MR. KEARNEY: I processed the scene, yes, sir.

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: He was the chief --

24 THE COURT: Oh, I'm sorry.

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: -- processor.

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: You processed the scene --

2 MR. KEARNEY: Yes, sir.

3 THE COURT: -- the scene.

4 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Mr. Morris was the assistant.

5 THE COURT: Oh, I got you.

6 MR. KEARNEY: Correct.

7 THE COURT: So the, the items that you collected there
8 on that crime scene, you're the one that took them to the
9 evidence room or did you give them to Morris?

10 MR. KEARNEY: I did, sir.

11 THE COURT: You took them?

12 MR. KEARNEY: He filled out the sheet for me, yes, sir.

13 THE COURT: So but -- so he never took any of it?

14 He was not in the chain of evidence?

15 He just filled out the sheet?

16 MR. KEARNEY: Yes, sir.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Y'all want to ask him any questions?

18 MS. NEYLE: Can you explain why it says R. Morris for
19 relinquished by Morris?

20 MR. KEARNEY: My apologies. He filled out the sheet
21 for me but -- he just filled out his name instead of putting
22 mine down.

23 MS. NEYLE: Okay.

24 THE COURT: So he -- he just filled out the sheet, put
25 his name down, but he wasn't---

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 MR. KEARNEY: Correct.

2 THE COURT: He didn't touch the evidence?

3 You, you---

4 MR. KEARNEY: No.

5 THE COURT: ---gathered it -- you put it and gave it to
6 the evidence cust, cust, I'm sorry, custodian?

7 MR. KEARNEY: Correct, sir.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MS. NEYLE: Then, judge, I don't think we have an
10 issue.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, sir.

12 MR. KEARNEY: No, sir, apologies again.

13 THE COURT: That's okay. I'm---

14 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Appreciate it. Appreciate it.

15 THE COURT: I'm sorry I had to bring you over to make
16 notice but it became an issue with the paperwork we had to
17 get straight.

18 MR. KEARNEY: Yes, sir. Thank you.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Now we ready to bring the jury in
20 and proceed?

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

22 MS. NEYLE: Yes, sir.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Bring the jury.

24 THE BAILIFF: Yes, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Pull your choke out, solicitor.

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the
2 presence of the jury.)

3 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are all seated, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Solicitor.

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Please the Court.

6 CONTINUED DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

8 Q. Mr. Meeh?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. You were doing DNA analysis on the items that were
11 submitted to the lab?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. All right. Did you prepare a report dated March
14 31st, 2020?

15 A. Yes, I did.

16 Q. And let me take you back so you can explain to the
17 jury.

18 Did you test items that were submitted to you to see if
19 you could get a DNA sample?

20 A. Yes, that's correct, constantly. There, there were
21 weeks there where I just did over and over just tons of, of
22 samples.

23 Q. And so you're talking about maybe hundreds of samples,
24 samples were sent into the lab?

25 A. Yes, sir, there were many. I don't know about hundreds

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 but I mean---

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. ---I was working pretty much 18 hours days at that
4 point just to try to do anything we could.

5 Q. All right. Now, you did tell me that you developed --
6 I believe, on your report, Item Number 8 was a swab from the
7 door?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. The backdoor frame?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And you testified that that was Minor 1's blood?

12 A. Yes, I, I -- we moved forward assuming that was
13 Minor 1's blood based on the genetic evidence. That is
14 correct.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. We used it as what's called an alternate known
17 standard.

18 Q. All right. And the alternate known standard in this
19 case was 74 quadrillion times more likely to be a child of
20 Sharee and Dupray?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. All right. Now, I believe I was in the process of
23 putting that item in.

24 MS. NEYLE: You have.

25 THE COURT: That one's in.

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Is that 67?

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Thank you.

4 Did you also test the bones that were brought to you
5 from the landfill?

6 A. Yes, sir, I did.

7 Q. And what item is that on your report?

8 A. It begins with Item 64. There's Item 66, 67, 68, 69,
9 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, and 75.

10 Q. And as a result of your collecting those samples and
11 doing your testing, were you able to identify a DNA profile
12 on those bones?

13 A. On some of them I were -- I was, yes.

14 Q. Can you give me -- can you tell the jury which, which
15 items they were?

16 A. Item 64, which is described as a left
17 tibia/fibula/distal femur, patella, and proximal tibia with
18 soft tissue. I developed a partial DNA profile suitable for
19 comparison from that. The DNA profile matched the DNA
20 profile of Minor 1 and the probability of randomly
21 selecting an unrelated individual having a DNA profile
22 matching that item was approximately one in 550 billion.

23 Q. 550 billion?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. All right. And in statistical language, is that a high

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 probability?

2 A. That's a very strong number, yes. That's more than all
3 of the people that have ever lived on the earth.

4 Q. And that DNA profile was developed from what part of
5 the body?

6 A. Well, I used the, I used the patella from the tissue
7 that was there. I'm, I'm -- but I'm not sure what the other
8 parts were. I don't want to be ultra terepadarian
9 (phonetic). I'm not a doctor or a physician or a path -- a
10 pathologist or anything like that.

11 Q. All right.

12 A. So I don't know.

13 Q. But did you also develop a DNA profile from Item 66?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. What is Item 66?

16 A. That was described as a frontal bone, which I -- it
17 appeared from the diagram to come from this area.

18 Q. From the front of the head?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. All right. And the DNA profile developed from that --

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. -- matched the DNA profile of Minor 1 ?

23 A. I'm sorry. I was attempting to read this statistic.

24 The probability of randomly selecting an unrelated
25 individual having a DNA profile matching that item is

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 approximately one in 190 sextillion.

2 Q. Now is a sextillion more than a billion?

3 A. Yes, sir, much bigger.

4 Q. All right. So the probability that that was Minorl's
5 frontal bone is higher than the read -- it's -- the, the
6 analysis you did on the leg bone?

7 A. Much higher, yes, sir.

8 Q. There were several other bones, 67, 68, and 69, and 70.
9 Tell us what you found on those bones.

10 A. I got limited information on -- bones are difficult to
11 get DNA from. And so I, I did my best but I couldn't get
12 DNA suitable for comparison from those.

13 Q. All right. And is that true for 71, 70 -- I'm sorry.
14 For 71, did you also find a positive match on 71?

15 A. I found -- I was able to develop a partial DNA profile
16 from Item 71. The probability of randomly selecting an
17 unrelated individual having a DNA profile matching that item
18 was approximately one in 340.

19 Q. Not billion or trillion but just one in 340?

20 A. Yes, sir, that's correct. It's a, it's a much lower
21 number but it's still strong I mean in this case because we,
22 we had evidence that there were other things that led us to
23 believe that that was her.

24 Q. All right. And, and would the -- would the profile on
25 that particular Item, 71, could it be lower because it was

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 partial you said?

2 A. Yes, precisely. Yes, that's what happens is that the
3 DNA when it -- especially under those conditions like heat
4 and moisture, it just goes bad and you get less and less
5 information you can imagine and that one was a partial
6 profile.

7 Q. All right. Excuse me. And, and several of the other
8 items, 72, 73, 74, and 75, did, did they result in any DNA
9 that you could compare?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. All right. Can -- did you have an opportunity to run
12 more analysis, a, a supplemental report, on March the
13 25th, 2021?

14 A. Yes, I did.

15 Q. And were these different samples that were submitted to
16 your office?

17 A. They were. In this example, what happened is that we
18 processed so many items for this case we decided to do a,
19 a -- sort of a special supplemental report and that was that
20 we would send out results that said either a DNA profile
21 suitable for comparison was developed or one wasn't. And
22 we'd just give like an item number and then say we -- you
23 can work with this or you can't, you tell us.

24 And so that's what my report said pretty much for each
25 item is either this sample will work for a comparison or it

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 won't. Just tell us if you want to do that comparison in
2 the future.

3 Q. So, let's go to item -- well, let's just start at the
4 beginning and go through it.

5 On your March 25th report, Item Number 4.

6 A. Yes, that's a standard from Daunte Maurice Johnson.

7 Q. And was that standard something you could use to
8 compare his DNA to other things?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. All right. And item number -- let's just pick one
11 here. Item Number 51.

12 A. No DNA profile was developed from that.

13 Q. And what was that item?

14 A. It was flesh from the landfill --

15 Q. All right.

16 A. -- or an item that -- I was being submitted anything --
17 how should I phrase that?

18 I was being submitted many items from the landfill to
19 try to test to see if they were Minor 1 and this
20 particular item had no DNA at all.

21 Q. All right. What about Item 2.1 on Page 4 of your
22 report?

23 A. Yes, a DNA profile suitable for comparison was
24 developed from that item, yes.

25 Q. And was that item submitted -- what was it labeled?

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Cutting labeled A from sofa upholstery.

2 Q. All right. And could I ask you to examine this piece
3 of evidence. It's an exhibit that's been marked State's
4 Exhibit 68.

5 A. That's -- so this would -- came through evidence
6 processing. I, I didn't personally work on this item.

7 Q. Okay. So the, the item that you referred to as 2.1 --.

8 A. Someone else processed that item and I would be given a
9 subset of it, a cutting of it, which is like a small one.
10 So imagine a big rug or something, I would get the important
11 part, the piece that had blood identified or something like
12 that on it.

13 Q. So, as far as your report on March 25th, you let
14 Sumter County -- Sumter city police know that there were
15 several items that were submitted that a DNA profile could
16 be developed from?

17 A. That was -- it was already developed. So it would --
18 all these things were already tested. I did the testing and
19 all I was telling Sumter at that time was a DNA profile is
20 good on this item, it's not good on this item. You, you
21 know, ask us -- in, in the future, if you want a statistical
22 analysis on something, ask us and that's -- that was -- oh,
23 I -- this is the only report I've ever put out this way.
24 But it worked for this one because there was just so much
25 evidence. We had so many items. If we would of put out a

Paul Meeh - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 full report on this case, it would of been a, a novel. It
2 would of been 700 pages long, a Tolstoy novel.

3 Q. When you left your employment at SLED, you hadn't done
4 any more analysis than what you've testified to today?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. And if a -- if Sumter had notified your SLED agency to
7 run the test on these profiles, some other agent would of
8 done that?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And do you know Laura Hash?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Is she the -- an agent at SLED that would of been
13 working after you left SLED?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. All right. I don't think I have anything further.
16 Thank you, Mr. Meeh.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. NEYLE:

19 Q. Mr. Meeh, just, just so I'm clear.

20 In the report from March 25th, 2021, I'm, I'm looking
21 at the item of evidence 5.1, swabs from blade of knife.

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And you found a DNA profile suitable for comparison?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. But you had not developed it or interpreted --

Paul Meeh - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 A. Correct. It's---

2 Q. -- the DNA results?

3 A. Precisely.

4 Q. So they've been developed but they had not been
5 interpreted?

6 A. Precisely.

7 Q. Okay. And then all the other items you either found a
8 DNA profile or you didn't?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. But you did not interpret any of them?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Okay. And I saw the note that you have in your
13 footnotes, interpretation of results would be performed upon
14 request?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Okay. And you had not received that request when you
17 left SLED?

18 A. I did not.

19 MS. NEYLE: Okay. I have no further questions for
20 Mr. Meeh. Thank you.

21 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

23 THE COURT: Mr. Solicitor, you have anything else?

24 SOLICITOR FINNEY: May the witness be excused?

25 THE COURT: Any objection --

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 MS. NEYLE: No.

2 THE COURT: -- from defense?

3 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Yes. Thank you, sir.

5 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: The next witness is Laura Hash from
7 SLED.

8 THE COURT: All right, sir.

9 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible and
10 raise your right. State your name.

11 THE WITNESS: Laura Hash.

12 LAURA HASH, being first duly
13 sworn, testified as follows:

14 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much, ma'am. Step around
15 please. State your name for the record and spell your last
16 name please.

17 THE WITNESS: Okay. My name is Laura Hash. H-A-S-H.

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

20 Q. Good afternoon, Agent Hash.

21 A. Good afternoon.

22 Q. Tell us where you work.

23 A. I'm employed by the South Carolina Law Enforcement
24 Division more commonly referred to as SLED.

25 Q. And tell us what you do at SLED.

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Currently I am the lieutenant of the DNA case work
2 department which means I'm the supervisor and I'm
3 responsible for all of the analyst and technicians that work
4 in that department.

5 Q. And how long have you been working at SLED in the DNA
6 department?

7 A. I've been at SLED for 18 years in September.

8 Q. And are you specializing in DNA all those years?

9 A. Yes, I have.

10 Q. All right. Tell us a little bit about your educational
11 background.

12 A. Okay. I went to Clemson University and received a
13 Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from the Honors
14 College. I then went to the University of South Carolina
15 and got a doctorate in basic pharmaceutical sciences. After
16 I obtained my PhD degree, I worked for approximately one
17 year in a biology lab doing some postdoctoral research
18 before I became hired on by SLED in 2004.

19 Q. And are you certified by some national board or agency
20 as a DNA analyst?

21 A. The SLED lab itself is accredited. I'm not actually
22 credited as a DNA analyst. But I have all the coursework
23 and all of the required training as set forth in those
24 standards.

25 Q. And do you have to do continuing education to keep your

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 certification and keep up with changes in the field?

2 A. Yes, all DNA analysts are required to obtain at least
3 eight hours of continuing education a year.

4 Q. All right. And do you do that?

5 A. Yes, I do.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Your Honor, I would move
7 that we certify Agent Hash as an expert in the field of DNA
8 analysis.

9 THE COURT: What says the defense?

10 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Court so finds.

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you.

13 Getting to the evidence, did you have a chance to work,
14 work on evidence that was submitted from Sumter Police
15 Department on the case of Minor 1 ?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. All right. And did you prepare a report dated June
18 10th, 2022?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. And that report, what does it contain?

21 A. This report contains the comparison of the profiles,
22 the DNA profiles that Paul Meeh developed, and it contained
23 the statistical calculations comparing those results from
24 those profiles to the DNA profiles of known standards that
25 were submitted in the case.

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. And the first item I think on your report
2 that you have a statistical analysis done is a swab from the
3 backdoor frame?

4 That's Item 8.

5 A. Yes, actually Paul Meeh actually did the statistical
6 analysis of Item 8.

7 Q. But you included it in your report?

8 A. Yes, I did.

9 Q. All right. And the statistical analysis didn't change.
10 You used Paul's information to send the supplemental
11 report that we're talking about today?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. All right. And did you also do cuttings from, excuse
14 me, Item 2.1 and 2.2.

15 A. Yes, I did. I performed the statistical calculations
16 on those items.

17 Q. Can you identify those items in this item -- evidence
18 box?

19 A. These appear to be the items that our evidence
20 processor, serologist Courtney Thompson, took the cuttings
21 from. You can recognize it because it's got the yellow SLED
22 lab number and it's got our item number, which is 2.1 and
23 2.2, and then it's got C.D.T., which are Courtney's
24 initials.

25 Q. All right. And she would of taken the item that came

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 from Sumter and made cuttings?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And then you would of done an analysis on the cuttings?

4 A. Paul Meeh would of actually done the analysis and then
5 I did the interpretation.

6 Q. And what was your interpretation on these items that
7 are State's Exhibit 68?

8 A. Item 2.1, which is a cutting labeled A from sofa
9 upholstery, a DNA profile suitable for comparison was
10 developed. Likelihood ratios for this profile were
11 calculated using STRmix. The proposition set is that the
12 DNA profile was interpreted as a single source meaning that
13 it, that it's one person who contributed the profile and the
14 result was that the DNA profile is approximately 150
15 septillion times more likely if Sharee Bradley contributed
16 the profile than if an unidentified, unrelated individual
17 contributed the profile.

18 Q. And let me just back up.

19 The profile was based on a sample of what?

20 A. This profile was developed from that cutting. Paul
21 would of done the extraction and the DNA analysis of that.
22 He would of developed a profile. His report would of just
23 said a DNA profile suitable for comparison was developed. I
24 then took that profile and compared it to the profiles of
25 the victim and suspects in the case.

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. And if 150 septillion is a -- is that a big
2 number?

3 A. That is a big number. It is 1.5 followed by 26 zeros.

4 Q. All right. And that item would, would have been, in
5 your opinion, DNA of Sharee Bradley?

6 A. It is 150 septillion times more likely that it would be
7 her profile than an unrelated, unidentified individual.

8 Q. Did you also do 2.2, another cutting?

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q. And what were your results?

11 A. Those would of been the same results. It was a DNA
12 profile that was single source meaning it came from one
13 individual and it was 150 septillion times more likely that
14 it was Sharee Bradley than an unidentified, unrelated
15 individual.

16 Q. Let me show you what's been marked as State's Exhibit
17 No. 69 and ask if you can analyze any hair beads that were
18 submitted.

19 A. This would of been Item 3, which would of been a
20 section of hair. We would of analyzed after Courtney had
21 processed this item and we would of labeled it as Item 3.1.
22 The parent item is always like the main number like three
23 and then anything taken from that would of been like 3.1.
24 So that would of been of the swabs from the section of hair.

25 Q. And the swabs were taken at the DNA lab?

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, they were taken by Courtney Thompson.

2 Q. And was an analysis done on the swabs?

3 A. Yes. Paul would have done the analysis on this item
4 and it did come back again as being a single source with the
5 same statistic. It's approximately 150 septillion times
6 more likely than it's -- Sharee Bradley contributed this
7 profile than an unrelated, unidentified individual.

8 Q. And, and the items that we're talking about that you
9 swabbed would of been on the beads?

10 This is not the beads or the hair itself?

11 A. It would of been taken -- it would of been a swab from
12 those items.

13 Q. All right. As to Item 21 on your list, did you have
14 swabs that were sent to your lab to be analyzed?

15 A. Item 21 would of been a swab from Razor metal scooter
16 front pad.

17 Q. And did you an -- did you analyze that swab?

18 A. Yes, again Paul would of done the initial analysis.
19 This was also interpreted as a single source. Minor 1 ,
20 however, was the one that we said contributed the DNA
21 profile, and the DNA profile is approximately 370 septillion
22 times more likely if Minor 1 contributed the profile
23 than if an unidentified, unrelated individual contributed
24 the profile.

25 Q. And where was that swab taken from as far as your

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 report is concerned?

2 A. It is labeled as a swab from Razor metal scooter front
3 pad.

4 Q. And did you have another item submitted, Item 22, from
5 the same Razor scooter?

6 A. Yes, this would of been a swab from the Razor metal
7 scooter from the back tire.

8 Q. And what was the results of your analysis on that item?

9 A. The back tire was also interpreted as single source and
10 the DNA profile is 150 septillion times more likely if
11 Sharee Bradley contributed the profile then if an
12 unidentified, unrelated individual contributed the profile.

13 Q. So, on the same metal scooter, you had two different
14 blood samples from two different people?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. All right. Item 24.

17 A. Yes, this was a swab from a blue mop handle.

18 Q. And do you know who did the swab from the blue mop
19 handle?

20 A. I do not.

21 Q. Let me show you what's been marked State's Exhibit No.
22 52.

23 Can you look at the packaging and tell anything about
24 how it would of been handled when -- if it came to your lab?

25 A. It, it would have come in as -- it was Item 13?

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 I don't have a 13 on the report.

2 Is there a yellow sticker on the front?

3 Q. Yes, ma'am, I --.

4 A. I would have to see the -- I don't have 13 on my report
5 cause I didn't -- we don't -- the analyst don't process the
6 original parent item.

7 Q. I'm showing you Item Number 76.

8 Can you tell from that whether that was analyzed in
9 your lab?

10 A. Yes, this would of been the tooth filling, which was
11 Item I think 25. Yes, Item 25, which was the tooth filling,
12 and then 24, which was the swab from the blue mop handle.

13 Q. So the swab would of been taken off the handle at SLED?

14 A. If the item -- if the hand -- if the mop was submitted
15 to SLED as a mop, then our evidence processor would have
16 swabbed that knife --

17 Q. And you have---

18 A. -- or that mop. I'm sorry.

19 Q. And you have the swab sample?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you run an analysis on the swab?

22 A. Yes, we would of run the analysis on the actual swabs.

23 Q. And what did you determine on the swab on -- from the
24 mop handle?

25 A. From the mop handle, it's a little bit different. It's

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 actually more than one individual who contributed this
2 profile. We interpreted it as a mixture originating from
3 three individuals, and when you have a mixture of more than
4 one individual, you have to compare each individual who may
5 be present to this mixture of three individuals and see if
6 they could be present in that mixture.

7 So, the first comparison I made was to Sharee Bradley
8 and the DNA profile is approximately 780 sextillion times
9 more likely if Sharee Bradley and two identified, unrelated
10 individuals contributed to the pro -- the mixture than if
11 three unidentified, unrelated individuals contributed to the
12 mixture.

13 For Proposition Set 2, I'm comparing Daunte Johnson to
14 the mixture and the result is that the DNA profile is
15 approximately four times more likely if Daunte Johnson and
16 two unidentified, unrelated individuals contributed to the
17 mixture than if three unidentified, unrelated individuals
18 contributed to the mixture.

19 My third proposition set was comparing Minor 1 to
20 this mixture. The result is that the DNA profile is
21 approximately 280 trillion times more likely if Minor 1
22 and two unidentified, unrelated individuals contributed to
23 the mixture than if three unrelated, unidentified
24 individuals contributed to the mixture.

25 For my fourth proposition set, I wanted to see if all

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 three individuals could be in that mixture together. So,
2 the DNA profile is approximately 760 nonillion times more
3 likely if Sharee Bradley, Daunte Johnson, and Minor 1
4 contributed to the mixture than if three unidentified,
5 unrelated individuals contributed to the mixture and then
6 the other individuals who were submitted for comparison were
7 all excluded, Dupray Adams, Cody Daney, Michael James,
8 Cermon James, and Minor 2

9 Q. They -- those gentlemen at the end --?

10 A. Are all excluded. They could not have contributed to
11 the mixture on the mop handle.

12 Q. All right. And the highest probability, if I'm
13 understanding your results and your analysis, the highest
14 probability is that Sharee, Minor 1, and Daunte Johnson
15 contributed to that swab?

16 A. Yes, versus three unidentified, unrelated individuals.

17 Q. And I don't think we've heard the term non --

18 A. Nonillion.

19 Q. -- million.

20 A. It's 7.6 followed by 32 zeros. It's a really large
21 number.

22 Q. A really large number?

23 A. Yes.

24 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Beg the Court's
25 indulgence.

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

2 (Pause.)

3 Q. I did forget to ask you about the results from the
4 tooth filling that's also in that --

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. -- bag that we marked as State's Exhibit --

7 A. Yes, that would be Item.

8 Q. -- 76.

9 A. -- 25. Again, that's a single source and it has the
10 same statistics. The DNA profile is approximately 150
11 septillion times more likely if Sharee Bradley contributed
12 the profile than if an unidentified, unrelated individual
13 contributed the profile.

14 Q. All right. So, Items 24 and 25 you've talked to us
15 about.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Twenty-four is the tooth filling?

18 A. Twenty-five is the tooth filling.

19 Q. I'm sorry. And 24 is the---

20 A. Blue mop handle.

21 Q. ---mop handle?

22 A. Yes.

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I'd move State's Exhibit 76 into
24 evidence.

25 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: All right. Seventy-six is in without
2 objection.

3 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 76 was received into
4 evidence at this time.)

5 Q. You talked about the hair beads being analyzed by you
6 and finding Sharee's blood on the hair beads?

7 A. That was Item Number --

8 Q. Three I think.

9 A. -- 3.1 was a swab from the beads attached to a section
10 of hair.

11 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I would move State's Exhibit 69 into
12 evidence, the hair -- analysis on the hair bead.

13 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

14 THE COURT: Okay. It's in without objection.

15 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 69 was received into
16 evidence at this time.)

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: One moment, Your Honor.

18 (Pause.)

19 Q. Okay. Two more items I want to talk to you about,
20 doctor.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. Item 17 on your report.

23 A. I don't have an Item 17.

24 Q. It's on Page 5. Maybe it's under a different number.
25 It's on Page 5 of your report.

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Oh, I'm sorry. My pages were out of order.

2 Q. All right.

3 A. Yes, 17 is a swab from the floor near two armed couch.

4 Q. From the floor?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. From the floor.

7 Okay. A swab from the floor --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- was submitted?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And what was the, the result?

12 Was there a DNA profile?

13 A. Yes, it also was a single source profile and the DNA
14 profile is approximately 370 septillion times more likely if
15 Minor 1 contributed to the profile than if an
16 unidentified, unrelated individual contributed the profile.

17 Q. All right. And would you move over to Item 18.

18 A. Yes, 18 is a swab from the wall opposite the side of
19 the stairs.

20 Q. All right. And was a profile developed on that item?

21 A. Yes. And it's the same result that I just read. The
22 DNA profile is approximately 370 septillion times more
23 likely if Minor 1 contributed the profile than if an
24 unidentified, unrelated individual contributed the profile.

25 Q. And Item 19.

Laura Hash - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Item 19 was a swab from underneath the victim, Sharee
2 Bradley.

3 Q. Okay. And did it come back to be Sharee Bradley's DNA?

4 A. Yes, it was 150 septillion times more likely if Sharee
5 Bradley contributed the profile than if an unidentified,
6 unrelated individual.

7 Q. And showing you State's Exhibit 74.

8 Are those three items, 17, 18 and 19, contained in this
9 package?

10 A. Yes.

11 SOLICITOR FINNEY: State would move Item 74 into
12 evidence.

13 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

14 THE COURT: It's in without objection.

15 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 74 was received into
16 evidence at this time.)

17 Q. Thank you, ma'am. Would you please answer any
18 questions---

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. ---defense may have.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. NEYLE:

23 Q. Good afternoon, Lieutenant Hash.

24 You issued this report on June 10th of this year?

25 A. Yes.

Laura Hash - Cross-examination
By Mr. Neyle

1 Q. So that was 13 days ago?

2 A. Approximately, yes.

3 Q. Approximately.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you received the request to interpret these DNA
6 items pretty recently, correct?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. It would of been within this month?

9 A. Yes, I believe it was.

10 Q. Okay. And until your report on June 10th of this
11 year, the only interpretation of the DNA of -- at the crime
12 scene was the swab from the backdoor frame that Paul Meeh
13 performed or developed and interpreted as the, the alternate
14 known standard for Minor 1, correct?

15 A. Yes, I think he had done some original interpretation
16 identifying some bones.

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 A. And he did develop all the profiles from the known
19 standards.

20 Q. But the only interpretation from the crime scene was
21 the swab from the backdoor frame that Paul Meeh did?

22 A. Yes, from the actual crime---

23 Q. okay.

24 A. ---the original crime scene, yes.

25 Q. And you interpreted the rest?

Laura Hash - Cross-examination
By Mr. Neyle

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Looking at the mop for 24, in Proposition,
3 Proposition Set 4 you note that it's disparity in the
4 individual LRs?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you recommend putting more weight on the results of
7 Proposition Set 2?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can you explain that?

10 A. Sure. So anytime we have a mixture, we have to go and
11 compare each individual to that mixture separately and
12 that's what I did and that's what I explained. You had each
13 individual compared to that mixture separately.

14 In -- I think it was the third proposition or the
15 second proposition set, Daunte Johnson's likelihood ratio
16 was only four, which is a pretty low number. So, when he's
17 combined with two individuals who have very high likelihood
18 ratios, 780 sextillion and then 700 or, I'm sorry, 280
19 trillion were the other two, when you combine all of those,
20 it artificially kind of inflates his number up to that
21 nonillion.

22 So, we recommend, in a situation like this when his
23 number's so low, to look at the comparison of his individual
24 contribution to that mixture rather than combined with the
25 other two.

Laura Hash - Cross-examination
By Mr. Neyle

1 Q. And four times more likely, that likelihood ratio is
2 considered weak support, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. And if you knew that someone lived or stayed in
5 a residence, you would expect to see their DNA in that
6 residence, would you not?

7 A. Yes, it's not uncommon to find somebody's DNA present
8 on items in a house they live in.

9 Q. Okay. Looking at 5.1, the swab from the blade of
10 knife, you interpreted that DNA.

11 Can you tell me what you interpreted the DNA as?

12 A. Yes, it was a DNA profile originating from two
13 individuals.

14 Q. And who were those two individuals?

15 A. The first proposition set was that Michael James and an
16 unidentified, unrelated individual contributed to the
17 mixture versus two unidentified, unrelated individuals. And
18 it was approximately 63,000 times more likely if Michael
19 James and an unidentified, unrelated individual contributed
20 to the mixture than if two unidentified, unrelated
21 individuals contributed to the mixture.

22 Q. And you excluded Sharee Bradley as a contributor?

23 A. Yes, Sharee Bradley, Daunte Johnson, Dupray Adams,
24 Minor 1, Cody Daney, and Cermon James, and Minor 2
25 were excluded.

Laura Hash - Cross-examination
By Mr. Neyle

1 Q. So, Sharee Bradley, Minor 1 , and Daunte Johnson
2 were excluded as contributors of the DNA found on the knife?

3 A. Yes.

4 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no further questions.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MS. NEYLE: Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Any further questions, solicitor?

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Just a little follow-up.

9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

11 Q. You -- let me take you back to talk about the mop swab
12 --

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. -- 24 maybe. Yes, swab from the mop, 24.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Now, you said that DN -- the DNA profile in Proposition
17 Set Number 2 you developed Proposition Set 1, 2, 3, 4, and
18 5?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Five possible propositions that could, could help you
21 understand who -- whose DNA is in that swab?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And the highest probability is in Proposition Set 5 or
24 4?

25 A. Proposition Set 4 was my one with the 760 nonillion

Laura Hash - Redirect examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 times more likely if Sharee Bradley, Daunte Johnson, and
2 Minor 1 contributed to the mixture.

3 Q. All right. And that's a lot more of a statistical
4 number than Proposition Set 2 --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- where you, where you said Daunte Johnson was four
7 times more likely?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. Now, let me take you forward again back to 5.1.
10 swabs from the knife blade.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Would it be possible for DNA to be removed from a knife
13 if it was being cleaned?

14 A. Absolutely, yes.

15 Q. All right. And if it was cleaned, and certain DNA we
16 were looking for wasn't there, that could be an explanation
17 for that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And the fact that somebody's DNA might be on there on
20 the knife that we didn't expect to find or we, we, we didn't
21 know what we were looking for, that DNA could of been there
22 because it didn't get wiped off?

23 A. That's true, yes.

24 Q. Thank you, ma'am.

25 Nothing further.

1 THE COURT: You can step down.

2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Ask that the witness be excused.

4 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

5 THE COURT: Any objection?

6 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: We call Ms. Courtney Thompson from
9 SLED.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible.

12 Raises your right-hand. State your name.

13 THE WITNESS: Courtney Thompson.

14 COURTNEY THOMPSON, being first
15 duly sworn, testified as follows:

16 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much, ma'am. Have a seat.
17 State your name for the record and spell your last name
18 please.

19 THE WITNESS: My name is Courtney Thompson.

20 T-H-O-M-P-S-O-N.

21 DIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

23 Q. Good afternoon, Agent Thompson.

24 A. Good afternoon.

25 Q. Where do you work please?

Courtney Thompson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I work for the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
2 also referred to as SLED.

3 Q. How long you been there?

4 A. I have been there about nine and a half years.

5 Q. And what department do you work in?

6 A. I work for the DNA case work department.

7 Q. And what do you do in the DNA?

8 Are you an analyst?

9 A. Yes, I am a DNA analyst in the, in the department and I
10 have also performed other duties such as evidence processing
11 and serology as well.

12 Q. All right. And what is serology?

13 A. Serology is the identification of bodily fluids such as
14 blood, semen, and saliva and these are for identification
15 purposes because they can contain good amounts of DNA.

16 Q. And did you have occasion to work on the evidence
17 submitted to your lab from Sumter City Police Department on
18 the case of Minor 1 ?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. And do you remember doing an analysis or investigation
21 on a large folding knife?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. I want to show you what's marked as Exhibit 51, State
24 Exhibit 51. I don't know if -- looking at this bag -- would
25 looking at this bag help you with getting numbers?

Courtney Thompson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir. So this packaging is the outer packaging and
2 it contains the unique lab number that was generated when
3 the evidence was brought to SLED, the item number that was
4 given to this item when it was submitted, my initials as the
5 examiner, and then the date that I examined it.

6 Q. Right.

7 And what did you do to perform a analysis on the knife
8 that was submitted to your lab?

9 A. So, this specific item was requested to be examined for
10 the presence of blood and specifically it was determined
11 that we needed to take the knife apart in order to continue
12 doing it -- just a thorough reexamination of the item, which
13 is something that we can do. With the assistance of a
14 member of the firearms department because they are
15 specializing in tool mark examination as well, they have the
16 equipment necessary to help us assist taking apart the
17 knife. And so that's what I had to do in order to obtain
18 swabs from the knife.

19 Q. I want to show you what's been marked as State's
20 Exhibit 40 and 41 and ask if that's how the knife looked
21 when it came to your lab.

22 A. It appears to be so.

23 Would it be all right if I referred to a picture
24 myself?

25 Q. Yes, ma'am.

Courtney Thompson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. All right. Thank you. Yes, this is the same knife.

2 Q. All right. And what did you do to process the knife
3 once you received it?

4 A. So, like I said before, with the assistance of an
5 examiner in the firearms department, we took the knife apart
6 and so -- to process it. I collected swabs from the blade
7 of the knife, swabs from the interior joint of the knife
8 blade. So that would be kind of the part that is the hinge
9 for it to open and close and I also took swabs from the
10 interior of the sheath of the knife where the knife would go
11 when you close it.

12 Q. And in your analysis, did some of these parts kind of
13 break apart and get loose from what you were examining?

14 A. Yes, sir, in the process of taking this apart, due to
15 the way it was created, we did have to essentially
16 disassemble it so that I could reach some of those interior
17 parts---

18 Q. All right.

19 A. ---to swab.

20 Q. What was your analysis results when you did the swabs
21 and, and checked the inside of the knife?

22 A. So, for each of the sets of swabs, I did perform a
23 presumptive examination for blood. So what that means is
24 that the test is not confirmatory. It doesn't confirm the
25 presence of blood but it can give us an indication that

Courtney Thompson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 blood might be present and, therefore, requires further
2 analysis.

3 So, for the swabs from the blade of the knife,
4 presumptive testing for blood was positive. For the swabs
5 from the interior joint of the knife blade, presumptive
6 testing for blood was positive. And for swabs from interior
7 of the knife sheath, presumptive testing for blood was
8 positive and all of those sets of swabs were forwarded to
9 the DNA section for further analysis.

10 Q. So, you run a test in the serology lab and you get back
11 a result that says it's presumptive that there may be blood
12 in here or on this?

13 A. Yes, that is correct.

14 Q. And do you do further testing to take samples?

15 A. So, the sample that I took off the knife is what ends
16 up moving forwards for DNA analysis.

17 Q. All right. And so then another department does the
18 analysis for DNA?

19 A. Right. So it stays within the DNA department. But it
20 just goes -- moves on to a different analyst for actual
21 developing of a potential DNA profile.

22 Q. All right. Very good. Thank you very much. Answer
23 any questions the defense may have.

24 MS. NEYLE: I have no questions for Ms. Thompson.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, ma'am. Step down.

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Your Honor, the State rests.

2 THE COURT: Okay. It's probably a good time to stop
3 for the day then.

4 I'm -- we're gonna break for the day. I need you back
5 at 9:30 in the morning. Don't discuss the case yet. Follow
6 the same instructions I been giving you every night. I will
7 see you in the morning and hopefully we will finish this
8 case tomorrow.

9 Have a great evening. Thank you so much.

10 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
11 presence of the jury.)

12 THE COURT: Okay. Anything before tomorrow?

13 MS. NEYLE: Would Your Honor hear our -- would you like
14 me to make -- renew all my motions right now or handle that
15 tomorrow?

16 THE COURT: Whatever you'd rather do.

17 MS. NEYLE: I can, can do it briefly, judge.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MS. NEYLE: Judge, at this time the defense would renew
20 all prior motions and objections, judge. We would also make
21 a motion for a directed verdict as to murder of Sharee
22 Bradley and possession of a weapon during a violent crime
23 for Sharee Bradley.

24 Judge, we believe the State has not produced sufficient
25 evidence to overcome a directed verdict motion, judge.

1 As to the murder of Minor 1 , and possession of a
2 weapon during a violent crime for Minor 1 , judge, the
3 State hasn't put forth any evidence as to her cause of
4 death. The anthropologist, Bill Stevens, testified there
5 was no perimortem injury, judge. I, I, I don't believe they
6 have put forth sufficient evidence to prove that she was
7 murdered, judge.

8 THE COURT: Okay. You want to respond to that,
9 solicitor?

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Judge, as to the first part of the
11 motion on Sharee, I think we have evidence in the record
12 from the defendant's own statements to law enforcement that
13 he killed those two people and he felt like he had to.
14 There's a lot of evidence about the acrimony between these
15 two individuals and the fact that he was armed with a knife,
16 turned the knife over, the knife -- the -- we believe was
17 used in the murder was seen being cleaned by Cody Brian
18 Daney and just an hour or less before Daunte Johnson was
19 arrested.

20 We do believe that there's a sufficient basis for
21 the -- Daunte's blood is on the swab. The swab says that he
22 was one of the contributors to the mop handle. We know that
23 the mop handle moved because there was testimony from the
24 young man, ^{Minor 2}, that Daunte came and got the mop from his
25 room upstairs and brought it downstairs where it was

1 photographed by the crime scene technicians.

2 As to Minor 1, we believe that his statement that he
3 wrapped her up and put her in a, a dump -- a rug and then
4 carried her to the dumpster, obviously they did not recover
5 enough to determine, for example, the expert from MUSC says
6 all of the -- Sharee's injuries were above her bellybutton
7 and we didn't find anything of Minor 1 except below the
8 bellybutton. So there's, there's obviously a, a, a belief
9 that she was stabbed because crime scene experts found her
10 blood in several different areas of the room. Not just one
11 area. She was, she was bleeding before she was taken out of
12 there and -- with the rug and put in the dumpster.

13 So, we believe that we do have enough evidence to go to
14 the jury on the murder of both individuals.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, sir.

16 And it -- and my standard is whether there is credible
17 evidence in the record and, and, in this record, that the
18 defendant admitted to killing both of these individuals.
19 He -- obviously Sharee's body was found at the scene. The
20 pathologist testified that, in his opinion, it was a result
21 of a homicide, that she did not die from natural causes or
22 an accident. And Minor 1's blood was found at the scene.
23 The defendant said he had killed her and put her in the
24 dumpster. After extensive research and tracking that
25 dumpster, they ultimately found her remains in the landfill

1 where the dumpster was dumped.

2 So, I think it's sufficient evidence in this record to
3 go to the jury. I will respectfully deny your motion.

4 Okay. Now, tomorrow, your client told me he's not
5 coming. At some point tomorrow he's got to -- he may have
6 to be here.

7 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: If, if this jury convicts him, then I will
9 have to deal with any potential sentence. So, he'll have to
10 be here for that.

11 Okay?

12 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Now -- and, and you may want to talk to him
14 tonight. It would probably be good for him to be here. But
15 if he refuses, he's at least gonna have to come or maybe
16 have to come at some point tomorrow.

17 MS. NEYLE: Okay. Yes, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MS. NEYLE: I will speak with him.

20 THE COURT: All right. I'll see y'all at 9:30. Thank
21 you.

22 MS. NEYLE: Thank you.

23 THE COURT: We'll be in recess until 9:30.

24

25 (Whereupon, Court was in recess for the evening.)

1 MS. NEYLE: Thank you.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 (WHEREUPON, a short recess was taken at this time.)

4 THE COURT: Okay. We're ready for the jury?

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: You want to put on the record the scenario
7 with the defendant?

8 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor.

9 Judge, this morning I spoke with Mr. Johnson. He
10 indicated that he wished to come to trial and, and sit with
11 us and then he changed his mind. I recently spoke with him
12 a few minutes ago. He said he did not wish to come to
13 trial. He knew that the trial would proceed without him.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MS. NEYLE: And, and, judge, in terms of just resting
16 and then renewing my motions, how would you prefer, prefer
17 to do that?

18 THE COURT: You -- whenever -- you want me -- to do it
19 right now?

20 MS. NEYLE: Okay. Judge, at this time the defense
21 would rest. We would renew all of our prior motions and
22 objections including our directed verdict motions.

23 THE COURT: Okay. And I'll respectfully deny your
24 directed verdict motion. I think there's sufficient
25 evidence for this case to go to the jury.

1 lady right here cause I need you to sit right here on this
2 front cause I -- we're gonna have to hand you some papers
3 and documents.

4 Okay. Ms. Neyle.

5 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, at this time the defense would
6 rest.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, that means you
8 have heard all of the evidence you're going to hear in this
9 case.

10 Now we've come to, to the point in the trial where you
11 will hear the closing arguments of the State and the
12 defense. I will charge you on the law and give you this
13 case to decide. So, if you'd pay close attention to the
14 solicitor.

15 Mr. Solicitor.

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: May it please the Court?

17 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

18 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Ms. Neyle, ladies and gentlemen,
19 good morning.

20 I am going to try to spend a few moments with you this
21 morning talking about the issues that you've been listening
22 to very closely over the last four days.

23 First of all, I want to thank you again for being
24 willing to serve as jurors. When you think about it, and
25 I've had judges say this for a long time, they're two times

1 in your life that you get called upon, as citizens, to serve
2 the country. One is military service, if you were to be
3 drafted, and one is jury service. And obviously serving in
4 the military is a lot more demanding then spending a week in
5 court with two lawyers and the judge. But we really
6 appreciate your work and we can't move cases without it
7 because the law is a set of rules and a set of regulations
8 that have to be followed.

9 When Mr. Johnson asked for a jury trial, a, a set of
10 plans went into effect, schedule, names had to be selected
11 from the voting rolls. You-all had to be brought in. All
12 of that had to happen and we needed you to be willing to say
13 yes and stay with us everyday.

14 In California, sometimes cases like this take three
15 weeks or longer. One of the things that helps us get the
16 cases and put them together and have it done in a week is
17 the staff, the police officers, investigators, the
18 patrolmen. You heard from people like Tabitha Adams, who is
19 a patrol officer, all the way up to the captain of the, of
20 the investigation. All these people work together to try to
21 bring everything together and, in this case, even though
22 we've got boxes and boxes and pictures and everything, this
23 is one of the few cases I've ever been involved with, where
24 other than some photographs, I'm not gonna waste my time
25 this morning telling you about every box and everything

1 because you heard the evidence. This is a pretty tight
2 case.

3 You're gonna hear a lot today from Daunte Johnson's own
4 mouth. I can't get you any better evidence than that. But
5 one of the things that kept stray -- striking me was, when
6 we were putting this case together, is how many people that
7 were surrounding him in the community had to come to court
8 and testify under oath about events that they knew about and
9 saw in the three days before Sharee and Minor 1's death.

10 Everybody talked to the police. Everybody gave
11 statements. Everybody cooperated. Everybody came to court.
12 They knew that guy. He had only been in town a month and
13 just consider the storm that he brought to all of these
14 peoples' lives in one month.

15 Cody Daney, Daney is just like you. He's going through
16 something in his personal life just like you would -- you
17 have things going on in your personal life. But you have to
18 put that aside to come up here and listen to this case.
19 Cody Daney is trying to get himself together and his family
20 does the right thing. They say go in Cody's room. Take out
21 all the knives. We don't want him to hurt himself.

22 So, Uncle Mike gets the knife and kind of puts it in a
23 drawer or something and then here's Daunte Johnson, who he
24 doesn't know very well, but he's -- he kind of gotten to be
25 friends with him saying I'm having trouble with one of

1 sharee's baby daddies, Cermon. And Uncle Mike says well, I
2 don't have a gun that I can give you but I'll give you this
3 knife cause I got my nephew. He's, he's kind of doing some
4 things with his mental health. we'll -- I'll give you the
5 knife.

6 Daunte Johnson arms himself with a large folding knife
7 that he's going to use to protect himself and what happens?

8 He doesn't use it to protect himself at all. He uses
9 it to strike out and kill Sharee Bradley and Minor 1 .

10 Now, the judge is gonna tell you they're two kind of
11 ways of looking at evidence. You've got direct evidence and
12 you've got circumstantial evidence. Both of them are good.
13 Both of them are pieces, pieces of evidence you can
14 consider.

15 Let's talk about the direct evidence.

16 What does Officer Kearney tell you when he talks to you
17 about the crime scene?

18 State's Exhibit No. 47. Kearney says, when he walks in
19 the door, the first thing he notices is a strong smell of
20 lavender cleaning solution when he walks in the front door
21 right there. Then he sees swirls on the floor where it
22 looks like somebody's been mopping. That's direct evidence.
23 That's not circumstantial. You can smell it. You can see
24 it.

25 The crime scene was cleaned by the killer because he

1 had time, after he took down his victims, to try to hide his
2 actions. But now here's the circumstantial part.

3 The next time the killer, we think Daunte Johnson, is
4 seen, he's at Winona's knocking on the door, hey, can I ride
5 with you. Can I hang out at your house today. I don't want
6 to be over at the apartments today and what does he do with
7 Winona?

8 He gets in the car with her, gets in the back seat, and
9 goes to sleep.

10 You know why?

11 Cause he'd been up all night cleaning up. He's tired.
12 He's worried. He's frustrated. Doesn't know what's gonna
13 come next.

14 One of the things I want to consider is he never goes
15 back to that apartment on Monday. Never. He's got a key to
16 the apartment. Don't forget that. He told the police that.
17 He could let himself in and out. Police said they kind --
18 they went to their apartment. They looked for evidence of a
19 burglary.

20 Police show up. They don't know what's happening.
21 They got a lady rolled up in a rug on the living room floor.
22 They don't know what happened but they do the process.

23 Consider this. The blood spatter that the -- Officer
24 Kearney testified to, he's got it marked on this exhibit
25 with an S for Sharee, the for Minor 1, and the D for Daunte

1 Johnson. The S is Sharee.

2 On the scooter, on the black -- back wheel, blood
3 sample taken, sent to SLED. Sharee.

4 Under the power cords next to the couch. Sharee.

5 On the couch, the cuttings, on the back of the couch
6 and on the seat of the couch. Sharee.

7 Sharee on the clothes on the floor. Sharee's body, of
8 course, had her and then you don't see that anymore.

9 But look at Minor 1. Look at Minor 1 on the side of the
10 wall as somebody -- as her body apparently came into the
11 room. There was her blood splatter on the wall. I'm gonna
12 show you a picture of it. You got it in the evidence room.
13 Then you see Minor 1's blood on the other side of the room in
14 front of the other couch on the floor.

15 Something interesting about that, I want you to catch
16 it, and then you've got the one drop going out the backdoor
17 where he's rolled her up and he's taken her to the dumpster.
18 That one drop is shown to you in State's Exhibit 29 on the
19 backdoor frame. That's her being taken out of the house
20 that night.

21 State's Exhibit 20 is the little wall at the bottom of
22 the stairs when you first come into the living room. You'll
23 see the picture. You can count the blood spots. All of
24 that's Na -- Minor 1's blood.

25 State's Exhibit No. 9. This is on the other side of

1 the room in front of the couch that's got two arms on it.
2 These are several round drops of Minor1s blood. But look
3 what else is in the picture.

4 Right up here at the top there seems to be a piece of
5 the mop handle or a meet -- with the mop head. Whoever did
6 this, not only did they kill Sharee and try to clean up the
7 evidence, but then they had Minor1 over in that particular
8 area after the clean-up otherwise those drops wouldn't be
9 perfectly round like that. They wouldn't be in that form.
10 You can't clean -- you can't put the blood down and then
11 clean it and leave that. Those drops came afterwards we
12 believe.

13 I have four pictures of the wounds on Sharee. I am
14 very sensitive to your sensitivity. I don't know if you can
15 look at them or not and I didn't show them in open court out
16 of respect for the dead. But these pictures show the kinds
17 of injuries Sharee suffered that night and the kinds of
18 injuries she suffered were testified to by the doctor
19 yesterday as being very deep and very penetrating, the kinds
20 of wounds that you would expect if you used a large folding
21 knife that we have in evidence. If you can, look at them.

22 Ladies and gentlemen, these are four photographs. The
23 doctor said she had 14 cuts and injuries on her body. These
24 were the ones that caused her to lose her life but she
25 suffered a lot. Fourteen major injuries to her body.

1 State's Exhibit No. 10 shows the couch that has the
2 bloodstain on the back and on the seat. That's Sharee's
3 blood.

4 But, ladies and gentlemen, the circumstantial evidence
5 that you need to be thinking about is that that blood wasn't
6 there, it wasn't seen when the officers walked in because,
7 when the officers walked in, the scene was in Exhibit 26.
8 There were clothes on top of the couch. The killer was
9 trying to high his actions. He put clothes on top of the
10 couch so that the police might not find Sharee's blood.
11 When they first got there, the clothes were on top of the
12 couch and on the floor.

13 why was that?

14 Because he was trying to hide what had done -- he had
15 done.

16 Now let's talk about what he'd done. In State's
17 Exhibit 32 you see the clothes on the floor. You see a
18 large amount of blood that he didn't get to clean up.
19 That's Sharee's blood.

20 Exhibit 24 shows the blood on the picture on the wall
21 near the couch but some distance away. This is a, a
22 close-up. Twenty-three is a close-up of 24.

23 Exhibit 14 shows the curtain at the bottom of, of, of
24 the picture. But on the top, up on the ceiling is more
25 blood. That shows you what kind of action was taking place

1 in that room that night. This was blood being thrown off
2 the knife cast up on the ceiling.

3 Exhibit 13, more drops of blood on the ceiling. Not
4 one. Not two. Several.

5 Exhibit 5, more blood being cast away. Not falling on
6 the couch. More blood. And then Exhibit 2 shows her tooth
7 and filling that were knocked out in the attack. The doctor
8 told you about that yesterday.

9 One of the things that struck me, I guess you'd call it
10 circumstantial, is that, when we found out that Darryl
11 Spann, Sharee's friend, had received a picture at 6:30 in
12 the morning on Monday morning that he wasn't expecting, and
13 he says the picture came to his phone from Sharee's phone,
14 the picture was of, of Sharee.

15 State's Exhibit No. 2, that's the picture that was
16 sent. Sharee didn't send it. Darryl didn't ask anybody to
17 send it to him. It came from Sharee's phone. This is in
18 Sharee's apartment. This is how Sharee looked in State's
19 Exhibit 16 at 6:30 in the morning wrapped up in a blanket
20 lying on the floor of her apartment.

21 who sent the picture?

22 Circumstantial evidence, the man who had her phone.

23 why didn't we ever find the phone in the apartment?

24 Because he took it.

25 why did he have, in his pocket, ID cards for Sharee,

1 her, her social security and the children's social security
2 card in his pocket at six o'clock that same day?

3 Why weren't they in her pocketbook where she probably
4 kept them?

5 Cause the pocketbook wasn't found either. Everybody
6 knows that the ladies keep their pocketbooks close and their
7 cellphones close. Good circumstantial evidence that the
8 killer took care of that also.

9 State's Exhibit No. 1. Sharee -- Minor 1 .
10 Circumstantial evidence taken in the apartment where she
11 lost her life. She only lived there for two months. The,
12 the first month was smooth as sailing. Everything was going
13 good. The second month Daunte Johnson moves in.

14 Circumstantial evidence. Look at the apartment, in the
15 background, it's clean. It's neat. Everything's going
16 well. Look at the apartment.

17 State's Exhibit No. 7. Sharee's got a playroom for the
18 kids and their toys. She's doing good. The kids are doing
19 good. Things change when Daunte comes to town.

20 Let's talk about Daunte. After his arrest, Daunte
21 Johnson is taken to the police station and he gives a
22 statement on October the 5th. That's the first statement.
23 You heard Willie McFadden, police officer, say that he had
24 his phone in the interview room and much of it's recorded
25 for the first 30 minutes.

1 They give him his rights. Every time they talked to
2 him they give him his rights. Every time they talk to him
3 they give him his rights.

4 On the other interviews after the 5th, they, they make
5 sure they have a recorder in there because, when Willie
6 leaves the first time, he takes the, the phone with him and
7 there's no recording but the first time is important.

8 Daunte Johnson has been arrested. The ID cards have
9 been taken out of his pocket and he's now in custody being
10 sought or being interviewed as a suspect. Willie McFadden
11 gives him the form and says I've read you your rights. We
12 know he did that because he was on the phone recording.
13 Daunte refuses to sign it. So Willie fills out the form and
14 says refused to sign but Daunte Johnson stated he understood
15 his rights.

16 Now what does he say on the 5th?

17 well, he starts off talking about I didn't do it. I
18 don't know what happened. I wasn't there. I don't know
19 anything about it and you heard the police officers, how
20 they talked. They have to get a relationship. They have to
21 try to get things going. They have to find things that
22 don't match and then they come back and say, hey, you told
23 us this and -- but we found this at the scene. I don't know
24 what happened.

25 Okay. Now I'll tell you what happened. I talked with

1 Dupray Adams. He wanted her dead. He wanted Sharee dead
2 because I was having to pay child support and what we're
3 gonna do is you gonna -- we gonna, we gonna kill her and
4 then we gonna take the body and put it in a car. I'm gonna
5 bring the car and we -- then we're gonna take her out and
6 burn her and I'm gonna pay you 5,000.

7 No, Daunte. No. Because Dupray's at the police
8 station right now raising all kind of sand cause he doesn't
9 know where his daughter is and we're talking to him and
10 looking at him and we don't think he had anything to do with
11 having Sharee killed. Tell us the truth, Daunte.

12 Okay. It was Cermon. Cermon wanted me to kill both of
13 those ladies. He was gonna pay me \$20,000, and, by the way,
14 Cermon's 12 year old son was upstairs playing the game at
15 the time the murder was gonna be done and, don't forget,
16 Daunte, that Cermon spent the night at Sharee's house Friday
17 night cause he didn't like you, he didn't like the way you
18 were treating his son, and he told you to get out of town.
19 Come on, Daunte. Tell the truth.

20 All right. I did it. I killed them both. I wrapped
21 her up in the, in the, in the rug and took her to the
22 dumpster but I couldn't move Sharee. That's what he told
23 the police on October the 5th.

24 And so, on October the 5th, Sharee -- they -- we, we
25 know where Sharee is. We know what evidence we've gotten.

1 we've taken the pictures. we've taken the swabs. we've
2 taken samples of the blood but now we're looking for Minor 1
3 cause we don't know if he did that or not. we just know we
4 can't find her anywhere.

5 The officers that night didn't go to bed. They had to
6 go looking in the dumpster. Then they had to look in the
7 woods all around the apartment complex. Then they ended up
8 going to the, to the transfer station at the, at the Sumter
9 recycling place here because they thought the trucks that
10 picked up the dumpster might of been there. Then they ended
11 up having to go to Columbia and check trucks that were
12 all -- that had already left. That's what the, the officers
13 did.

14 I want you to listen to Daunte. I want you to listen
15 to what he said to his family on the phone after the October
16 the 5th statement where he told the officers what I just
17 told you. This is on October the 9th.

18 (WHEREUPON, a portion of audio was played for the jury
19 at this time.)

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Can you turn it up?

21 (WHEREUPON, a portion of audio was played for the jury
22 at this time.)

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: You told them you did it. Yeah.
24 Listen to the next one, what he talks about next.

25 (WHEREUPON, a portion of audio was played for the jury

1 at this time.)

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: So he -- she asked him you did it
3 alone. You said you did it alone and he wavers. He says
4 yeah, then he says my job was to clean up.

5 Ladies and gentlemen, I contend that he couldn't tell
6 his family the whole story, the truth, just like he couldn't
7 tell anybody that he ever killed that baby by -- he, he
8 never used those words. He said he found them dead and put
9 her in the trash.

10 But we know that that blood was covered in that
11 apartment. We know that the person who put her in the trash
12 knew she was bleeding. We know that the person who put her
13 in the trash knew she was bleeding. He was the one that
14 took the action that ended her life.

15 Remember now. Let's, let's talk about some things that
16 we've seen in the scene. Remember there was a statement by
17 Daunte that he went over to her house at three o'clock in
18 the morning to apologize and take her some cigarettes.

19 State's Exhibit No. 6. These are the cigarettes that
20 were found rolled up in the carpet next to her body when the
21 police got there and they started opening things up and
22 looking at the scene. Two, two unsmoked cigarettes. Some
23 of them look like they been broken. But whatever happened
24 in there to cause her to get killed, when he started to roll
25 her up, all of the things that were around her got rolled up

1 with her.

2 That's a hair braid in that picture.

3 State's Exhibit 6, that's a hair braid. It's got her
4 blood on it. SLED testified to that.

5 State's Exhibit No. 17, the living room. Sharee's
6 rolled up on the floor. In the back corner you've got the
7 mop and the bucket used to clean up the scene.

8 where did the mop come from?

9 ^{Minor 2} told you. Daunte comes up to his room in the
10 middle of the night. Hey, ^{Minor 2} you got the mop in there.
11 Yeah, here it is. ^{Minor 2} kept his room clean. So he used the
12 mop. Then he gives the mop to Daunte in the middle of the
13 night. ^{Minor 2} goes back to playing games. Daunte goes
14 downstairs to use the mop.

15 where does the mop end up?

16 More importantly, what's on the mop when they send it
17 to SLED?

18 They look at it at SLED. Oh, there's something here we
19 need to test. They take a swab. The swab says that there's
20 three people that could of been in that swab, in that DNA
21 profile, sharee Bradley, Minor 1 , Daunte Johnson.

22 We got pictures of the scooter. The scooter was just a
23 few feet away from the front door. You'll see it in the
24 exhibit. A few feet away from the front door. A few feet
25 away from the stairs in the apartment.

1 what's on the scooter?

2 Kearney takes the swabs, sends them to SLED. On the
3 front wheel of the scooter, State's Exhibit No. 19, is
4 blood, Minor's blood on the front wheel. Same scooter.
5 Same location. Sharee's blood on the back wheel.

6 So, the act has been done. He has no plans for escape.
7 He has no plans to hide. He knows that Sharee is going to
8 be found. He knows that he is going to be looked for. He
9 tries to get away as much as possible. He goes over to
10 Winona's who he told the officer he had spent the night with
11 Winona but he didn't. Had to change that story.

12 He goes to Lake City, gets away from the apartment,
13 gets away from Sumter, and he has to sleep because he's
14 tired. He comes back about one, two o'clock in the
15 afternoon. He's back. So she's seen walking around.

16 Patsy gets off at four o'clock. He says he puts his
17 head in Patsy's door and says hey, what you doing. I'm
18 getting ready to take my son to a sleep study in Columbia.
19 I got to be there at five o'clock.

20 Can I ride with you?

21 why you want to ride with me to go to Columbia to a
22 sleep study?

23 Are you telling me no?

24 That's what he says to Patsy. He's trying to stay out
25 of town as much as possible. Patsy says no, I got to go.

1 Everything is quiet in the apartment complex. ^{Minor 2} hasn't
2 woken up yet. Four o'clock he talks to Patsy. Some time
3 after that he goes and talks to the apartment manager.

4 Hey, can I get a job?

5 He's not over there asking about a job. He's trying to
6 find out if anybody's found out anything yet. A few minutes
7 later ^{Minor 2} comes downstairs, finds his mom, goes to the
8 apartment manager. She calls 9-1-1.

9 Activity, police, Daunte walks from Winona's house over
10 to the apartment complex to see what's going on. When the
11 police officers get there, the people at the police -- at
12 the, at the apartment complex are pointing. There he is.
13 There's the boyfriend.

14 Daunte sees them and he runs and he gets into that
15 house as quick as he can, and what does he do when gets in
16 the house?

17 He gets another knife out the kitchen. I'm not going
18 out of here. That's what he tells Cody. State's Exhibit
19 No. 38.

20 State's Exhibit No. 41. Some time that afternoon
21 before the cops get there he takes the knife that he is
22 gotten from Uncle Mike, the folding knife, and he's cleaning
23 it. Cody sees him cleaning it and says oh, now you're gonna
24 give me back my knife. It's Monday afternoon, two o'clock,
25 three o'clock, four o'clock. He's cleaning the knife.

1 Ladies and gentlemen, I will tell you he's already
2 cleaned the knife one time. He cleaned it with -- before he
3 left the apartment because we know he cleaned the apartment,
4 then he cleaned himself. He got rid of the cellphone. He
5 got rid of the pocketbook. He got rid of his bloody
6 clothes. He cleaned that knife. This is the second time
7 he's cleaning it at Cody's and he gives it to Cody. He
8 thinks he's clear now. He doesn't have the murder weapon.

9 Police interview number two. He's talking to Buford
10 Wilson. Buford Wilson talks to him and talks to him and
11 talks to him. They spend hours together on the 7th and the
12 8th because they haven't found Minor 1. They looked for her
13 all day on the, on the night of the 5th and all day on the
14 6th.

15 So they say bring him back in. Let's talk to him again
16 and again they read him his rights August 7th,
17 August 8th. This time he signs the form. He understands
18 his rights.

19 State's Exhibit 58 and 61. Three times he's with the
20 police. On those occasions, on the 7th and the 8th, they're
21 not talking to him about Sharee so much. They're talking to
22 him about Minor 1.

23 Play Mr. Wilson's interview.

24 (WHEREUPON, a portion of audio was played for the jury
25 at this time.)

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I apologized for calling her a bitch
2 and a whore. I gave her a few cigarettes. You can see the
3 picture as to what happened to those cigarettes and what
4 happened to her.

5 Give me the next clip please, sir.

6 (WHEREUPON, a portion of audio was played for the jury
7 at this time.)

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: What could she have done and then
9 there was the long silence and all he could say was your
10 demons in me or demons you here.

11 Now I'm sorry that's not clearer. It could be. It
12 should be. Understand you can come back and listen to it
13 anytime you want. That's him telling what happened.

14 Later on, after that interview's over, he gets put in a
15 police car and he's on his way back to the jail because the
16 interview is over. But he's still got some things to say.
17 Listen to what he says.

18 (WHEREUPON, a portion of audio was played for the jury
19 at this time.)

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's kind of quick. I'm gonna ask
21 the Court to allow me to play that again. Play it one more
22 time.

23 (WHEREUPON, a portion of audio was played for the jury
24 at this time.)

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I didn't kill those people on

1 purpose and then he asked the police officer y'all hear me
2 and the police officer says yeah, we heard everything you
3 said and then Daunte says I felt like I had to.

4 I can't thank Sumter County, Sumter City Police enough
5 for the work they did to put in this case. I can't thank
6 the chief and his staff enough for getting all these people
7 from all over the State of South Carolina to come to the
8 Richland County landfill and look for Minor 1.

9 State's Exhibit No. 62, that's the drone shot of the,
10 the work they were doing and how they set up the project,
11 the manager, and all the things that had to be done.

12 State's Exhibit 63, they got heavy equipment. They got
13 protective clothing. They got a plan from the man from
14 NCMEC, Mr. Reed, you heard from and they went out there and
15 five days a week in August, hot sun, they worked to try to
16 find that little girl.

17 State's Exhibit 64. They found what they could. They
18 got most of her leg bones and a, up at the top, there's a,
19 there's a piece of her forehead and they tested it. And
20 when they tested it on 65, they got a map showing you the,
21 the bones they tested for the DNA and they got the DNA that
22 matches.

23 I asked Dupray, you and Sharee have any other children.
24 No, we only have one. That was Minor 1. The DNA matches.
25 said that it was a -- the DNA on those bones was a match for

1 Sharee and Dupray. That's how we determined that was
2 Minor 1.

3 From now on, don't let anybody in this courtroom today
4 tell you that that was the girl that was put in the trash.
5 From now on, you remember Minor 1 because her name spelled
6 backwards is heaven. That's how we all ought to remember
7 her.

8 The Bradley family, the Adams family, the Nelson
9 family, they really appreciate what you're doing today and
10 we want you to go back there and talk about it. Consider
11 the evidence. We want you to find Daunte Johnson guilty of
12 murder of Sharee Bradley, guilty of murder of Minor 1 ,
13 guilty of possession of a weapon for both the killing of
14 Sharee, of Sharee and killing Minor 1, four charges.

15 The judge will give you the law. Follow the law. I
16 think we've given you the facts. Follow the facts.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. NEYLE: May it please the Court?

19 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. NEYLE: Ladies and gentlemen, when I first spoke to
21 you on Tuesday I told you about the sadness that I felt for
22 what happened back on August 5th, 2019. I stand by that.

23 This entire week you, as a jury, have had to hear about
24 the tragic death of Sharee Bradley and Minor 1 . You've
25 seen their families sit here all week.

1 You've also seen the State present their case before
2 you. You heard Mr. James, ^{Minor 2} 's father, talk about being
3 angry with Daunte because Daunte told ^{Minor 2} he couldn't play
4 video games all hours of the night. So, Mr. James goes over
5 to the apartment and tells Daunte you got to leave or I'm
6 gonna fight you. Daunte doesn't fight him.

7 The next day he comes back. Tells Daunte you got to
8 leave or I'm gonna fight you. Daunte does not fight him.
9 He does not escalate the situation.

10 You heard about Daunte asking Michael James for a knife
11 for protection cause he feared for his life. You also heard
12 the testimony of ^{Minor 2} where he says that Daunte went
13 upstairs and asked for a mop. But you didn't hear ^{Minor 2} say
14 he heard anything unusual that night. He didn't say that --
15 you didn't hear him say that Daunte had blood dripping from
16 him when he asked for that mop.

17 You heard about Daunte going to Winona Daney's house
18 that morning of August 5th. He had shorts and a t-shirt
19 on. He wasn't dripping -- he wasn't dripped in blood. No
20 blood on his clothes. No blood on his shoes.

21 Law enforcement took pictures of Daunte after he was
22 arrested. No blood under his fingernails. No marks on him.
23 Normal.

24 He rode with, with, with Ms. Daney to Lake City. He
25 didn't, he didn't stay in Lake City. Comes back. He didn't

1 leave town. He didn't flee. He was found a block over from
2 that apartment complex.

3 The State has tried to make Daunte out to be the storm,
4 this controlling, fighting, mean person to Sharee, and, yes,
5 they argued. But he says he went over to her house and
6 apologized for what he said to her and gave her cigarettes.

7 Winona Daney, she testified in this trial where
8 Daunte's charged with murder. She called him a sweetheart.

9 You heard Lee Reed, who's an, an expert on dealing with
10 missing children. You heard about the suggestions that he
11 made to law enforcement. Not just suggestions. He told
12 them what you need to do before we start searching this
13 landfill. He said continue the current investigation until
14 all active leads have been examined, examined and exhausted.

15 You heard me ask Investigator Melton didn't you receive
16 information that Minor 1 was alive that day playing with the
17 children. He said yes. You heard me ask Investigator
18 Melton didn't you receive information that Minor 1, on
19 August 5th, got into a green truck with an -- with a man.
20 He said yes. Michael James told you he has a green truck.

21 what did they do about this information?

22 They didn't follow-up. We have no reports of what they
23 did. Officer Cannon, Buford Wilson, Willie McFadden, they
24 didn't do reports in this case. Investigator Melton, the
25 lead investigator, he wrote a two page report.

1 Mr. Reed also suggested or he told law enforcement you
2 need to corroborate the suspect's statements.

3 Did they talk to neighbors?

4 There were many neighbors in that courtyard that fit --
5 whose apartment face that courtyard where the dumpster was.
6 Investigator Melton said someone did.

7 What did they find out?

8 This is summertime. People are out, out and about.
9 It's late. ^{Minor 2} stays up late playing video games. It's
10 summertime.

11 How did no one see this?

12 How does Sharee live next door to Mr. Davis and he
13 doesn't hear anything?

14 How does Sharee live next door to Patsy and her five
15 children, they share a wall, and they don't hear anything?

16 I remember when I lived in an apartment. I could hear
17 everything that my next door neighbors were doing. It
18 doesn't make sense.

19 Mr. Reed also told law enforcement analyze the
20 suspect's cellphone.

21 Did anyone testify to analyzing Daunte's cellphone,
22 pinging his locations?

23 You didn't hear any of that.

24 The State talked to you about Mr. Spann and receiving a
25 text message from Sharee with her picture in -- that was on

1 it. But they didn't ping her cellphone.

2 Did they find it?

3 We don't know.

4 Ladies and gentlemen, here's what just I can't
5 comprehend. Sumter P.D. collected multi swabs of blood, the
6 knife that they think was used to kill Sharee and Minor 1,
7 the mop that they said was used to clean up.

8 Okay. They sent that off to SLED. Ms. Thompson, she
9 swabbed items to, to see if there was blood or not. Sent it
10 off to the DNA lab.

11 Mr. Meeh, in his reports, the only DNA interpretation
12 that he did was the one drop of blood on the backdoor, and
13 in that footnote in his report I asked him about it. Says
14 interpretation of results will be performed upon request.
15 The State didn't request to have that DNA interpreted to put
16 a name on whose DNA was in that apartment until June 10th,
17 10 days before this trial started.

18 This case happened two and a half, almost three years
19 ago and we didn't get a report on the DNA matching until
20 June 10th. Just wrap your head around that.

21 You have a mother and a child and you don't bother or
22 request to get that DNA matched until 10 days before trial?

23 That's embarrassing. This is a mother and a child. Do
24 better.

25 I asked Investigator Melton about his testimony at a

1 preliminary hearing back in 2019, and he testified, under
2 oath, that the knife had Sharee's DNA on it. I also asked
3 him about that two page investigative report where he said
4 the murder weapon, murder weapon matched the DNA profile
5 belonging to Sharee Bradley. That wasn't the truth. He
6 then tried to explain himself and say that he mistook it
7 with the mop but he had no clue back then cause we didn't
8 know what was on that mop until June 10th of this year.

9 The State points to that mop and the DNA results that
10 have Daunte, Sharee, and Minor 1 on it, and, the State, they
11 talked about a giant number that corresponds with that DNA.
12 But Laura Hash also said, the SLED lady, she also said those
13 were artificially inflated numbers and Daunte lived there.
14 It's possible his DNA could be on an item in that house
15 cause he stayed there and the knife that they think had --
16 is the murder weapon doesn't have Daunte's DNA on it,
17 doesn't have Sharee's DNA on it, and doesn't have Minor 1's
18 DNA on it.

19 You heard Courtney Thompson from SLED testify
20 yesterday. She took that knife apart. She swabbed the
21 blade, interior hinge of the knife, and the interior of the
22 sheath. Didn't have any other DNA on it. It did have
23 Michael James' DNA on it and another person. Not Sharee,
24 not Minor 1, and not Daunte. Maybe it's not the murder
25 weapon.

1 Doctor Batalis can't say definitively it's the murder
2 weapon. He said there's nothing unique about the knife.
3 Knives have common characteristics. That knife could be
4 consistent with the injuries but other knives could as well.

5 Now, I'm sure if the State could respond after me
6 they'll say well, Daunte confessed but this is a dead mother
7 and missing child. If there is ever an interview that you
8 put a camera in that room to interview, this is it and they
9 didn't do it.

10 Detective Melton had a body camera and he didn't use it
11 at all for this investigation. You saw Officer Cannon's
12 body camera capture Daunte coming out of that house with his
13 hands up, gets on the ground.

14 Why not put him in that room and record what Daunte
15 said?

16 They didn't have a policy to record but they do now.
17 This iPhone recording of 30 minutes of this interview where
18 he doesn't confess, it's not good enough. They then sent in
19 Detective Hansen, who's been an investigator for a month,
20 and Daunte supposedly confesses with all these stories and
21 the other recordings they played to you through Buford
22 Wilson, those were snippets. They weren't the full
23 statement and the State would probably say again to me well,
24 we've heard a lot from Daunte this week. There's just no
25 way that a man would confess to something unless he did it.

1 But false confessions are a thing and they happen. I'd
2 be especially worried about a false confession whereas
3 Detective Hansen said he's -- Daunte started to ramble at
4 the end of this inter, interview.

5 The State wants you to believe there's just no way that
6 someone could do this if they said they did it unless they
7 didn't. It's inconceivable, unbelievable.

8 But back in August 2019, if you had told me that we
9 would have dealt with COVID quarantine, we'd be sitting
10 here, some of you have masks on, I wouldn't believe that
11 either but here we are. False confessions can happen and
12 that's why the state has to have more than just words to
13 prove their case. They need evidence to back it up.

14 When I spoke with you on Tuesday, I told you this week
15 wouldn't be pleasant. It hasn't been. It's been
16 uncomfortable and (indiscernible). I recognize that. But
17 it is your job, as a jury, to evaluate the evidence and
18 consider whether or not the state has met their burden to
19 prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt, and, ladies and
20 gentlemen, they have not done that.

21 Sharee and Minor1 deserve more than what the state has
22 given you over the course of this trial, and, for that
23 reason, I would ask that you find Daunte not guilty.

24 Thank you for your time.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, it's gonna

1 take me about 15 to 20 minutes to charge you.

2 Do you need a break?

3 (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

4 THE COURT: Anybody need a break?

5 (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

6 THE COURT: Okay. Somebody needs one. You need a --
7 you need a break?

8 (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

9 THE COURT: Okay. We'll -- I'll -- we'll take a 10
10 minute break. When y'all -- well, when y'all are ready, you
11 tell the bailiff you're ready and we'll come back and charge
12 you on the law.

13 Okay. You can't discuss the case yet though.

14 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
15 presence of the jury.)

16 THE COURT: We're off till they get --.

17 (WHEREUPON, a short recess was taken at this time.)

18 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the
19 presence of the jury panel.)

20 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are all seated, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

22 Ladies and gentlemen, now that you have heard all of
23 the evidence in this case, as well as the closing arguments
24 of both the State and the defense, I'm going to give you the
25 law that you are to apply in this case.

1 Under our Constitution and Code of Laws, only the jury
2 can make a finding of a fact in a case. I am not permitted
3 to indicate how I might feel about the facts. So, if I've
4 said anything or done anything throughout this trial that
5 you think I have an opinion about the facts, you're to
6 disregard that cause you and only you must determine the
7 facts in this case. You must independently weigh the
8 evidence in this case presented during this trial and render
9 a verdict based on that evidence.

10 The same constitution and Code of Laws that makes you
11 the exclusive judge of the facts makes me the exclusive
12 judge of the law. So, if you think that the law should be
13 something else or that you're having a different opinion
14 about what the law is, under your oath and under your duty,
15 you're to disregard your opinion and apply the law exactly
16 as I give it to you.

17 Now, the fact that this defendant was arrested,
18 charged, and indicted in this case is not evidence in this
19 case and can not be considered by you as evidence of guilt
20 in this case. Nor does it create any presumption or
21 inference of guilt. The indictment is simply a formal
22 written document which contains the charges against this
23 defendant and serves as a formal document to process this
24 case through the court system.

25 Now, the defendant has entered a plea of not guilty to

1 this indictment. Therefore, it cast the burden upon the
2 State to prove the allegations of this indictment to you
3 beyond a reasonable doubt. A person charged with committing
4 a criminal offense in South Carolina is never required to
5 prove himself or herself innocent and I instruct you that
6 the fact that the defendant did not testify in this case is
7 not a fact to you -- that you can consider in any way in
8 your deliberations.

9 He has a constitutional right to remain silent. The,
10 the State has the burden of proving him guilty and the fact
11 that he did not testify and asserted his constitutional
12 right can not be considered by you in your deliberations
13 whatsoever. Under our oath, you're to draw no conclusions
14 whatsoever from the fact that the defendant did not testify
15 in this case and the fact that the defendant did not testify
16 should not even be discussed in the jury room. As I've told
17 you, the State has the burden of proof of proving him guilty
18 and that he has not -- he does not have to prove anything.

19 It is an important rule of law in this country that a
20 defendant, in a criminal trial, will always be presumed
21 innocent of the crime for which he is indicted unless and
22 until his guilt has been proven by evidence that satisfies
23 you of that guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The
24 presumption of innocence is not a mere legal theory. It is
25 not just a legal phrase. It is a substantial constitutional

1 right to which every defendant is entitled. The presumption
2 of innocence accompanies the defendant from the time he's
3 charged throughout the trial until you reach a verdict of
4 guilt based on evidence that satisfies you of that guilt
5 beyond a reasonable doubt.

6 A reasonable doubt is a doubt which makes an honest,
7 sincere, conscientious juror to hesitate to act or proof
8 beyond a reasonable doubt must be proof of such a convincing
9 character that a reasonable person would not hesitate to
10 rely upon it in the most important of his or her own
11 affairs. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt can also be
12 described as proof that leaves you firmly convinced of the
13 defendant's guilt.

14 Now, there are very few things in this world we know
15 with absolute certainty, and, in a criminal case, the law
16 does not require proof that overcomes every possible doubt.
17 If, based on the consideration -- of your consideration of
18 the evidence, you are firmly convinced the defendant is
19 guilty of the crime charged, you must find him guilty. If,
20 on the other hand, you think there's a real possibility he's
21 not guilty, you must give him the benefit of the doubt and
22 find him not guilty.

23 Now, in determining the facts of the case, you must
24 necessarily pass upon the credibility, which simply means
25 the believability of the witnesses and the value and the

1 weight to be given to their testimony. You alone must
2 decide the force and effect of that testimony.

3 In making these decisions, there are many things that you
4 may and should take into consideration such as the
5 appearance and the manner of the witness on the stand
6 sometimes referred to as the demeanor of the witness.

7 Was the witness forthright or hesitant?

8 Was the witness testimony consistent or did it contain
9 discrepancies?

10 What was the ability of the witness to know the facts
11 about which he or she testified?

12 Did the witness have a cause or reason to be biased and
13 prejudiced in favor of their testimony?

14 Was the witness testimony corroborated or made stronger
15 by other evidence and testimony or was it made weaker or
16 impeached by such other evidence or testimony?

17 Now, under our rules, we do not ordinarily permit a --
18 permit a witness to testify about opinions or conclusions.
19 An exception to this rule exists for witnesses we call
20 expert witnesses.

21 A witness, who by education and experience, has become
22 an expert in some art, science, profession, or calling may
23 state an opinion as to relevant and material matters in
24 which the witness claims to be an expert. It may also state
25 the reasons for that opinion. You should consider an

1 expert's opinion received in evidence in this case like any
2 other evidence. You give it the weight you think it
3 deserves. If you decide that the opinion of an expert is
4 not based on sufficient education and experience or if you
5 conclude that the reasons given in support of the opinion
6 are not sound or that the opinion is outweighed by other
7 evidence, you may disregard that opinion in its entirety.
8 An expert's opinion is to be given no greater weight than
9 that of any other witness simply because the witness is an
10 expert, and, further, you are not required to accept that
11 expert's opinion even though it is not contradicted.

12 Now, criminal intent is a necessary element of each
13 crime and must be proven by the State beyond a reasonable
14 doubt. Criminal intent is always a matter that must be
15 determined by the jury from circumstances, circumstances
16 surrounding the situation. There's no way to prove intent
17 to a mathematical certainty. There's no way medical science
18 can dissect a person's brain and determine what he or she
19 had in mind.

20 So, the law states criminal intent may be inferred from
21 the circumstances shown to have existed both before and
22 after the fact. This is how you, the jury, make a
23 determination of whether or not the elements of intent was
24 present.

25 Criminal intent is a state of mind that operates

1 jointly with an act or omission in the commission of a
2 crime. Criminal intent is a mental state of conscience
3 wrongdoing. So it's up to you, the jury, to determine what
4 the defendant had in mind based on the circumstances shown
5 to have existed. I tell you that the State must prove
6 criminal intent beyond a reasonable doubt just as the State
7 must prove every element beyond a reasonable doubt.

8 Now, there are two types of evidence that are normally
9 presented during a trial, direct evidence and circumstantial
10 evidence. Direct evidence directly proves the existence of
11 a fact and does not require deduction.

12 Circumstantial evidence is proof of a chain of facts
13 and circumstances indicting the existence of a fact. Crimes
14 may be proven by -- may be proven by circumstantial evidence
15 and the law makes no distinction between the weight or the
16 value to be given to direct or circumstantial evidence.
17 However, to the extent the State relies on circumstantial
18 evidence, all of the circumstances must be consistent with
19 each other, and when taken together, point conclusively to
20 the guilt of the accused beyond a reasonable doubt. If
21 these circumstances merely portray the defendant's behavior
22 as suspicious, the proof has failed.

23 The State has the burden of proving the defendant
24 guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and that burden rests with
25 the State regardless of whether the State relies on direct

1 evidence, circumstantial evidence, or a combination of the,
2 the two.

3 Now, I have admitted into evidence in this case
4 statements allegedly have been made by the defendant.
5 Before you may consider these statements as evidence for any
6 purpose, you must find that the State has proven, beyond a
7 reasonable doubt, the answer is yes to both of the following
8 questions.

9 One. Did the statement -- did the defendant make the
10 statement, and, two, was the statement made voluntarily.

11 The word voluntarily means that he freely chose to make
12 the statement. It was not induced by pressure, force, or
13 intimidation. If the statement was voluntarily given, it
14 may be used against him. If the statement was not
15 voluntarily given, it can not be used against him.

16 In determining whether or not the statement of the
17 defendant was voluntary, you should consider all of the
18 facts and circumstances surrounding this statement including
19 the defendant's age, his maturity, his level of education,
20 and intelligence, his physical and mental health, his
21 background, and his environment, the nature of any
22 questioning and any other evidence you believe bears on the
23 voluntariness of the defendant's statement.

24 If the defendant was in custody at the time the
25 statement was made, then you should all -- also, I'm sorry,

1 also consider the place and length of his custody, and
2 whether or not he was given -- whether or not he was
3 given -- whether he was -- understood his constitutional
4 rights which are commonly referred to as Miranda rights.
5 These rights are that he had the right to remain silent,
6 that any statement that he made does not -- made could be
7 used against him in a court of law, that he had a right to
8 consult with a lawyer before and during questioning, that if
9 he could not afford a lawyer, the Court could appoint a
10 lawyer to represent him at no cost, and that he had a right
11 to exercise these rights at anytime and terminate the
12 questioning or not answer any question or make any
13 statement. And I find, as a matter of law, that the
14 defendant was in custody at the time the statement was made.

15 Now, the defendant is charged with the crime of murder.
16 The State must prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the
17 defendant killed another person with malice aforethought.
18 Malice is hatred, ill will, or hostility toward another
19 person. It is the intentional doing of a wrongful act
20 without just cause or excuse and with the intent to inflict
21 an injury or under circumstances of law would infer an evil,
22 I'm sorry, intentionally inflict an injury on another
23 person.

24 Malice aforethought does not require that malice exist
25 for any particular time before the act is committed but

1 malice must exist in the mind of the defendant just before
2 and at the time the act is committed. Therefore, there must
3 be a combination of ill will and the act. Malice may also
4 be expressed or inferred.

5 Now, the, the defendant is also charged with the crime
6 of, of possession of a weapon during the commission of a
7 violent crime. The State must prove, beyond a reasonable
8 doubt, that the defendant visibly displayed a knife during
9 the commission of a violent crime. A knife means any
10 instrument or tool with a sharp cutting blade, whether or
11 not fastened to a handle, which can, can be used to inflict,
12 cut, slash, or wound. In order for the -- to de -- find the
13 defendant guilty of possession of a weapon during the
14 commission of a violent crime, you must first find the
15 defendant guilty of either a violent crime or attempting to
16 commit a violent crime, and I instruct you that the crime of
17 murder is a violent crime in the State of South Carolina and
18 the State must prove this to you beyond a reasonable doubt.

19 Now, ladies and gentlemen, you are not partisans or
20 advocates for the State of South Carolina or this defendant.
21 You do not serve as jurors to reward your friends or punish
22 your enemies. Obviously such a perverted system of justice
23 would not -- of justice will not be tolerated.

24 You have been selected by both the State and this
25 defendant to be fair and impartial jurors and to determine

1 what the facts are in this case based upon the evidence
2 that's been presented in this trial.

3 Now, Mr. Foreman, I have had my law clerk draw up a
4 possible verdict form in this case and at, and at the top of
5 the form simply says State of South Carolina versus Daunte
6 Maurice Johnson. Count 1, as to murder of Sharee Bradley,
7 we, the jury, unanimously find the defendant, Daunte Maurice
8 Johnson, guilty or not guilty.

9 On Count 2, as to murder of Minor 1 , we, the jury,
10 unanimously find the defendant guilty or not guilty.

11 As to the possession of a weapon during the commission
12 of a violent crime, as to Sharee Bradley, we, the jury, find
13 the defendant guilty or not guilty, and possession of a
14 weapon during the commission of a violent crime, in the
15 murder of Minor 1 , we, the jury, unanimously find the
16 defendant guilty or not guilty.

17 Now, the order that we have put these in you're to draw
18 no conclusions from whatsoever. She just had to put them in
19 some type of order. Once you reach a verdict, and it must
20 be a unanimous verdict, you are to check the appropriate
21 blocks on this verdict form, sign it and date it, and knock
22 on the door and let the bailiffs know that you have reached
23 a verdict and we will bring you back out and receive that
24 verdict.

25 Now, during your deliberations, you can only talk about

1 this case when all 12 of you are present. So, if one of you
2 had to get up and be, be excused for some reason, you got to
3 stop talking about it. So, you can only talk about it when
4 all 12 of you are present.

5 Now, I'm going to send this verdict form, along with
6 all the evidence in this case, back to the jury room in a
7 few minutes. When you get this, it will, it will be your
8 signal to begin your deliberation. But right now I got to
9 talk to the lawyers in case I forgot something to charge you
10 or clarify something. I'm gonna discuss it with them. If I
11 need to further charge you on the law, I'll bring you back
12 out, charge you further, and then send you back. If I've
13 covered everything, then I will send this with the bailiff
14 as well as all the evidence and you consider the evidence
15 and reach a verdict in this case and let us know when you've
16 reached one.

17 Now, I understand it's quarter of 12:00. The clerk has
18 gone to get y'all lunch. So he will serve y'all lunch to --
19 while you're deliberating this case cause you won't be able
20 to leave till you reach a verdict.

21 You understand that?

22 (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

23 THE COURT: Now, I'm gonna send you to the jury room.
24 I'll either send this back in just a minute or I'll bring
25 you back out.

1 Now, my three alternates I need to stay with me. I
2 only needed y'all if somebody got sick. It looks like my
3 original 12 are all gonna make it. So, if y'all will stay
4 with me, I'll send the 12 of you back and I'll either send
5 this back or get you back out in a few minutes.

6 Okay. Don't discuss the case yet till I send
7 everything back. But once you get it, that will be your tie
8 to start talking about it.

9 THE BAILIFF: The alternates stay here?

10 THE COURT: Just let the alternates stay right here.

11 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
12 presence of the jury.)

13 THE COURT: Okay. Are there any exceptions or
14 deletions on behalf of the State?

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing from the State.

16 THE COURT: Behalf of the defense?

17 MS. NEYLE: None from the defense.

18 THE COURT: Okay. If y'all would get this evidence
19 together with my court reporter. Here you go and we'll send
20 it back to the jury.

21 (WHEREUPON, the alternate jurors were dismissed at this
22 time.)

23 (WHEREUPON, the jury began deliberations at 11:47AM and
24 returned with a question at 12:03PM.)

25 THE COURT: Is the defendant right-handed or

1 left-handed. I'm gonna bring them out and tell them I can't
2 answer that.

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Okay.

4 THE COURT: Bring them in.

5 THE BAILIFF: Yes, sir.

6 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the
7 presence of the jury.)

8 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are all seated, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 Mr. Foreman, and ladies and gentlemen, I have a
11 question from y'all and the question is is the defendant
12 right-handed or left-handed and I probably should have told
13 y'all this before I sent you out.

14 I can not answer questions of fact. I can only answer
15 questions of law because this case is over with. It's
16 closed. You've heard all the evidence you're gonna hear and
17 I can't reopen it and you hear more evidence.

18 If you have a question of law, i.e. if you need to --
19 me to explain the charge to you again, explain any legal
20 issues, I can do that but I can't answer any factual
21 questions cause you, you must decide this case based on the
22 facts and evidence that you've heard in this courtroom and I
23 can't reopen the case. So -- and I probably should of told
24 y'all that before I sent you out.

25 If you have a question of law, if you'll write it down,

1 I can answer that and you should of been provided ways to
2 hear those tapes that were sent back. If you don't, I can
3 be sure you -- so you can listen to all the evidence you
4 want to or anything else in the jury room. But I can't
5 reopen this case and give you any additional facts. I can
6 only charge you on the law if you have a question about
7 that.

8 Okay. So I'll send you back to the jury room and you
9 continue the deliberations. If you have a question of law,
10 I can bring you out and try to answer it. But I can't
11 answer any facts.

12 Okay. Thank you.

13 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
14 presence of the jury.)

15 THE COURT: Okay. Any objections to the way I handled
16 that?

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: None from the State.

18 MS. NEYLE: None from defense.

19 THE COURT: I would of never expected that question in
20 this case.

21 MS. NEYLE: No.

22 THE COURT: Madam Court Reporter, if you will mark
23 this. Put it in the record.

24 (WHEREUPON, the note from the jury was marked as
25 Court's Exhibit No. 2 and received into evidence at this

1 time.)

2 THE BAILIFF: We'll be -- I'll stand down.

3 (WHEREUPON, the jury began deliberations at 12:05PM and
4 returned with another question at 1:38PM.)

5 THE COURT: Okay. I got another question from the
6 jury.

7 We need clarification on the legal meaning of the term
8 possession and to wit as used in Count 3 and 4. I probably
9 -- my law clerk---

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Could you read that again, Your
11 Honor?

12 I'm sorry. Read that again.

13 THE COURT: I'm sorry. We need clarification on the
14 legal meaning of the terms possession and to wit as used in
15 Count 3 or 4. The problem is, when my law clerk typed the
16 verdict form, she put to wit in there like it was in the
17 indictment. We probably should of left to wit out.

18 So -- and T-O W-I-T, it's one of those legal terms that
19 only us know -- us lawyers we should leave it alone and I'll
20 bring them back out. I'll just basically tell them to wit
21 is not that important. It's not a part of the statute and I
22 can recharge them on possession of a weapon during the
23 commission of a violent crime and the statute says, and what
24 I charged them on, the defendant is charged with the
25 possession of a weapon during the commission or attempt to

1 commit a violent crime and part of that statute deals with a
2 firearm. Since firearms were not an issue in this at all I
3 didn't charge firearms. I charged knife.

4 Now, the, the, the State must prove, beyond a
5 reasonable doubt, that the defendant -- the part I left out
6 was in possession of a firearm or visibly display what
7 appeared to be a firearm. When you read that statute, the
8 knife is a little different cause the knife says visibly
9 display the knife and I think the Legislature intended that
10 if, if you happen to have a pocketknife in your pocket, as
11 many people carry, but you don't visibly display it, you're
12 not guilty of this crime. But if you pull the knife out and
13 visibly display it during the commission of a violent crime,
14 then you're guilty of that.

15 So that's why the knife possession is a little bit
16 different. Possession of a gun is against the law in the
17 commission of a violent crime. But it's -- possessing a
18 knife is not against the law unless you display it is the
19 way I interpreted the statute. And I -- and obviously
20 they've having -- I'm gonna have -- I don't know what else
21 to do but to read them the charge again unless y'all tell me
22 something different.

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I think you should explain it, and,
24 and, from the State's prospective, the reason they may of
25 had a question is because they're not connecting the knife

1 to the crime. They, they -- they're hearing a lot of
2 evidence about the knife before the crime and about the
3 knife being turned over to the other witnesses after the
4 crime.

5 And so they're wondering maybe that's the point that
6 they need to know that the -- at -- during the crime, the
7 knife has to be present.

8 THE COURT: I understand that. But I can't comment on
9 that. I mean the problem we got, in some cases, the
10 possession is pretty easy to prove. In this particular
11 case, you -- if, if he's guilty of possession, it's through
12 circumstantial evidence. There's nobody actually saw him or
13 put him with that knife at the time of the crime.

14 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Right.

15 THE COURT: So I guess the State's position is the
16 knife was used to kill at least Sharee. So, if
17 circumstantially he had to possess the knife to kill it, so
18 it's circumstantial evidence on the possession of the knife
19 in this case. wherein sometimes, times somebody walks in
20 robbing a convenience store with a gun, and you've got video
21 of -- they got the gun in his hand. There's no direct
22 evidence at the time of the murder he had a, a knife. But
23 circumstantially a knife is what killed him.

24 So, so you can deduce, I assume, that the -- a knife
25 was used. I assume that's where the State's going. But I

1 don't, I don't know how, other than reading the statute
2 again, I can explain that to them unless y'all agree on it.

3 MS. NEYLE: I, I think rereading the charge that you
4 read previously is adequate.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: And, judge, may I, may I ask you to
7 just tell us again, the charge you read, I understood why
8 you left out the weapon, the gun. I understood that.

9 THE COURT: Right.

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Because it made it much more clear.
11 But would you read the, the knife part again?

12 THE COURT: The problem with the statute is visibly
13 display a knife during the commission of a crime. It's not
14 possessing it because when the Legislature drafted this,
15 they anticipated that somebody may have a pocketknife in
16 their pocket all the time. And for it to be a crime, you
17 got to display that pocketknife because it's not -- in many
18 situations, it's against the law to even possess a gun on
19 the street if you don't have a permit. But it's not against
20 the law anywhere to possess a pocketknife.

21 So I guess, when they drafted this legislation, that's
22 why they drafted it that way. Then it only becomes a
23 violation of, of this statute when you visibly display a
24 knife during the commission of a violent crime. Having one
25 in your pocket doesn't necessarily bring that into play in

1 the commission of that crime.

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: And, and what you just said was that
3 you must visibly display it during the --.

4 THE COURT: Commission of a crime.

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

6 THE COURT: That's what the statute says.

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

8 THE COURT: And I'll just leave to wit out. I mean I
9 can -- but that's just legal and they don't need to---

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

11 THE COURT: That not a -- that just happened to be
12 written on the verdict form and probably shouldn't of been
13 there.

14 Okay?

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: Bring me the jury.

17 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the
18 presence of the jury.)

19 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are all seated, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Foreman, I have a question that
21 says we need clarification on the legal meaning of the terms
22 possession and to wit as used in Count 3 and 4. And I can
23 recharge you on, on the possession crime.

24 And the defendant is charged with possession of a
25 weapon during the commission of a violent crime. The State

1 must prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the defendant
2 visibly displayed a knife during the commission of a violent
3 crime.

4 Now, on the, the to wit on the verdict form, my law
5 clerk put the term to wit in there because to be guilty of
6 possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent
7 crime you first have to be guilty of a violent crime. If
8 you're not guilty of a violent crime, you can not be guilty
9 of this statute.

10 And so to wit meant that you first would have to find
11 that the State has proved, beyond a reasonable doubt, he
12 committed a violent crime, i.e. murder and murder is a
13 violent crime in the State of South Carolina. So you --
14 once you determine that he's guilty of murder, based on your
15 deliberation, then you consider whether they've proven you,
16 beyond a reasonable doubt, that he possessed a knife or --
17 in which means displayed a knife during the commission of a
18 violent crime.

19 Okay. Does that clarify that?

20 (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

21 THE COURT: If, if you find that the State has not
22 proven to you beyond a reasonable doubt that he's guilty of,
23 of murder, then you don't even go to possession cause you
24 can't be guilty of possession unless you've been found
25 guilty of a violent crime. But so -- and if that, if that

1 didn't clarify it, you can let me know. But I -- but that's
2 what the law says.

3 Okay. Okay. If you'll go back and let us know when
4 you reach a verdict.

5 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
6 presence of the jury.)

7 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing from the State.

9 THE COURT: All right. We'll stand down.
10 You -- did you have anything, Elizabeth?

11 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Madam Court Reporter, if you'll just put
13 this in the record then.

14 All right.

15 (WHEREUPON, the note from the jury was marked as
16 Court's Exhibit No. 3 and received into evidence at this
17 time.)

18 THE COURT: All right. Y'all let me know.

19 (WHEREUPON, the jury began deliberations again at
20 1:41PM and returned with a verdict at 2:04PM.)

21 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are all seated, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

23 Mr. Foreman, I understand you have reached a verdict?

24 THE FOREMAN: Yes, sir.

25 THE COURT: Is it unanimous?

1 THE FOREMAN: Yes, sir.

2 THE COURT: If you'd pass it up please, sir.

3 (WHEREUPON, the foreman complies.)

4 THE COURT: Okay. You may publish the verdict.

5 THE BAILIFF: May it please the Court, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

7 THE BAILIFF: In the Court of General Sessions, Third
8 Judicial Circuit, Docket Number 2019-GS-43-0916, State of
9 South Carolina versus Daunte Maurice Johnson, the defendant,
10 one count of murder for Sharee Bradley, we, the jury,
11 unanimously find the defendant, Daunte Maurice Johnson,
12 guilty.

13 Count 2 of murder of Minor 1 . we, the jury,
14 unanimously find the defendant, Daunte Maurice Johnson,
15 guilty.

16 Count 3 as possession of a weapon during the commission
17 of a violent crime, to the witness -- murder of Sharee
18 Bradley, we, the jury, unanimously find the defendant,
19 Daunte Maurice Johnson, guilty.

20 Count 4. The possession of a weapon during the
21 commission of a violent crime, to wit, the murder of Minor 1
22 , we, the jury, unanimously find the defendant, Daunte
23 Maurice Johnson, guilty.

24 I certify that this is the unanimous decision by the
25 jurors. Charles P. Pogue, the foreperson. Dated 6/24/2022.

1 The verdict has been read, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

3 Anything before I release the jury on behalf of the
4 State?

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing from the State.

6 THE COURT: Behalf of defense?

7 MS. NEYLE: We just ask that you poll the jury.

8 THE COURT: Okay. If you'd poll the jury please, sir.

9 THE BAILIFF: May I please the Court once again, Your
10 Honor.

11 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I will be calling
12 your name and your juror number. All I'll ask is a yes and
13 a no answer.

14 Juror Number 30 -- 136, Shawanna Moyer, is this your
15 verdict, yes or no?

16 THE JUROR: Yes.

17 THE BAILIFF: And still your verdict?

18 THE JUROR: Yes.

19 THE BAILIFF: Juror Number 130, Mike McCloud, is this
20 your verdict and still your verdict?

21 THE JUROR: Yes.

22 THE BAILIFF: Juror Number 2, Rebecca Austin, is this
23 your verdict and still your verdict?

24 THE JUROR: Yes.

25 THE BAILIFF: Juror Number 37, Betty Collis, is this

1 your verdict and still your verdict?

2 THE JUROR: Yes.

3 THE BAILIFF: Juror Number 10, Geonna Bennett, is this
4 your verdict and still your verdict?

5 THE JUROR: Yes.

6 THE BAILIFF: Juror Number 86, Doreen Holmes, is this
7 your verdict and still your verdict?

8 THE JUROR: Yes.

9 THE BAILIFF: Juror Number 125, Bertha McCain, is this
10 your verdict and still your verdict?

11 THE JUROR: Yes.

12 THE BAILIFF: Juror Number 134, Corey B. Mitchell, is
13 this your verdict and still your verdict?

14 THE JUROR: Yes.

15 THE BAILIFF: Juror Number 203, Victoria Webster, is
16 this your verdict and still your verdict?

17 THE JUROR: Yes.

18 THE BAILIFF: Juror Number 218, Terry Colier, is this
19 your verdict and still your verdict?

20 THE JUROR: Yes.

21 THE BAILIFF: Juror Number 25, Michael Catastoff, is
22 this your verdict and still your verdict?

23 THE JUROR: Yes.

24 THE BAILIFF: Juror Number 152, Charles P. Pogue, is
25 this your verdict and still your verdict?

1 THE JUROR: Yes.

2 THE BAILIFF: Your Honor, the jury has been polled.

3 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

4 (WHEREUPON, the jury was dismissed at this time.)

5 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Mr. Solicitor.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Please the Court, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Your Honor, we've handed up the
9 sentencing sheets for the Court to pass sentence on
10 Mr. Johnson. I do have one or two family members that would
11 like to address the Court.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Then we have some background
14 information on Mr. Johnson we'd like to pass up to the
15 Court.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Before I get there, let me talk to
17 the defense. I should recognize them too.

18 Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor. At this time I would
20 respectfully renew all prior motions and objections made
21 during this trial and make a motion for a new trial, Your
22 Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay. And I respectfully deny your motion.
24 I think that the jury has reached a verdict in this case
25 based on the evidence and I'll deny your motion to that

1 extent.

2 MS. NEYLE: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. solicitor, I'll be glad to hear
4 anybody you want to address me and, and whatever background
5 information you have on this defendant.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: This is Ms. Lisa Nelson. This is
7 the mother of Sharee Bradley.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MS. NELSON: I am the mother of Sharee Bradley and I'm
10 the grandmother of Minor 1.

11 He did a terrible thing when he took my daughter and my
12 granddaughter. Only a coward would do such a thing to take
13 my daughter's life like a thief in the night. She couldn't
14 even defend herself.

15 My God says that I have to forgive him for what he did
16 to my child and my granddaughter if I want to see my God one
17 day and for that I will. But I'll never forget for what he
18 did to my daughter and my granddaughter. But I want him to
19 spend the rest of his life in prison for what he did to my
20 daughter and my granddaughter and I never want him to see
21 daylight again. That's all I have to say.

22 Thank you. Thank you, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Yes. Thank you, ma'am, and I'm so sorry
24 you had to go through this.

25 MR. LONNON: Your Honor, my name is Christopher Lonnon.

1 I'm the oldest brother of Sharee Bradley and uncle to Minor 1

2 .

3 I can't express to you the hurt, the pain, the void,
4 the absence my sister and my niece, the constant thinking
5 about how my nephew had to go and discover his mother the
6 way he did and have to live with that the rest of his life
7 repeatedly over and over and over again and the reason for
8 all that is this gentleman behind us.

9 His actions been deplorable, despicable, wicked, weak,
10 less than a human. There's, there's no human in him. I
11 have my own personal thoughts and ideas of what I think
12 should become of him but I can't supersede my mom. I don't
13 think he should ever see the light of day again ever.

14 It's bad enough my tax dollars gonna have to take care
15 of this sorry individual. I can sit here all day but I, I
16 beg you to hand down a just punishment for this.

17 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

18 MR. LONNON: Thank you.

19 MR. ADAMS: I'm Dupray Adams. I'm Minor 1's father.
20 Right now I speak with a voice of my daughter.

21 why?

22 why?

23 All the chances and opportunities in the world is gone.
24 I can't grow up. I can't have birthday parties. I can't go
25 to school. I won't be able to graduate.

1 I know you probably don't care and I really didn't want
2 to get up here and give you the satisfaction of seeing me
3 hurt. But this is what you have done to me and my family.
4 My daughter, she misses her sister. She has to play by
5 herself. She has to make new friends just so she can have
6 someone to play with.

7 She tells me all the time she wishes her sister was
8 home. But sometimes in her I can see my daughter in the
9 things she do, the things she desire to do to remember her
10 sister.

11 I forgive you, man. That's the only way that I can go
12 on. That's the only way I can be free from anything that I
13 have on the inside is to forgive you. It hurts but this is
14 how I'm able to move on. I pray that you've found God in
15 your life because, right now, that's what you gonna need to
16 go on.

17 I don't wish for you to die. I wish for you to feel
18 everyday what we felt. I wish this never happened. I wish
19 that my daughter could sit on my lap like she use to and
20 play with my earlobe. It was like that was the only way she
21 knew she was safe. But she's resting in peace with her
22 mother now and I will be able to see them again.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. ROARK: If it please the Court, Your Honor. I'm
25 Russell Roark. I'm the police chief here in Sumter and

1 thank you for giving me the opportunity to come up and speak
2 to you for just a moment.

3 THE COURT: Yes, sir, chief.

4 MR. ROARK: I would akin this to, as a child, my
5 grandparents would talk about December 7th, 1941. That day
6 marked in their mind when Pearl Harbor was bombed and they
7 started in World War II, and I think, generationally, for
8 our generation, 9/11 brings back thoughts to a lot of
9 people. It's branded into our mind of some tragic event
10 that happened in our nation and, Your Honor, I would submit
11 that August the 5th of 2019 marked this community.

12 A gentleman decided to, to perpetrate one of the most
13 heinous crimes in, in my many years of service in law
14 enforcement and the many years of service of some of the
15 most seasoned investigators we have.

16 From August the 8th until October the 18th we were
17 searching for Minor 1 . Ms. Sharee Bradley was
18 violently murdered in her home and we were searching in a
19 way that none of us would ever thought we would be doing.

20 Pulled resources across from this state and spent five
21 weeks in a landfill. Some of the things that, that was not
22 heard during the testimony relative to the search was, based
23 off the mathematical formula that we had from the National,
24 National Missing Center for Exploited Children, that our
25 best window to recover remains would be five weeks, and it

1 was to the day -- the day we discovered her October the
2 18th was five weeks.

3 We received confirmation that evening from SLED that it
4 was, in fact, that the remains we had discovered were
5 Minor 1. We got together, came as a group, and, on October
6 the 22nd of 2019, to speak to this community. That
7 happened to be her birthday. On her sixth birthday we spoke
8 to the community about the violent death by which she
9 suffered.

10 Your Honor, we're at a portion of the trial that is
11 totally to the courts relative to the sentencing that
12 Mr. Johnson will be handed down based off a decision he
13 made, and, Your Honor, we would ask, in a respectfully way,
14 that Mr. Johnson receive a life sentence for each, for each
15 life that he has taken based off the decision he made on
16 August the 5th of 2019.

17 Thank you, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, chief.

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Judge, I'd like to do three things.

20 Number 1. I'd like to thank the jury and I know
21 you-all have spent the week together. So you'll probably be
22 able to talk to some of the other members who had to leave.
23 But the State of South Carolina, the officers, all of the
24 people that work downstairs that don't get to come up in
25 court and help us with these cases, we all thank you for

1 your service and for your listening to all the evidence and
2 weighing the evidence and we really appreciate your, your
3 efforts in this, in this case.

4 The second thing I want to do, judge, is hand up two
5 documents. The first document is a list of the infractions
6 reported against Daunte Johnson since he's been arrested and
7 put in our jail here in Sumter. You will see that it is a
8 very thick package.

9 The next package I want to hand up is a email document
10 that we got from St. Louis, Missouri where he has pending
11 charges of involuntary manslaughter, possession of a weapon,
12 and stealing a vehicle. Those charges are open on him now
13 and he will be facing those charges when he leaves South
14 Carolina if he does ever leave South Carolina.

15 Those charges arose about a month before the death of
16 Sharee and Minor1. They involved the death of a young woman
17 in St. Louis who was, according to the inform -- the
18 information we have was shot and killed by Mr. Johnson. He
19 then took her car and left Missouri and came to South
20 Carolina where he was basically hiding out from St. Louis
21 officials and -- when Sharee was killed, all of this
22 information came to light.

23 We think the State has proven that he's a dangerous
24 individual, individual. We think he acts without thinking
25 about the impact on others and you've got family members,

1 police officers, and, and members of the community in tears
2 today because of the amount of impact he's had on their
3 lives. You also have, as was spoken to by some of the
4 family members, the little man, ^{Minor 2}, who was left upstairs,
5 has being carrying a tremendous burden since he discovered
6 his mother and he is in fear, I am told, that he is going to
7 be the next victim, that Mr. Johnson will get out of prison
8 and kill him.

9 And for all those things that I'm telling you, I'm
10 asking you, on behalf of the State of South Carolina, to
11 impose the maximum sentence on both of the murder charges.

12 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, sir.

14 THE COURT: Ms. Neyle.

15 MS. NEYLE: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 Mr. Johnson is 30 years old. He'll be 31 years old in
17 July.

18 As of today, he spent 1,055 days in jail. He's
19 originally from St. Louis. He has a ninth grade education
20 and he's worked as a painter in a Rent-A-Center. He has
21 family in Charlotte and he's, he's very close with them,
22 judge.

23 Even though Mr. Johnson is competent as he stands
24 before you and as he stood throughout his trial, he does
25 have a history of mental illness. He, he suffered abuse as

1 a child, which I think has formed quite a bit of pain that
2 has led into his adulthood, Your Honor. He's a father to
3 two children and, and, judge, I, I understand what the
4 family's asking, what the State is asking.

5 Mr. Johnson would ask for, for some form of mercy, to,
6 to punish him, but also to give him the opportunity to
7 rehabilitate, rehabilitate his life and make something of
8 it.

9 Thank you, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

11 (Pause.)

12 THE COURT: Okay. On Count 1 of the Indictment
13 2019-GS-43-0916, for murder, Sharee Brad -- Bradley, it's
14 the sentence of the Court is you're committed to the State
15 Department of Corrections for a term of your natural life.

16 On Count 2, murder of Miss Adams, the sentence of the
17 Court is you're committed to the State Department of
18 Corrections for the term of your natural life. That is to
19 run consecutive with Count 1.

20 On Count 3 is five years to run consecutive to Counts 1
21 and 2 and, on Count 4, the sentence is five years to run
22 consecutive to all other counts.

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: May it please the Court?

24 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: May we approach?

1 MS. NEYLE: Yes.

2 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held at this time.)

3 THE COURT: Okay. That's the sentence of the Court.

4 Mr. Johnson, I think the act -- your actions in this
5 case deserve a life sentence. It is no reason to murder
6 anybody but especially no reason to murder a five year old
7 child.

8 I hope some time in the rest of your life in prison
9 you'll be able to deal with what you've done, and as the
10 family have said, somehow rectify your life and have some
11 remorse of what you've done. And I hope that each year on
12 this little girl's birthday you will think about her and
13 think what impact she's had on your life and how you've
14 improved your life as a result of this.

15 Court's adjourned.

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

17

18 * * *END OF REQUESTED TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD* * *

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

JUVENILE SKELETON VISUAL RECORDING FORM
a. CHILD ANTERIOR VIEW

Series/Burial/Skeleton 2019-003101

Observer/Date VD 5 10/31/19

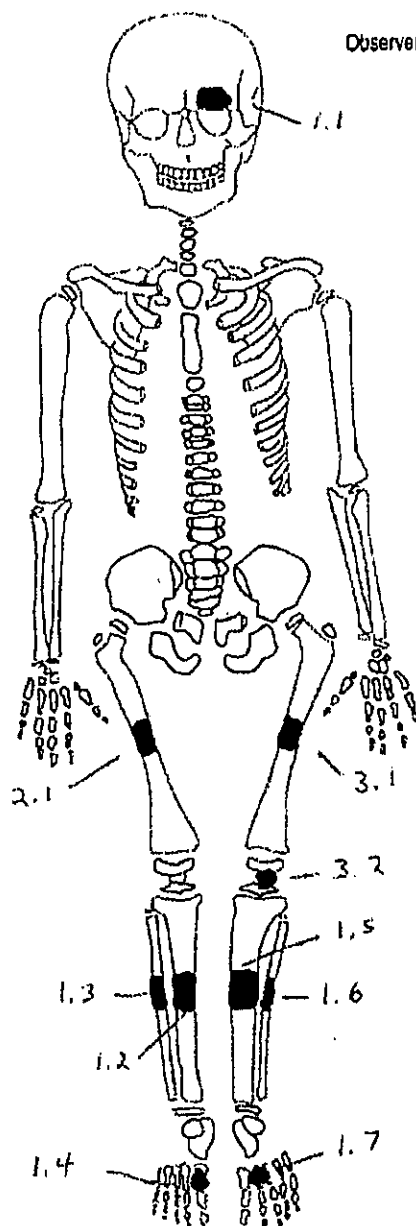
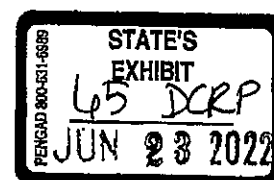


Diagram 2. DNA sampling locations for submission to SLED DNA lab.



JUVENILE SKELETON VISUAL RECORDING FORM
a. CHILD ANTERIOR VIEW

Series/Burial/Skeleton 2019.003101

Observer/Date WDS 10/31/19

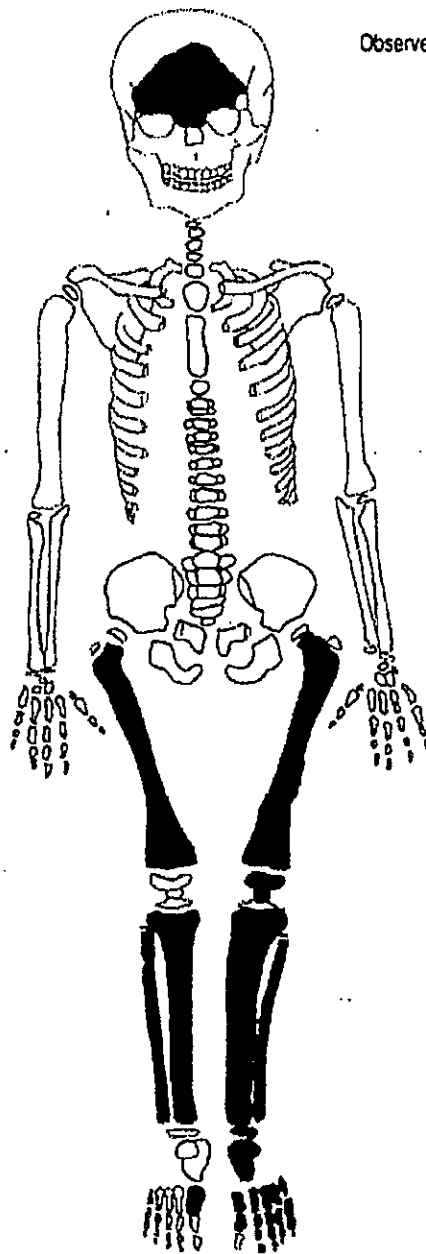


Diagram 1. Recovered portions of the skeletal remains.



WITNESSES

John D. Melton
Jeffery B. Hansen
Sumter Police Dept.

DOCKET NO. 2019-GS-43-0916

The State of South Carolina

County of SUMTER

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

OCTOBER TERM 2019

THE STATE

vs.

DAUNTE MAURICE JOHNSON

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2019A4310200715 2019A4320100658
2019A4320100660 2019A4320100661

Indictment for

Murder (2 Counts);
Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime (2
Counts)

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

Foreperson of Grand Jury
Date:

10-3-19

VERDICT

TRUE BILL

Foreperson of Petit Jury
Date:

Ernest A. Finney III

ERNEST A. FINNEY, III, SOLICITOR

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

INDICTMENT FOR

COUNTY OF SUMTER)

Murder (2 Counts);
Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime (2 Counts)

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on October 3, 2019 the Grand Jurors of SUMTER County present upon their oath:

COUNT ONE - MURDER

That Daunte Maurice Johnson did in Sumter County, on or about August 5, 2019, willfully, feloniously, and intentionally kill the victim, Sharee Bradley, with malice aforethought, either express or implied, by means of beating and/or stabbing the victim, and the victim did die as a proximate result thereof, in violation of §16-03-0010, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

COUNT TWO - MURDER

That Daunte Maurice Johnson did in Sumter County, on or about August 5, 2019, willfully, feloniously, and intentionally kill the victim, Minor 1 , with malice aforethought, either express or implied, by means of beating and/or stabbing the victim, and the victim did die as a proximate result thereof, in violation of §16-03-0010, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

COUNT THREE - POSSESSION OF A WEAPON DURING THE COMMISSION OF A VIOLENT CRIME

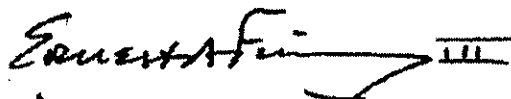
That Daunte Maurice Johnson did in Sumter County, on or about August 5, 2019, possess a firearm, or visibly display what appeared to be a firearm, or visibly displayed a knife, during the commission or attempted commission of a violent crime, to wit; The Murder of Sharee Bradley, in violation of §16-23-0490, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

COUNT FOUR - POSSESSION OF A WEAPON DURING THE COMMISSION OF A VIOLENT CRIME

That Daunte Maurice Johnson did in Sumter County, on or about August 5, 2019, possess a firearm, or visibly display what appeared to be a firearm, or visibly displayed a knife, during the commission or attempted commission of a violent crime, to wit; The Murder of Minor 1 , in violation of §16-23-0490, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.

Solicitor



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF Sumter

STATE

VS.

Daunte Maurice Johnson

AKA:

Race: Black Sex: M Age: 30DOB: 1991 SS#: [REDACTED]Address: Monroe Rd Apt [REDACTED]City, State, Zip: Charlotte, NC 28212DL#* [REDACTED] SID# [REDACTED]

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2019-GS-43-0916 CT1AW#: 2019A4310200715Date of Offense: 8/5/2019S.C. Code §: 16-03-0010CDR Code #: 0116

SENTENCE SHEET

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was ☐ CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADSTO: Murder / MurderIn violation of § 16-03-0010 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0116
☐ NON-VIOLENT ☐ VIOLENT ☐ SERIOUS ☐ MOST SERIOUS ☐ Mandatory GPS ☐ § 17-25-45
 (CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)

 The charge is: ☐ As indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury. [REDACTED] (def.'s initials)
The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☐ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

SCB100635

Solicitor

SC Bar #

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant

SC Bar #

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the ☒ State Department of Correction ☐ County Detention Center,for a determinate term of Lifedays/months/years/Time Served ☐ Youthful Offender Act not to exceed yearsand/or to pay a fine of \$; provided that upon the service of days/months/years/Time Served and or paymentof \$; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run

☐ CONCURRENT or ☐ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: ☐ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDOC. days/months☐ To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.☐ The Defendant Shall be Released from County Detention Center.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922 and § 16-25-30 it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of § 16-25-20 or § 16-25-65 (Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

STATE VS. Daunte Maurice Johnson INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2019-GS-43-0916

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ PTUP after _____ months/years

And Other Terms Listed Below:

- ☐ Substance Abuse Counseling ☐ Completion of GED ☐ Random Drug/Alcohol Testing
- ☐ Attend Voc. Rehab. Or Job Corp ☐ No Contact with Victim ☐ Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- ☐ Mental Health Counseling ☐ May serve W/E beginning: _____
- ☐ Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430 ☐ Public Service Employment _____ days/hours
- ☐ Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135.
- ☐ Other: _____

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

Total \$_____ plus 20% fee: _____ \$_____

Payment Terms: _____ ☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient: _____

*Fine:

Fine may be pd. in equal consecutive weekly/monthly pmts. of \$_____ Beginning _____	\$_____
§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)	\$_____
§14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge)	\$100
§14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)	\$100
§56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)	\$12
§56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)	\$25
§14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)	\$25
§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)	\$150
§34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)	\$41
§50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)	\$50
§56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)	\$40/ea
3% to County (if paid in installments)	TBD
☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees	\$500
☐ § 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund	TBD
TOTAL	\$_____

Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk: James C. Campbell II
Court Reporter: Sherron JonesPresiding Judge: [Signature]
Judge Code: 7144
Sentence Date: June 24, 2022

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF Sumter

STATE

VS.

Daunte Maurice Johnson

AKA:

Race: Black Sex: M Age: 30DOB: 1991 SS#: [REDACTED]Address: Monroe Rd Apt [REDACTED]City, State, Zip: Charlotte, NC 28212DL#* [REDACTED] SID# [REDACTED]

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2019-GS-43-0916 CT2AW#: 2019A4320100658Date of Offense: 8/5/2019S.C. Code §: 16-03-0010CDR Code #: 0116

SENTENCE SHEET

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was ☐ CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADSTO: Murder / MurderIn violation of § 16-03-0010 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0116☐ NON-VIOLENT ☐ VIOLENT ☐ SERIOUS ☐ MOST SERIOUS ☐ Mandatory GPS ☐ § 17-25-45(CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)The charge is: ☐ As indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury. (def.'s initials)The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☐ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

SCB100635

Solicitor SC Bar # Defendant Attorney for Defendant SC Bar #

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the ☒ State Department of Correction ☐ County Detention Center,for a determinate term of Life without Parole days/months/years/Time Served ☐ Youthful Offender Act not to exceed yearsand/or to pay a fine of \$; provided that upon the service of days/months/years/Time Served and or paymentof \$; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run

☒ CONCURRENT or ☒ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: CT1☐ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDOC. days/months☐ To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.☐ The Defendant Shall be Released from County Detention Center.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922 and § 16-25-30 It is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of § 16-25-20 or § 16-25-65 (Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

STATE VS. Daunte Maurice Johnson INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2019-GS-43-0916

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ PTUP after _____ months/years

And Other Terms Listed Below:

- ☐ Substance Abuse Counseling ☐ Completion of GED ☐ Random Drug/Alcohol Testing
- ☐ Attend Voc. Rehab. Or Job Corp ☐ No Contact with Victim ☐ Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- ☐ Mental Health Counseling ☐ May serve W/E beginning: _____
- ☐ Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430 ☐ Public Service Employment _____ days/hours
- ☐ Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135.
- ☐ Other: _____

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

Total \$ _____ plus 20% fee: _____ \$ _____

Payment Terms: _____ ☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient: _____

*Fine:

Fine may be pd. in equal consecutive weekly/monthly pmts. of	\$ _____	Beginning	_____	\$ _____
§14-1-208 (Assessments 107.5%)				\$ _____
§14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge)			\$100	\$ _____
§14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)			\$100	\$ _____
§58-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)			\$12	\$ _____
§58-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)			\$25	\$ _____
§14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)			\$25	\$ _____
§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)			\$150	\$ _____
§34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)			\$41	\$ _____
§50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)			\$50	\$ _____
§58-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)			\$40/ea	\$ _____
3% to County (if paid in installments)			TBD	\$ _____
☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees			\$500	\$ _____
☐ § 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund			TBD	\$ _____
			TOTAL	\$ _____

Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk: _____
Court Reporter: _____James C. Campbell
Shem JonesPresiding Judge: _____
Judge Code: _____
Sentence Date: _____James C. Campbell
2144
6-24-22

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF Sumter

STATE

vs.

Daunte Maurice Johnson

AKA:

Race: Black Sex: M Age: 30

DOB: [REDACTED] 1991 SS#: [REDACTED]

Address: Monroe Rd Apt

City, State, Zip: Charlotte, NC 28212

DL#* [REDACTED] SID# [REDACTED]

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2019-GS-43-0916

AW#: 2019A4320100661 C-3

Date of Offense: 8/5/2019

S.C. Code §: 16-23-0490

CDR Code #: 0549

SENTENCE SHEET

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was ☐ CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADS

TO: Weapons / Poss. weapon during violent crime, if not also sentenced to life without parole or death

In violation of § 16-23-0490 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0549

☐ NON-VIOLENT ☐ VIOLENT ☐ SERIOUS ☐ MOST SERIOUS ☐ Mandatory GPS ☐ § 17-25-45
(CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)

The charge is: ☐ As indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury. _____ (def.'s initials)

The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☐ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

SCB100635

Solicitor

SC Bar #

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant

SC Bar #

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the ☒ State Department of Correction ☐ County Detention Center.

for a determinate term of 3 days/months/years/Time Served ☐ Youthful Offender Act not to exceed _____ years

and/or to pay a fine of \$____; provided that upon the service of ____ days/months/years/Time Served and or payment

of \$____; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for _____

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run

☒ CONCURRENT or ☒ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on:

☐ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDOC.
_____ days/months

☐ To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.

☐ The Defendant Shall be Released from County Detention Center.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922 and § 16-25-30 it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of § 16-25-20 or § 16-25-65 (Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

STATE VS. Daunte Maurice Johnson INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2019-GS-43-0916

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ PTUP after _____ months/years

And Other Terms Listed Below:

- ☐ Substance Abuse Counseling ☐ Completion of GED ☐ Random Drug/Alcohol Testing
- ☐ Attend Voc. Rehab. Or Job Corp ☐ No Contact with Victim ☐ Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- ☐ Mental Health Counseling ☐ May serve W/E beginning: _____
- ☐ Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430 ☐ Public Service Employment _____ days/hours
- ☐ Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135.
- ☐ Other: _____

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

Total \$ _____ plus 20% fee: _____ \$ _____

Payment Terms: _____ ☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient: _____

*Fine:

Fine may be pd. in equal consecutive weekly/monthly pmts. of \$ _____ Beginning _____		\$ _____
\$14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)		\$ _____
\$14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge)	\$100	\$ _____
\$14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)	\$100	\$ _____
\$56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)	\$12	\$ _____
\$56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)	\$25	\$ _____
\$14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)	\$25	\$ _____
\$14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)	\$150	\$ _____
\$34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)	\$41	\$ _____
\$50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)	\$50	\$ _____
\$56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)	\$40/ea	\$ _____
3% to County (if paid in installments)	TBD	\$ _____
☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Provision requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees	\$500	\$ _____
☐ § 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund	TBD	\$ _____
	TOTAL	\$ _____

Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk: James C. Campbell
Court Reporter: Shemi JonesPresiding Judge: [Signature]
Judge Code: 3144
Sentence Date: June 24, 2022

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF Sumter

STATE

VS.

Daunte Maurice Johnson

AKA:

Race: Black Sex: M Age: 30DOB: 1991 SS#: [REDACTED]Address: Monroe Rd Apt [REDACTED]City, State, Zip: Charlotte, NC 28212DL#* [REDACTED] SID# [REDACTED]

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2019-GS-43-0916 - 274AW#: 2019A4320100660Date of Offense: 8/5/2019S.C. Code §: 16-23-0490CDR Code #: 0549

SENTENCE SHEET

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐In disposition of the above Indictment comes now the Defendant who was ☐ CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADSTO: Weapons / Poss. weapon during violent crime, if not also sentenced to life without parole or deathIn violation of § 16-23-0490 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0549
☐ NON-VIOLENT ☐ VIOLENT ☐ SERIOUS ☐ MOST SERIOUS ☐ Mandatory GPS ☐ § 17-25-45
 (CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)

 The charge is: ☐ As indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives
 Presentment to Grand Jury. [REDACTED] (def.'s initials)
The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☐ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

SCB100635

Solicitor _____ SC Bar # _____ Defendant _____ Attorney for Defendant _____ SC Bar # _____

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the ☒ State Department of Correction ☐ County Detention Center,for a determinate term of 5 days/months/years/Time Served ☐ Youthful Offender Act not to exceed yearsand/or to pay a fine of \$; provided that upon the service of days/months/years/Time Served and or paymentof \$; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run

☒ CONCURRENT or ☒ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: 15'2
☐ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDOP.
 days/months
☐ To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.☐ The Defendant Shall be Released from County Detention Center.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922 and § 16-25-30 it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of § 16-25-20 or § 16-25-65 (Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

STATE VS. Daunte Maurice Johnson INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2019-GS-43-0916

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ PTUP after _____ months/years

And Other Terms Listed Below:

- ☐ Substance Abuse Counseling ☐ Completion of GED ☐ Random Drug/Alcohol Testing
- ☐ Attend Voc. Rehab. Or Job Corp ☐ No Contact with Victim ☐ Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- ☐ Mental Health Counseling ☐ May serve W/E beginning: _____
- ☐ Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430 ☐ Public Service Employment _____ days/hours
- ☐ Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135.
- ☐ Other: _____

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

Total \$_____ plus 20% fee: _____ \$_____

Payment Terms: _____ ☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient: _____

*Fine:

Fine may be pd. in equal consecutive weekly/monthly pmts. of \$_____ Beginning _____

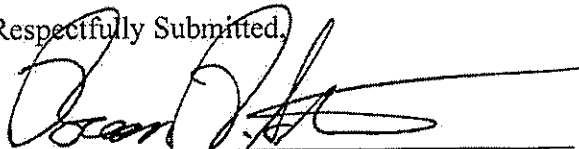
§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)		\$
§14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge)	\$100	\$
§14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)	\$100	\$
§56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)	\$12	\$
§56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)	\$25	\$
§14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)	\$25	\$
§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)	\$150	\$
§34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)	\$41	\$
§50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)	\$50	\$
§56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)	\$40/ea	\$
3% to County (if paid in installments)	TBD	\$
☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees	\$500	\$
☐ § 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund	TBD	\$
TOTAL		\$

Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk:
Court Reporter:James C. Campbell
Sherr JonesPresiding Judge:
Judge Code:
Sentence Date:H. James W. Campbell
2144
June 24, 2022

CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL FOR APPELLANT

Counsel for appellant certifies that this Record on Appeal contains all material proposed to be included by any of the parties and not any other material and that this Record on Appeal complies to the best of my ability with the April 15, 2014 order from the South Carolina Supreme Court entitled "Revised Order Concerning Personal Identifying Information and Other Sensitive Information in Appellate Court Filings."

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Breen R. Stevens", is written over a horizontal line.

Breen R. Stevens
Appellate Defender
South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense
Division of Appellate Defense
PO Box 11589
Columbia, SC 29211-1589

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

This 18th day of September, 2023.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Sumter County

Honorable R. Ferrell Cothran, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT

V.

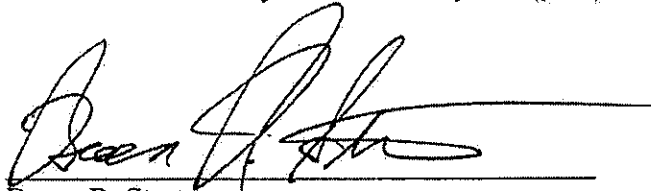
DAUNTE MAURICE JOHNSON,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2022-000931

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Rule 262(a)(3) and Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR, the undersigned hereby certifies a true copy of the Record on Appeal in the above-referenced case has been served upon J. Anthony Mabry, Esquire, at the primary email address listed within the Attorney Information System (AIS), this 18th day of September, 2023.



Breen R. Stevens

Appellate Defender

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense

Division of Appellate Defense

PO Box 11589

Columbia, S.C. 29211-1589

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

RECEIVED
Sep 18 2023
SC Court of Appeals