

VOL III OF III

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE SUPREME COURT

Appeal from Richland County
Robert E. Hood, Circuit Court Judge

CHRISTOPHER COMMANDER,

PETITIONER,

V.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

RESPONDENT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2014-002690

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INDEX

INDEX.....	i
TRIAL TRANSCRIPT (dated October 10-16, 2006).....	1
APPLICATION FOR POST-CONVICTION RELIEF	931
RETURN	938
POST-CONVICTION RELIEF HEARING TRANSCRIPT (dated September 2, 2014).....	945
ORDER OF DISMISSAL	1037
INDICTMENT	1058
APPLICANT’S EXHIBIT#1(FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST’S LETTER).....	1060
APPLICANT’S EXHIBIT#2 (AUTOPSY REPORT).....	1062
APPLICANT’S EXHIBIT#3 (FORENSIC REPORT)	1067
APPLICANT’S EXHIBIT#4 (PATHOLOGIST’S NOTES).....	1070
COURT’S EXHIBIT#1 (DR. COLLINS’S RESUME)	1077

1 Q Okay. So there was no evidence of suicide. No
2 evidence of any kind of accidental choking or anything
3 like that. In fact, I believe you asked on
4 cross-examination could it have been choking on a piece of
5 food.

6 A Right.

7 Q And they said no.

8 A Right.

9 Q And you actually asked on cross-examination could
10 this have been a natural death, and of course, Dr. Nichols
11 said he didn't believe so. He did say, though, that there
12 were no stab wounds. She had not been shot. There was no
13 evidence of being beaten or strangled.

14 A Correct.

15 Q Okay. So you also -- they also did a toxicology
16 report; is that right? Do you recall?

17 A I assume so. That's standard procedure, yes, ma'am.

18 Q Okay. And if you cross-examined them as to the fact
19 that there were no drugs or alcohol found in her
20 testimony --

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q -- then that means it was not the result of any kind
23 of overdose?

24 A That's as I remember. There was no -- there was no
25 cause of death that could be determined as far as I was

1 concerned.

2 Q Okay. And that's where, obviously, a large portion
3 of your argument with Dr. Nicols testifying and using the
4 word homicide and whether or not he could get into even
5 implying, I guess, that Mr. Commander had something to do
6 with this; is that right?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q Okay. In regards to that, was that your defense
9 strategy to kind of attack the findings of the pathologist
10 regarding cause of death?

11 A Certainly. Yes, ma'am. I think so.

12 Q Okay. So there was no alibi defense that you were
13 aware of.

14 A No.

15 Q And there was no -- in fact, I think you asked for a
16 self-defense jury charge based on his --

17 A No. That was based on Mr. Presley's --

18 Q Presley --

19 A -- contention that Mr. Commander had told him down at
20 the county jail that the decedent in this case had struck
21 him with a stick, and he defended himself.

22 Q But other than that, that was the only evidence or
23 testimony regarding self-defense.

24 A Correct.

25 Q So essentially, strategy is to attack the credibility

1 of the findings because there was no real evidence?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Okay.

4 A Other than the actions on the part of Mr. Commander
5 subsequent to that.

6 Q And that's what I was going to ask you about. In
7 regards to the evidence that the State had against him,
8 there was no direct evidence; is that right?

9 A Correct.

10 Q But there was substantial circumstantial evidence.

11 A Well, there was circumstantial evidence that he was
12 acting unusually after the incident.

13 Q Okay. And there was a statement that was made or
14 that the police in New Orleans said he made when they
15 arrested him; is that right?

16 A I'll take your word on that. I'm not...

17 Q Okay. The transcript reflects you cross-examining --
18 I believe there were about four or five investigators from
19 New Orleans, and he -- they claimed he said something
20 like, "I'm going to kill myself like I killed Bonnie"; is
21 that right?

22 A I remember they brought some people up from New
23 Orleans who testified in this trial, yes, ma'am.

24 Q And you attacked the statement's voluntariness and
25 whether or not it was actually said and how they could

1 have heard it?

2 A Okay.

3 Q You're just agreeing. If the transcript reflects it,
4 that's what happened?

5 A I asked the questions that are reflected in the
6 transcript.

7 Q Okay. In addition to that, there was a lot of
8 evidence about Mr. Commander's use of the victim's cell
9 phone?

10 A Cell phone, credit card, things like that.

11 Q And he was found with her -- her vehicle was found in
12 his possession --

13 A I believe.

14 Q -- at the hotel?

15 A I believe that's the case, yes, ma'am.

16 Q Okay. So in regards to trial strategy, there was not
17 much to do in that realm?

18 A I belief I termed his actions subsequent to her death
19 as reprehensible and morally repugnant but got nothing to
20 say about whether or not he killed her.

21 Q In fact, you argued during trial and closing that
22 motive or intent and malice that was required, they
23 couldn't prove just because he did anything at the end?

24 A Correct.

25 Q And, in fact, I think Ms. Goldberg was asking you

1 about the fact that you did not ask about the -- or make a
2 mistrial motion on the fact that the State had
3 requested -- or the State had misstated the law having to
4 do with using the after events.

5 A Correct.

6 Q You did object to that originally, did you not?

7 A I did.

8 Q Okay. Now, when you -- as a rule, when you make a
9 mistrial motion, you generally consult with your client?

10 A No.

11 Q Okay. So that's done based on your legal experience
12 and knowledge?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q Is it also done based on how the trial has gone maybe
15 how well you think or what chances you have?

16 A It could -- that could play into it. I'm not saying
17 it played into it in this case.

18 Q Right. And the judge correctly stated the law.
19 Would you -- if it says in the transcript and, in fact, in
20 the appellate records, would you agree that --

21 A He did correctly state the law as I understand it.

22 Q Okay. So the court on the appellate level ruled that
23 he had cured any kind of mistake of law by the solicitor?

24 A That's my understanding, yes, ma'am.

25 Q Okay. In regards to the DNA, a couple of questions.

1 You testified that you weren't sure what happened. If you
2 could turn to page 879 in the transcript.

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q I know you said you couldn't recall why you would not
5 have objected to or tried to introduce the DNA. If you
6 could look at line five and read through the next couple
7 of lines.

8 A Right.

9 Q Does it appear that you didn't object because you
10 were trying to, I guess, attack the investigation and the
11 fact --

12 A Yes.

13 Q -- that they did not?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q So that would have been strategic on your part to not
16 introduce evidence to be defense side, lose last argument
17 but actually focus on the fact that they had failed to
18 really do anything.

19 A Correct; that's correct.

20 Q Okay. In regards to the investigation, I want to ask
21 you, obviously, you came in late on the case.

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Jeanette VanGinhoven -- we have three boxes of files,
24 so this is not work, necessarily, that you did in
25 preparation or research for work?

1 A That's correct.

2 Q For there was an investigator, wasn't there?

3 A Right, there was.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Lee Connelly worked the case.

6 Q Lee Connelly was only the case a while?

7 A She was, the notes reflect it, yes, ma'am.

8 Q In your review of the file, did you see where there
9 was a good deal of notes or communication between her and
10 Ms. VanGinhoven?

11 A Yes. Lee Connelly is a very competent private
12 investigator.

13 Q Okay. So with -- in preparation for trial, although
14 you might not have initially talked with her, what is your
15 standard procedure? Would you review research or notes
16 that had been done?

17 A Yes, yes, definitely.

18 Q So if Ms. VanGinhoven had done some investigation
19 about other cause of deaths, and I was going to say I
20 might take some time, Your Honor.

21 (Pause.)

22 (conferring with co-counsel.)

23 In review of the file, there was some - a lot of
24 research in there?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Are you familiar with or were you aware of the
2 research Ms. VanGinhoven had done on other possible deaths
3 including a fetus died in utero, sickle cell, measles,
4 rubella?

5 A I saw some material in there --

6 Q Okay.

7 A -- in regard to those items, yes.

8 Q Okay. So it does appear there had been some research
9 about other causes of death?

10 A There's a good deal of research, yes, ma'am.

11 Q But in your review, the fact that nothing was
12 presented to the trial necessarily about that, does that
13 mean that there wasn't much merit --

14 A Yes.

15 Q -- to those? Same thing having to do with this Lyle
16 evidence, if there was some research having to do with
17 Lyle evidence and notes having to do with this possible
18 CDV, is it possible that you thought it would draw more
19 attention to the CDV arrest instead of object to it?

20 A Many things are possible.

21 Q Okay.

22 A I cannot testify that that was a reason or that I had
23 a reason for not objecting to it.

24 Q Right. Because you just said in looking at it right
25 now, you can't think of anything.

1 A No.

2 Q But is it possible -- or in this situation with all
3 the evidence, is that something you generally would want
4 to attack is a jailhouse snitch saying, "Oh, he was picked
5 up on a CDV," even if there was no arrest or convictions,
6 no actual convictions, excuse me.

7 A You know, as you raise it, why ring the bell again,
8 that's a possibility.

9 Q Okay.

10 A The attack is on the fact that he was a jailhouse
11 snitch, and he was snitching on everyone he possibly could
12 as I remember it.

13 Q You presented -- you did a pretty in-depth cross on
14 everything from his motives for doing that and his desire
15 to get a reduced sentence to all the other charges he had;
16 is that right?

17 A I hope so.

18 Q Okay. And if the record reflects it, you did. He
19 had numerous, I think, truthfulness convictions and went
20 through a pretty long discussion of that.

21 One moment, Your Honor.

22 (Pause.)

23 In regards to the appellate opinion, have you -- are
24 you familiar with their ruling?

25 A I reviewed those, both the Court of Appeals and the

1 Supreme Court.

2 Q And both of the courts found that it was substantial
3 circumstantial evidence or overwhelming circumstantial
4 evidence.

5 A I believe overwhelming is the term they used, yes,
6 ma'am.

7 Q Yes. Okay. So any issues that they found that could
8 have possibly been errors they ruled were harmless; is
9 that right?

10 A That's correct. I'm not saying I agree with their
11 ruling --

12 Q Right.

13 A -- but that's the ruling.

14 Q But that was the finding?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 MS. WHITE: Okay. Your Honor, that's all I have at
17 this time.

18 THE COURT: Anything else?

19 MS. GOLDBERG: Briefly.

20 REDIRECT EXAMINATION:

21 BY MS. GOLDBERG:

22 Q Mr. Strickler, those appellate courts can only rule
23 on issues that are preserved; correct?

24 A That's correct.

25 (Pause.)

1 MS. GOLDBERG: That's all, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Have a good day.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

4 THE COURT: All right. Call your next witness.

5 MS. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, at this time the applicant
6 rests as far as evidence is concerned, and then we would
7 submit argument at the appropriate time.

8 MS. WHITE: The State has no witnesses, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead.

10 MS. GOLDBERG: Thank you, Your Honor. I will go
11 through the amended application just in order to make
12 things easy for everyone.

13 The first issue, obviously, does involve the
14 pathologist. Here the problem that we have is as
15 Mr. Strickler and the Attorney General pointed out, this
16 was a circumstantial case.

17 There was an expert. We had submitted -- presented
18 expert testimony today stating that it should not have
19 been ruled as a homicide. It should have been an
20 undetermined death.

21 She was also able to present multiple other possible
22 causes of death, none of which were presented at trial.
23 The only one I think the attorney general will agree with
24 me that I recall being presented at trial was the
25 possibility of choking which would go along the lines of

1 asphyxia. None related to the pregnancy, possible
2 bleeding, hemorrhaging, preeclampsia, anything like that.

3 So the problem in this case is that the appellate
4 opinions were -- the Supreme Court appellate opinion
5 really looked at the issues with the expert. They did
6 look at the first one which was whether they can testify
7 regarding manner of death, when it's based upon mostly
8 anecdotal history.

9 The appellate court said in certain circumstances,
10 it's okay. The line is crossed if the physician gives an
11 opinion outside of his medical expertise where he in
12 reality is only using the circumstantial evidence
13 available to the jury.

14 I mean, in this particular case in the trial on page
15 575, for the record, Mr. Strickler asked, "Specifically,
16 from a medical point of view from the condition of the
17 body itself, what is there to support homicide as opposed
18 to natural cause of death?" The answer was the lack of
19 findings. The doctor did not have that scientific basis.

20 Now, that was argued as much as possible given the
21 fact that there wasn't an expert called to rebut that.
22 That's all the appellate court had to view, but what we
23 have shown today is that there is an expert out there who
24 could have testified.

25 Her opinion is that Dr. -- there's two ways to look

1 at that. Mr. Strickler's office did consult an expert
2 pathologist. They did make that attempt.

3 Dr. -- my doctor today whose name escapes me...

4 Dr. Collins stated that her review of the notes, she
5 thinks they agreed. Dr. Strickler -- I mean
6 Mr. Strickler's opinion in looking at it says they may
7 have been different.

8 Mr. Strickler didn't speak with Dr. Condrati. Either
9 way we know there was an expert who should have been
10 determined. Dr. Nichols was invading the province of the
11 jury by making his decision solely on a lack of medical
12 findings mixed with anecdotal history.

13 THE COURT: How many experts are you supposed to go
14 through until you stop? That's my question.

15 MS. GOLDBERG: That's a good question, and I think
16 part of that is there is a confusion and a lack of
17 evidence in this hearing as to what Dr. Condrati actually
18 said because Mr. Strickler didn't actually talk to her.

19 He just -- he just took word of mouth from
20 Ms. VanGinhoven what her analysis, belief of the
21 conversation was, looked at her notes, never called her
22 himself, never talked to her himself.

23 They had retained an expert, Dr. Condrati, never
24 asked her to sit with them during closings, during the
25 trial itself to make sure that Dr. Nicol's testimony was

1 accurate, so that would be our opinion.

2 Further, the appellate court looked at the definition
3 of homicide. In the trial, Dr. Nichols testified that a
4 homicide was a death caused at the hands of another person
5 that's not accidental.

6 To a jury, I would submit that means it has to be
7 intentional. I don't think a juror would know any other
8 option of what that would be. Even Dr. Collins today said
9 really the difference they're looking at is if there was
10 some sort of intentional act, even if the killing wasn't
11 intentional, nobody explained that to the jury.

12 Mr. Strickler did not request any further instruction
13 from the court when he could have. In the appellate court
14 opinion, they define homicide completely differently by
15 using Blacks Law Dictionary, something as simple as that,
16 something Mr. Strickler had access to.

17 They defined it. I'm going to grab it here because
18 it's marked and easier to look at. The Supreme Court
19 defined it as -- that someone died by the act, procurement
20 or omission of another without regards to the criminality
21 of the killing or the culpability of the killer.

22 That is extremely different from just defining a
23 homicide as an act caused by another and then saying that
24 it wasn't accidental. So I think that the jury -- there
25 was not sufficient evidence presented to the jury as far

1 as that the -- or a sufficient definition.

2 I think Court said they were willing to provide a
3 jury instruction on the issue. Mr. Strickler never asked
4 for it. I asked him why. He said he doesn't know. I
5 think that should have been cleared up.

6 I think -- I think for all of this combined, the jury
7 wasn't given the correct definition of homicide.
8 Regardless of that definition, there was still no
9 scientific evidence of a homicide. All those things
10 together would be our first -- our first allegation.

11 I think it may be easier for the court and each of us
12 if we go back and forth on each one and then go to the
13 next.

14 THE COURT: All right.

15 MS. WHITE: Your Honor, the State would argue that
16 the Applicant failed to meet his burden of proof as to
17 this issue.

18 Although expert testimony was presented in which they
19 said they believed the cause of death could have been
20 undetermined from looking at the rest of the evidence in
21 this situation, even if they had someone to contradict and
22 come in and say it's undetermined would be circumstantial
23 evidence. I don't believe there is any proof that the
24 outcome of the trial would have changed.

25 I think Mr. Strickler cross-examined Dr. Nichols

1 pretty substantially as to how he was going to present
2 this, argued about the fact that he was -- got him to say
3 he was not addressing intent at all.

4 So he was not addressing whether or not someone had
5 malice but just addressing the fact that there were a lack
6 of findings. So I think that the evidence that would have
7 come out, just as Dr. Collins testified today about
8 undetermined, obviously, was already kind of presented to
9 the court.

10 And although they're arguing it would have been
11 different act or omission, I think there is no question
12 that the state went through and had Dr. Nichols testify as
13 to what he thought the homicide was, question as to
14 whether or not there were any findings, and in this
15 situation there would not have been a different outcome
16 even if the defense had called an expert that said it was
17 undetermined.

18 THE COURT: All right. How do you get past the first
19 prong with Strickland in the expert witness? That's what
20 I don't understand.

21 MS. GOLDBERG: In a victim?

22 THE COURT: How do you get beyond the effect that the
23 norm -- the reasonable Norman standard? Now, if they
24 hadn't gone out and hired an expert and gotten an opinion
25 on a case with a decomposed body, I would say that

1 clearly -- that would be in violation of the first part of
2 Strickland, but they went out and hired an expert who
3 basically gave them almost the same opinion.

4 I don't know that's fully developed, but there's some
5 evidence that the notes from the attorney say basically,
6 "She is not going to help us at all." So how do we even
7 get past the first level of Strickland with the expert
8 witness?

9 MS. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, the notes actually -- for
10 your benefit, the notes are entered into evidence so, Your
11 Honor can --

12 THE COURT: I thought they said something about she
13 is going to be a witness against us or something like
14 that.

15 MS. GOLDBERG: Yes, Your Honor. Again, that was --
16 I'll just leave that for the Court to review to determine,
17 but that was Mr. Strickler's reading of the very brief
18 notes.

19 Dr. Collins -- obviously, neither one of them spoke
20 with Dr. Condrati personally. I contact a different
21 expert altogether because I didn't know if there would be
22 some problem or conflict present with retaining
23 Dr. Condrati for this, but Dr. Collins' review of those
24 notes thought they were accurate, and they are consistent
25 with what she testified to today.

1 I'll let -- you know, neither Dr. Collins nor Mr.
2 Strickler spoke with Dr. Condrati personally, so I'll let
3 the Court review those notes and make their own
4 determination.

5 Even with that being said, there is still the issue
6 of the definition of homicide which I think was -- should
7 have been more properly instructed to the jury.

8 THE COURT: And that's the solicitor's definition.
9 No, that's Dr. Nicols' definition.

10 MS. GOLDBERG: Right.

11 THE COURT: Not the judge's definition.

12 MS. GOLDBERG: The judge never...

13 THE COURT: The judge never defined homicide even
14 though he said, "Does anybody want me to define it?" Mr.
15 Strickler didn't say yes?

16 MS. GOLDBERG: Well, he said it at some point. He
17 was requested to instruct the jury as to the definition of
18 homicide. He would be willing to. Mr. Strickler never
19 took him up on that, never said, "I want that
20 instruction."

21 THE COURT: And that's all part of the legal argument
22 on how far Dr. Nichols can go and what he wants to say?

23 MS. GOLDBERG: Right and, you know, as today in the
24 PCR, we are just submitting that it could have been
25 challenged even further.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 All right. What's next?

3 MS. GOLDBERG: The next allegation we have is B.
4 Trial counsel failed to object to the Court's instruction
5 that malice may also arise when a deed is done with a
6 deadly weapon. This is a rather simple but I think all
7 are important allegations.

8 Your Honor is familiar with that jury instruction.
9 Malice can be inferred from use of a deadly weapon. Your
10 Honor is familiar with Belcher which is not at all related
11 to this case factually. It's a self-defense case.

12 THE COURT: The issue is here. There is no evidence
13 of any weapon.

14 MS. GOLDBERG: And that's my point. That is exactly
15 my point. I think that when -- I think what Belcher does
16 stand for, if nothing else, it stands for that instruction
17 can be improper based on the facts of the case.

18 In this particular case, I think it is improper.
19 There was never any allegation that any weapon was used,
20 be it a gun or be it a pillow. I think that instruction
21 has a tendency to mislead the jury, confuse the issues,
22 and it's inappropriate. There was no objection made.

23 MS. WHITE: Your Honor, I think in looking at the
24 instruction as a whole, which is the standard generally
25 when it's on appellate review, you know, even the line

1 directly before that says malice can be inferred from
2 conduct showing a total regard for human life.

3 I think that was appropriate. It's part of the
4 malice charge. I don't think when you look at it as a
5 whole -- he also talks about the fact that lying in wait
6 for a person or other acts of preparation are going to
7 show that may be expressed malice.

8 I think looking at it as a whole that there is
9 nothing that Mr. Strickler could have objected to legally
10 that would have affected the outcome of the hearing, so we
11 would ask that you find no deficiency.

12 THE COURT: All right. Next?

13 MS. GOLDBERG: All right. Your Honor, the next one
14 is the evidence of improper character evidence, evidence
15 of prior bad acts.

16 THE COURT: This is the CDV one?

17 MS. GOLDBERG: It is.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MS. GOLDBERG: It begins on page 608. The solicitor,
20 Mr. Meadors specifically says, "You mentioned earlier they
21 might strike each other every now and then."

22 Did he say anything else?

23 THE COURT: That's where Mr. Presley says --

24 MS. GOLDBERG: Mr. Presley says, "Yeah, he mentioned
25 they had fights. On occasions they had fights, and he

1 said she would lash out at time him. One time when he hit
2 her, he was arrested for domestic violence and that she
3 later dropped the charges, and they discharged him fairly
4 soon. That's specifically what was said.

5 THE COURT: There was no objection that.

6 MS. GOLDBERG: No objection whatsoever.

7 Mr. Strickler testified he should have objected. He had
8 no reason why he did not. It was not entered -- it's not
9 proper character evidence.

10 There was no attempt by the State to offer it in as
11 Lyle evidence. It's improper character evidence. State
12 v. German is a case basically -- it's a very short case.
13 It's factually different, but it's improper character
14 evidence that we're -- not objected to, and that lack
15 objection period was prejudicial, and the case was
16 overturned on PCR just because of -- improper character
17 evidence was not objected to.

18 THE COURT: What's the cite on that case?

19 MS. GOLDBERG: And further, Mr. Commander testified
20 today that wasn't even true. I suppose my argue would
21 mostly be even if --

22 THE COURT: It doesn't matter if it's true or not
23 true.

24 MS. GOLDBERG: Right.

25 THE COURT: All right. What's the State's response

1 to that?

2 MS. WHITE: Your Honor, although Mr. Strickler
3 testified he did not recall -- have any reason to object
4 to that at the time he reviewed, it. He also testified
5 it's possible that, you know, if you bring attention to it
6 by making an objection in this situation that it just kind
7 of adds weight to it and draws the jury's attention to it.

8 In this situation, obviously, there was testimony
9 that he was ever convicted of a CDV, and even if it is
10 deficient for failing to object to it in light of all the
11 other circumstantial evidence, we would argue that there
12 is no prejudice to him based on that.

13 MS. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, if I may respond. First
14 of all, I would submit that in a case like, that's
15 circumstantial that has a man charged with --

16 THE COURT: I got it. I got it. Your issue is --
17 the whole issue in this case is whether or not something
18 happened between the two of them talking about a prior bad
19 act.

20 MS. GOLDBERG: Because it's domestic violation.

21 THE COURT: And it being a domestic violence. I
22 mean, if this was strangers and they were talking about
23 something but this was --

24 MS. GOLDBERG: If this was a different type of prior
25 arrest.

1 THE COURT: Going directly to the nature of the
2 relationship.

3 MS. GOLDBERG: Exactly.

4 THE COURT: This is a case of -- where there is no
5 direct evidence of what he did or didn't do.

6 MS. GOLDBERG: Exactly. Those arrests -- maybe
7 Mr. Strickler would reasonably choose to look the other
8 way, but I don't think it was reasonable in this matter.
9 I did forget to point out, Your Honor --

10 THE COURT: I mean, if he said, "Yeah, he's been
11 guilty of -- he got arrested for public disorderly
12 conduct, what's the big deal?" But that goes directly to
13 the nature of the alleged relationship between
14 Mr. Commander and the victim.

15 MS. GOLDBERG: Yeah.

16 THE COURT: Which is -- in this case, there was no
17 direct evidence of who did what when because it's a
18 circumstantial evidence case.

19 MS. GOLDBERG: Precisely, and I forgot to point out
20 in the solicitor's closing argument, page 857 for the
21 record, Mr. Meadors states -- he is paraphrasing what
22 Mr. Commander allegedly said to Mr. Presley.

23 He says, quote, "We got in a fight. We had problems
24 before. I had a CDV, but she dropped it before, didn't
25 have to go through with it."

1 So I bring that up to point out with the Solicitor,
2 it wasn't that one time statement that was made. The
3 solicitor emphasized it in closing arguments. There was
4 still no objection.

5 At that point in time, I don't know what he could
6 have objected, but there was never an objection made. It
7 wasn't emphasized by the solicitor in closing.

8 MS. WHITE: Your Honor, can I make one more comment?

9 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

10 MS. WHITE: I think in this situation with
11 Mr. Presley being, you know, a quote unquote jailhouse
12 snitch, I think the biggest thing that Mr. Strickler did
13 was cross-examine him as to his truthfulness, and clearly,
14 he did a pretty substantial job of cross-examining him as
15 to all the things that he claims Mr. Commander told him
16 which part and parcel include this statement, and I think
17 that the question of his bias or his motive for saying all
18 these things, as well, as all of his convictions.

19 It's going to be the same, you know, the questioning
20 of the credibility, and it goes to the jury and allowed
21 him to believe if they believed him or not and the fact it
22 came back a verdict in about 30 minutes, I would say it's
23 clear that they did believe him.

24 THE COURT: All right. Next?

25 MS. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, as to my next allegation,

1 that's simply that Mr. Presley on page 604 for the record
2 testified, "In my opinion, I mean, I don't believe that
3 she hit him with a stick. I believe he just made this up
4 to lead me on. I don't believe that's true."

5 In general, the argument is simply that Mr. Presley
6 was not -- was allowed to testify regarding whether he
7 thought Mr. Commander was truthful or not. I know
8 Mr. Commander didn't testify. He was relating these
9 statements anyway, but it's always improper when one
10 witness testifies regarding the credibility of another.

11 Again, the Solicitor brought that up in closing
12 argument which is actually what would make it more of an
13 issue here.

14 For the record, 859, Mr. Meadors said, "Well, John
15 Presley said he said they were having trouble. This
16 confirms it. Mr. Presley, do you believe him? No, these
17 are the stories and it wasn't credible. He just
18 suffocated her."

19 So he just brings up the fact that Mr. Presley is
20 testifying that Mr. Commander wasn't telling truthful
21 stories and it's improper.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 MS. WHITE: And, Your Honor, the only argument the
24 State has in regards to this is essentially the
25 interpretation of it, and the Court ruled that he couldn't

1 present -- that he would not give an accident jury charge
2 because the court ruled in itself that what Mr. Commander
3 had told Mr. Presley was not this is what happened, but
4 his question was in a legal argument what if I told my
5 attorney this happened? What would that do? Do you think
6 that's a good argument?

7 So the Court even ruled that's not -- he wasn't
8 actually telling him that's what happened. He was asking
9 him essentially in his capacity as his jailhouse lawyer is
10 that a good argument.

11 So we would just submit it's been dealt with and
12 already ruled that that was not him saying he thought he
13 was truthful. It's just whether or not that was something
14 that he said happened or asked a question about.

15 THE COURT: All right. Next?

16 MS. GOLDBERG: All right. Your Honor, the next issue
17 would be regarding the DNA. The testimony at trial --

18 THE COURT: This is the DNA in the glove --

19 MS. GOLDBERG: It is.

20 THE COURT: -- in the cleaning room that comes back
21 to an unknown male?

22 MS. GOLDBERG: Yes, Your Honor. That DNA report
23 shows it was entered into evidence. It shows DNA on the
24 rubber gloves. Rubber gloves appear to have been on or in
25 a trash bag with cleaning products in the kitchen. That's

1 the testimony in the trial.

2 Ms. -- the DNA specifically says it was not
3 Mr. Commander's. It was tested to his. It was not his.

4 THE COURT: For all the jury knows, there was DNA,
5 and they don't know an explanation for whose or what.

6 MS. GOLDBERG: Exactly. That is all the jury knows.
7 They know A, it was tested; b, the results were --
8 everybody knew the results prior to trial. They knew C,
9 the State still wanted to go forward against Mr. Commander
10 knowing this. They knew D, defense counsel didn't offer
11 this information.

12 The jury doesn't know the defense loses last closing.
13 They don't know that. Mr. Strickler made a big issue of
14 the DNA, that there was DNA tested, but they never told
15 the jury what they were. The jury doesn't know why he
16 would choose to do that.

17 Now, I think Mr. Commander himself testified that Mr.
18 Strickler said he didn't enter the DNA into evidence
19 because of the fear of losing last closing. That is
20 generally a trial strategy that the courts have found to
21 be legitimate.

22 The problem here, why I think that is unreasonable in
23 this case. The bigger problem is in the closing argument
24 when Mr. Meadors addresses it.

25 He infers that DNA was not found anywhere in the

1 house because the gloves and the cleaning products were
2 used to clean up any evidence of DNA at the crime scene.

3 Despite the fact that he knew there was DNA on the
4 gloves, and it specifically did not match Mr. Commander,
5 at that point in time it became relevant. It became
6 prejudicial. Mr. Strickler should have objected. He
7 should have asked for a mistrial.

8 There is a case, State v. Coleman, where there was a
9 murder outside a bar -- or the last people to see the
10 victim were at a bar, and there were some soldiers there.
11 The defense made a big point about, "Well, were they
12 suspects? Did you follow up on leads? Did you look into
13 it." Then in closing, the solicitor said -- he
14 specifically said -- let me find the quote: "That he did
15 not call the soldiers as witnesses because there was
16 nothing probative in their statements."

17 The problem, even though those are factually
18 different, in this case, the rule was in State v. Coleman
19 counsel in a criminal case must confine themselves to the
20 record in addressing the jury.

21 The jury in the present case was effectively
22 presented testimony from the solicitor as if he had taken
23 the stand himself. Your Honor, that's what I would submit
24 happened here. It was highly inappropriate. It was
25 prejudicial.

1 The jury was lead to believe that there was no DNA
2 found at the scene whatever and that Mr. Commander used
3 the gloves, the same gloves there was DNA on, to clean it
4 up. There was no objection. There was no request for a
5 mistrial, nothing at all. We would argue that was
6 ineffective.

7 THE COURT: All right. Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. WHITE: Your Honor, again, this is one I guess
9 that in looking at it, it depends on whether or not how
10 you infer because I very well think the jury could have
11 inferred because of the talk of no DNA was that
12 Mr. Commander's DNA was not found there.

13 If he had choked her, if she had strangled her, if he
14 had suffocated her, would there not have been some DNA.
15 So it could have very well worked in the defense's favor.

16 The fact Mr. Strickler said in closing the State
17 didn't do DNA. They didn't test the fetus, come out with
18 anything that says Mr. Commander was there. I think from
19 his testimony, from his closing, from the possibilities,
20 the fact to be able to bring out a third-party DNA, that
21 would have some issues, as well that I think is perfectly
22 reasonable for him to retain last closing in this
23 situation knowing there was nothing that actually assisted
24 his client from that DNA evidence.

25 THE COURT: All right.

1 MS. GOLDBERG: And I'll just add briefly that the DNA
2 report, it doesn't match to a particular third party.
3 There was never any indication they would be alleging it
4 was any particular person or it was even related.

5 I think Mr. Meadors' characterization of the evidence
6 completely incorrect and inaccurate with that. I don't
7 think it would have ever been offered as third-party
8 guilt. It was just that Mr. Commander wasn't -- his DNA
9 wasn't the one that was found there. Someone else's was.

10 THE COURT: Okay. What else?

11 MS. GOLDBERG: All right. And as to issue G, in
12 closing -- in the -- the facts of the case were that the
13 victim was found. There was no evidence -- there were no
14 witnesses, no evidence of what happened, anything like
15 that.

16 What Mr. Strickler referred to earlier was that
17 Mr. Commander was nowhere to be found, so that's what the
18 circumstantial evidence was. The evidence presented at
19 trial was that the victim's daughter sees some text
20 messages after the fact purportedly coming from her.

21 On line 842 -- I mean on page 842 of the closing,
22 Mr. Meadors is talking about these text messages that
23 occurred days after the incident. He says, "If this isn't
24 malice, malice doesn't exist."

25 Mr. Strickler approached, objected. The judge

1 overruled him. At that point in time, the jury knew
2 Mr. Strickler had objected; that he was trying to say what
3 Mr. Meadors was saying was wrong. The judge overruled
4 him. That allowed Mr. Meadors to continue and emphasize.

5 Mr. Meadors states specifically, "You can take
6 statements and actions made after the events have happened
7 and infer malice existed at the time. I'm begging y'all
8 to do that because that is what it was."

9 Later in the jury instructions, the court did
10 correctly instruct the jurors that malice must exist in
11 the mind of the defendant just before and at the time the
12 act is committed.

13 Mr. Meadors then says, "Your Honor, I really would
14 like an instruction saying that they can take these acts
15 that occurred afterwards and use that to infer malice".

16 The judge said no. At this point in time, that would
17 be like me making instructions on the facts. It's too
18 specific. I'm not going to do it.

19 Your Honor, what Mr. Meadors argued to the jury is
20 incorrect. It's an incorrect statement of law. Malice
21 aforethought, as the judge said, must exist in the mind of
22 the defendant just before and at the time.

23 The jury, trial counsel objected originally but then
24 never asked for a mistrial. I believe -- there was no
25 evidence of malice because there was no evidence of what

1 happened here. No one had any idea of what actually took
2 place.

3 Malice aforethought is a necessary element of the
4 crime of murder. The jury was given the opportunity to
5 find voluntary manslaughter if they wanted. There was a
6 lesser included charge.

7 The State had to prove malice. The only malice that
8 was ever argued to them was these events occurring days
9 later, weeks later, after the incident. That should not
10 have -- Mr. Meadors should not have instructed the jury
11 that under the law, they are allowed to take that as
12 malice.

13 In Simmons v. State, the Court gives the test for
14 that. It's whether the solicitor's comments so infected
15 the trial with unfairness as to make the results a denial
16 of due process.

17 In that particular case, the Court said regardless of
18 overwhelming evidence of guilt, there's still reasonable
19 probability that the result could have been differently
20 had trial counsel objected because the improper argument
21 prevented the jury from fairly considering guilty -- from
22 fairly considering the issue at hand.

23 Your Honor, they -- I believe that that statement
24 especially the way it was emphasized where it was clear
25 that Mr. Strickler objected was overruled. Mr. Meadors

1 continued to emphasize it, and then there was only one
2 sentence on malice, what time it requires. I don't -- I
3 think that was improper.

4 I think Mr. Strickler should have requested a
5 mistrial based on that closing.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 MS. WHITE: Your Honor, obviously, the State would
8 argue there is no deficiency. Mr. Strickler did object to
9 the statement. He was overruled by the trial court.

10 Also, the trial court cured any mistake by the
11 solicitor when they gave the proper jury instructions in
12 this matter. The jury was given the choice of voluntary,
13 involuntary and murder, came back with a verdict of murder
14 in less than 40 minutes.

15 So I think it's clear that they felt very strongly
16 about the evidence that was presented and that in this
17 situation, there is no evidence that a mistrial either
18 would have been granted at this point or that it would
19 have been in the best interest of their client. So we
20 would argue that he failed to meet his burden of proof as
21 to this issue, as well.

22 THE COURT: All right. Next?

23 MS. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, that consists -- that ends
24 our allegations in this case. The only thing I would add
25 is it is still on open question of law in this state

1 whether PCR can be granted based on the cumulative nature
2 of errors.

3 Courts typically have looked at PCRs and affirmed or
4 denied based on one particular issue. They all say that
5 they are reserving that issue for later time.

6 I would submit that in this case, there are multiple
7 errors of deficiency, and that the court could -- if the
8 court doesn't -- if the court finds that there are
9 multiple deficiencies but not one alone rises to the level
10 of requisite prejudice, that those deficiencies and their
11 cumulative nature can be used to find the requisite
12 prejudice.

13 MS. WHITE: And Your Honor, just as to that point,
14 although the courts have not ruled specifically on that, I
15 will note that they have had the opportunity several times
16 and have not found that is how the PCRs should be reviewed
17 in this case.

18 I think it goes against the Strickland two-prong
19 approach when you try to argue that there should be no --
20 no prejudice found as to any particular issue that you can
21 combine them to result in prejudice. So we would just
22 argue that cumulative error is not established and is not
23 proper in PCR and should not be granted in this case.

24 THE COURT: Okay. All right. You both have 45 days
25 to submit proposed orders. I want proposed orders on this

1 one from both sides.

2 MS. WHITE: Okay.

3 MS. GOLDBERG: Your Honor, if -- if you're inclined,
4 if you -- is, Your Honor inclined to request proposed from
5 both of us as to all allegations or only some allegations?

6 THE COURT: As to all allegations.

7 MS. GOLDBERG: Okay.

8 THE COURT: Or whatever you think is the best, either
9 way.

10 MS. GOLDBERG: Okay.

11 MS. WHITE: Thank you, sir.

12 MS. GOLDBERG: Forty-five days?

13 THE COURT: Yes.

14 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

I, Karen Ambroziak, Official Court Reporter for the
5th Judicial Circuit of the State of South Carolina, do
hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate and
complete Transcript of Record of the proceedings had and
evidence introduced in the trial of the captioned case,
relative to appeal, in the Court of General Sessions for
Richland County, South Carolina, on the 2nd day of
September, 2014.

March 6, 2015

s/Karen Ambroziak

Karen Ambroziak, RPR
Circuit Court Reporter

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Christopher Commander, #318173,

2012-CP-40-3816

Applicant,

v.

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

State of South Carolina,

Respondent.

RICHLAND COUNTY
FILED
2014 DEC -5 PM 2:09
JEANNETTE W. MCBRIDE
C.L.P. & C.S.

This matter comes before the Court by way of an Application for Post-Conviction Relief filed June 1, 2012, and amendments filed July 2, 2014, and August 20, 2014. The Respondent made its Return on or about August 28, 2013. An evidentiary hearing into the matter was convened on September 2, 2014, at the Richland County Courthouse. The Applicant was present at the hearing and was represented by Kristy G. Goldberg, Esquire. Suzanne H. White, Esquire, of the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, represented the Respondent.

At the hearing, the Applicant testified on his own behalf. Dr. Kim Collins, MD, and Doug Strickler, Esquire, also testified. This Court also had before it a copy of the records of the Richland County Clerk of Court regarding the subject convictions, Applicant's records from the South Carolina Department of Corrections, the Return, Applicant's appellate records, the trial transcript, and exhibits introduced by Applicant.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Applicant is presently confined in the South Carolina Department of Corrections pursuant to orders of commitment of the Richland County Clerk of Court. The Applicant was true bill indicted at the April 2005 term of the Richland County Grand Jury for Murder (2005-

GS-40-3186). He was represented by Doug Strickler, Esquire, (hereinafter "Counsel") and Lauren Mobley, Esquire, on the charge(s). Applicant proceeded to jury trial before the Honorable James W. Johnson, Jr., on October 10, 2006. After a six day trial, Applicant was found guilty as indicted and sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

A timely Notice of Appeal was filed and an appeal perfected on Applicant's behalf by LaNelle DuRant, Esquire, of the South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense, Appellate Defense Division. After the submission of briefs, the matter proceeded to oral argument on March 18, 2009. By order on or about June 11, 2009, the South Carolina Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction and sentence. State v. Commander, Op. No. 4560 (S.C. Ct. App. filed June 11, 2009).

A Petition for Writ of Certiorari was then filed in the South Carolina Supreme Court on Applicant's behalf. After the submission of briefs, the matter proceeded to oral argument on June 21, 2011. The Supreme Court affirmed the convictions and sentences as modified in an order filed October 21, 2011. State v. Commander, Op. No. 27062 (S.C. filed October 31, 2011). The Remittitur was issued November 17, 2011.

ALLEGATIONS

In his application, the Applicant alleges he is being held in custody unlawfully for the following reasons:

1. Ineffective assistance of counsel; in that,
 - a. Counsel failed to sufficiently challenge the forensic pathologist's finding of homicide as a manner of death by failing to adequately cross examine the witness and failing to present expert testimony on defendant's behalf. Counsel failed to seek an instruction by the court regarding the definition of homicide
 - b. Counsel failed to object to the Court's instruction to the jury that "malice may also rise where a deed is done with a deadly weapon," where this instruction had a tendency to confuse the issues, mislead the jury, and inappropriately shifted the burden to the

defense.

- c. Counsel failed to object to witness John Presley introducing evidence of Applicant's prior arrest for a domestic violence charge against the victim. The evidence was then allowed to be emphasized by the Solicitor in his closing argument.
- d. Counsel failed to object to witness John Presley's offered testimony as to his opinion regarding whether the Applicant's statements were true. The evidence was then allowed to be emphasized by the Solicitor in his closing argument.
- e. Counsel failed to effectively communicate with Applicant in making the decision to not present exculpatory DNA evidence at trial. Further, Counsel failed to object and request a mistrial when the Solicitor improperly made a statement during closing argument that no DNA was found at the scene and that Applicant used the gloves.
- f. Counsel failed to object and move to strike when the Solicitor asked a witness to describe the smell of the house and the witness described the scene as gruesome, statements which were overly prejudicial.
- g. Counsel failed to request a mistrial when Solicitor incorrectly advised the jury that they were allowed to consider events occurring after the death of the victim and use these events to infer malice existed at the time of the death. Although the trial court correctly instructed the jurors that "malice must exist in the mind of the defendant just before and at the time that the act is committed," the court later refused to instruct the jury as to the Solicitor's version of the law creating confusion in the minds of the jurors as to what the law regarding malice allowed. Counsel again failed to request a mistrial.
- h. Counsel failed to request a charge requiring the jurors to find beyond a reasonable doubt the absence of heat of passion or sudden provocation before finding a verdict for murder.

At the beginning of the hearing, Applicant and Counsel indicated to the Court that Applicant was waiving allegations "f" and "h." Therefore, this Court finds that the Applicant voluntarily abandoned those allegations.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

This Court has had the opportunity to review the record in its entirety and has heard the testimony and arguments presented at the PCR hearing. This Court has further had the opportunity to observe each witness who testified at the hearing, and to closely pass upon their

credibility. This Court has weighed the testimony accordingly. Set forth below are the relevant findings of fact and conclusions of law as required by S.C. Code Ann. § 17-27-80 (2003).

Ineffective Assistance of Counsel

The Applicant alleges he received ineffective assistance of counsel. In a PCR action, “[t]he burden of proof is on the applicant to prove his allegations by a preponderance of the evidence.” Frasier v. State, 351 S.C. 385, 389, 570 S.E.2d 172, 174 (2002) (citing Rule 71.1e, SCRPC). Where ineffective assistance of counsel is alleged as a ground for relief, the Applicant must prove that “counsel’s conduct so undermined the proper functioning of the adversarial process that the trial cannot be relied upon as having produced a just result.” Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 104 S.Ct. 2052, 2064, 80 L.Ed.2d 674, 692 (1984); Butler v. State, 286 S.C. 441, 334 S.E.2d 813 (1985).

The proper measure of performance is whether the attorney provided representation within the range of competence required in criminal cases. Courts presume that counsel rendered adequate assistance and made all significant decisions in the exercise of reasonable professional judgment. Butler, Id. The Applicant must overcome this presumption to receive relief. Cherry v. State, 300 S.C. 115, 386 S.E.2d 624 (1989).

First, the Applicant must prove that counsel’s performance was deficient. Under this prong, attorney performance is measured by its “reasonableness under professional norms.” Cherry, 300 S.C. at 117, 385 S.E.2d at 625, *citing* Strickland. Second, counsel’s deficient performance must have prejudiced the Applicant such that “there is a reasonable probability that, but for counsel’s unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different.” Cherry, 300 S.C. at 117-18, 386 S.E.2d at 625. “A reasonable probability is a probability sufficient to undermine confidence in the outcome of trial.” Johnson v. State, 325 S.C. 182, 186,

480 S.E.2d 733, 735 (1997) (citing Strickland).

Counsel failed to sufficiently challenge the forensic pathologist's finding of homicide as a manner of death by failing to adequately cross examine the witness and failing to present expert testimony on defendant's behalf. Counsel failed to seek an instruction by the court regarding the definition of homicide

Applicant called Dr. Kim Collins, a forensic pathologist, to testify on his behalf. Dr. Collins testified that she has a BS degree from University of Georgia and a MD degree from the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Collins has had additional training in pathology from Wake Forest, Bowman Gray School of Medicine and the Medical University of South Carolina and is board certified in both anatomical and forensic pathology. Dr. Collins testified that she has been qualified as an expert in forensic pathology in approximately 200 – 220 cases. With no objection from the Respondent, this Court found Dr. Collins qualified as an expert in pathology. Dr. Collins' Curriculum Vitae was received as Court's Exhibit #1.

Dr. Collins testified that she reviewed a variety of materials from the case in order to render an opinion, which she provided in a written report and letter dated June 29, 2014, which was introduced as Applicant's Exhibit #1. Collins reviewed the autopsy report, which was introduced as Applicant's Exhibit #2. Collins also reviewed the incident report, toxicology report, trial transcript, medical records of victim, and handwritten notes from defense counsel. Collins testified that the autopsy report indicated that the victim was found lying on the couch with a decomposed fetus expelled between her legs. The victim's organs were decomposed and there was no microscopic exam of the organs. A toxicology screen and report was completed and indicated no drugs or alcohol in the victim's system. The coroner made a determination that the victim had died of homicide by probable asphyxiation. Collins testified that from her review of the materials provided to her by Applicant's Counsel, her opinion to a reasonable degree of medical certainty would be that the victim's cause of death was undetermined.

Dr. Collins testified that the five causes of death would be: 1) natural, 2) suicide, 3) homicide, 4) accident, or 5) undetermined. Collins acknowledged that the only possible options based upon the facts in this matter were either homicide or undetermined. Collins testified that the report indicated that there was no trauma to the neck, eyes, face, or hyoid bone. Dr. Collins testified that she did not believe that a maternal death could be ruled out because of the state of decomposition of the body. However, Dr. Collins testified that the victim had been receiving pre-natal care and had seen the doctor regularly since her pregnancy. The victim did not have any known illnesses that would have caused her death, but Collins testified that a full autopsy of both the victim and fetus should have been done. Collins also testified that a full x-ray of the victim and fetus should have been done. Dr. Collins testified that there can be a finding of asphyxia with no visible signs and noted that sometimes a cause of death can be listed as an undetermined cause of death pending law enforcement investigation. Collins testified that a pathologist does not work in a vacuum, but uses the anecdotal history of the case provided by law enforcement, medical personnel, and others to make a determination. Dr. Collins testified that Dr. Nichols testified at trial that he ruled out any natural causes of death, but did not specifically list what he ruled out. Further, Dr. Collins testified that she did not believe that there was any medical or scientific evidence to support a finding of probable asphyxiation.

The Applicant testified that his prior attorney, Jeanette VanGinhoven, had contacted another expert, Dr. Conradi as a possible expert in forensic pathology. However, Applicant testified that he was informed by his attorney that Dr. Conradi would testify the same as the State expert witness with regards to probable asphyxiation.

Counsel testified that he began communicating with Jeanette about the issues with forensic pathology and DNA as early as spring 2006. Counsel testified that he determined

following his review of the files that he met with Dr. Nichols and Jeanette on or about August 9, 2006. Counsel testified that there were notes in the file from a conversation that Jeanette had with Dr. Conradi and those notes were introduced as Applicant's Exhibit #4. Counsel testified that he understood from the notes that Dr. Conradi would have testified that based on the autopsy alone, the cause of death would be undetermined, but would also have made the finding of homicide with the additional information, which was consistent with Dr. Nichols' findings. Counsel testified that he did not call Dr. Conradi as a witness because he believed she would testify against the Applicant.

This Court finds that the Applicant has failed to establish his burden of proof that Counsel was ineffective for failing to call an expert to testify as to the cause of death. Although Dr. Collins testified that she would have done additional examination and ruled the death undetermined with the information she reviewed, this Court finds the testimony of both the Applicant and Counsel credible as it relates to the fact that an expert was consulted and the strategic decision was made not to call her because of the risk of her supporting the State's expert's findings. While it is true that a criminal defense attorney has a duty to investigate, this duty is limited to reasonable investigation. Ard v. Catoe, 372 S.C. 318, 331, 642 S.E.2d 590, 597 (2007). It is clear that Counsel completed a reasonable investigation by contacting a possible defense expert and forwarding her almost the same materials that were reviewed in preparation by Dr. Collins for this hearing. However, because of the potential risk of the defense expert's testimony supporting the State's expert's findings, Counsel made the strategic decision to not call the expert. Counsel is not required to seek an expert until one is found that will provide the testimony that helps the defense.

This Court also finds that Counsel adequately cross-examined Dr. Nichols as to his findings, in an attempt to call into question the medical findings versus his decision being based on second-hand information provided from police, EMS, and family.

Counsel testified that he completed research on what Dr. Nichols could testify to in regarding the definition of homicide versus murder and determined that Nichols would be restrained by the definition of homicide, which did not deal with intent. Counsel testified that research had also been completed on potential alternative causes of death, but Counsel could not recall what testimony was presented on that issue. Counsel testified that he did not recall why he did not ask the court for an instruction as to the definition of homicide.

The record reflects that Dr. Nichols is board certified as both a forensic and anatomical pathologist and was the Chief Medical Examiner for Richland County. (Tr. p. 531). Dr. Nichols was called to the scene and made an initial examination of the scene and body. (Tr. p. 533-4). Nichols' explanation of his reasoning behind the determination of homicide was based not only on the autopsy, but also on the scene and facts related to the victim's disappearance. (Tr. p. 539-40). The South Carolina Supreme Court noted that Dr. Nichols used the anecdotal history relayed by officers at the scene, together with the lack of normal indicators of physical violence, to render his opinion that the cause of death was asphyxiation, which would not leave physical marks, and that the manner of death was homicide due to the suspicious nature of Victim's death. State v. Commander, 396 S.C. 254, 258, 721 S.E.2d 413, 415 (2011).

Counsel objected when Nichols gave his expert opinion that the cause of death was homicide. (Tr. p. 540, lines 3-4). Following arguments by Counsel and the Solicitor, the Court overruled the objection, but instructed the Solicitor to question Dr. Nichols on his definition of homicide. (Tr. p. 557-8). Dr. Nichols then testified that homicide referred to "a person that has

died as a result of another person's actions." (Tr. p. 558, lines 18-9). Counsel cross-examined Dr. Nichols extensively on the time of death, cause of death, and how Nichols received information related to the circumstances. (Tr. p. 562- 577). As a result, Dr. Nichols indicated that he was "not claiming intent." (Tr. p. 576).

The nature and scope of cross-examination is inherently a matter of trial tactics. United States v. Nersesian, 824 F.2d 1294, 1321 (2nd Cir. 1987). "[A] defendant has a 'burden of supplying sufficiently precise information,' of the evidence that would have been obtained had his counsel undertaken the desired investigation and of showing 'whether such information . . . would have produced a different result.'" United States v. Rodriguez, 53 F.3d 1439, 1449 (7th Cir. 1995). The Applicant did not proffer any questions counsel allegedly failed to ask, and did not present any testimony showing Dr. Nichols' answers at trial would have been different. Accordingly, the Applicant has not shown that a different approach to cross-examination would have been beneficial to the defense.

This Court cannot find that Counsel was deficient for failing to request a jury instruction as to the definition of homicide. Counsel testified that it may have been helpful to have the judge charge the jury with the Black's Law Dictionary definition of homicide. Dr. Nichols' testimony was that his definition of homicide did not deal with any intent, but merely meant that the victim "died as a result of another person's actions." (Tr. p. 558). He clarified that he did not believe that the death was a suicide, accidental or a natural death. (Tr. p. 558-9). However, he again clarified that he was "not claiming intent." (Tr. p. 576). Further, during closing arguments, Counsel highlighted the fact that Dr. Nichols said he was not claiming intent, but only saying that the victim's death was a result of someone else's action. (Tr. p. 873). This Court finds that

the Applicant has not met his burden of proof of establishing that Counsel was ineffective for failing to request a jury charge as to the definition of homicide.

Further, the South Carolina Supreme Court agreed with the court of appeals that the circumstantial evidence implicating Petitioner was overwhelming. State v. Commander, 396 S.C. 254, 263, 721 S.E.2d 413, 418 (2011). This Court agrees and finds that the Applicant suffered no prejudice as a result of any alleged deficiencies described above.

Counsel failed to object to the Court's instruction to the jury that "malice may also rise where a deed is done with a deadly weapon," where this instruction had a tendency to confuse the issues, mislead the jury, and inappropriately shifted the burden to the defense.

The Applicant alleged that Counsel was ineffective for failing to object to the court's instruction to the jury that "malice may also rise where a deed is done with a deadly weapon." (Tr. p. 905). Applicant argued that because there had been no evidence presented to support the use of a deadly weapon, whether gun or even a pillow, this jury instruction confused the issues. Upon review of the jury instruction and jury instructions as a whole, it does not appear that there was any legal basis on which to base an objection by defense counsel. This Court does not find that the instruction confused the issue, misled the jury, or inappropriately shifted the burden to the defense. The South Carolina Supreme Court has held that the South Carolina doctrine of implied malice does not shift the burden of persuasion to the defendant. State v. Crocker, 272 S.C. 344, 346, 251 S.E.2d 764, 766 (1979).

The standard of review for appellate purposes is to consider jury instructions as a whole, and "if as a whole they are free from error, any isolated portions which may be misleading do not constitute reversible error." State v. Aleksey, 343 S.C. 20, 27, 538 S.E.2d 248, 251 (2000). Further, "[a]n erroneous malice instruction is harmless if, based on all of the evidence presented

to the jury, it did not contribute to the verdict.” Tate v. State, 351 S.C. 418, 426, 570 S.E.2d 522, 527 (2002).

This Court finds that the Applicant failed to meet his burden of proof as to this claim. First, this Court finds that the jury charge regarding the possible inference of malice with use of a deadly weapon was not improper. However, even if this Court were to find that Counsel should have objected based upon a confusion of the issues, the jury instructions as a whole are free from error and it is unlikely that this portion of the jury charge contributed to the verdict. Therefore, this claim is denied and dismissed.

Counsel failed to object to witness John Presley introducing evidence of Applicant's prior arrest for a domestic violence charge against the victim. The evidence was then allowed to be emphasized by the Solicitor in his closing argument

John Presley testified to statements made by Applicant after being incarcerated with Applicant for a period at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center. Presley acknowledged at the trial that he had an extensive criminal history involving crimes of dishonesty and drugs. (Tr. p. 592; 594-5; 612-3; 615-621). Presley testified that the Applicant told him that Applicant and the victim fought a lot and had received counseling. (Tr. p. 600). Presley briefly testified that Applicant told him that he had been arrested one time for domestic violence after hitting the victim, but the victim later dropped the charges and Applicant was released. (Tr. p. 608). The allegation of domestic violence was not addressed any further by the State or Applicant.

Counsel fully cross-examined Presley on his prior criminal history, paying particular attention to his crimes of forgery and dishonesty. (Tr. p. 615-18, 620-21). Counsel was able to get Presley to admit several times that to commit his crimes he had to lie. (Tr. p. 617; 620-1). Counsel also cross-examined Presley as to his motivation for offering this information to police and the Solicitor. Specifically, Counsel referenced the letters Presley wrote asking for sentence

reduction in exchange for his information and testimony. (Tr. p. 629; 633; 639-46). The jury was charged to consider the credibility of each witness, as well as their potential motive for testifying. (Tr. p. 900-901).

Applicant testified that Presley stated that Applicant had been arrested for criminal domestic violence following a report by the victim, but Applicant stated that the statement was not true. Applicant testified that Counsel should have objected to that statement by Presley.

Counsel testified that looking at the transcript now, he should have objected to Presley's testimony regarding Applicant's prior arrest for criminal domestic violence. However, Counsel acknowledged that it was possible that he did not want to draw additional attention to that statement, especially in light of the fact that he was planning on cross-examining Presley extensively regarding his credibility issues. Counsel addressed Presley's history of lying during closing arguments. (Tr. p. 870, lines 18, 23-4; p. 878, line 2).

As a rule, evidence of a defendant's prior crimes or other bad acts to prove the defendant's guilt for the crime charged is inadmissible. State v. Mathis, 359 S.C. 450, 462, 597 S.E.2d 872, 878 (Ct. App. 2004). In particular, if the prior bad act is not the subject of a conviction, it must first be established by clear and convincing evidence and there must be a logical relevance between the prior bad act and the crime for which the defendant is accused. Id. (citing State v. Braxton, 343 S.C. 629, 541 S.E.2d 833 (2001)). Therefore, this Court finds that Counsel was deficient in failing to object to the testimony of Presley regarding the prior bad act of domestic violence. The domestic violence incident was not a prior conviction and there was no determination by the trial court as to whether there was clear and convincing evidence of the act and the act's relevance.

However, this Court cannot find that the Applicant met his burden of proof of establishing any prejudice as a result of Counsel's deficiency. This Court finds that whatever possible inference regarding Applicant's character the jury might have drawn from hearing of domestic violence between the Applicant and victim certainly had minimal effect on the jury's verdict. Particularly in light of the additional information and testimony that was presented regarding Applicant's actions in the months following the victim's death. The jury was provided with testimony that proved that Applicant used the victim's credit cards, checks, vehicle, and phone, to travel through multiple states connecting with various other women and used the victim's cell phone to send misleading and untruthful text messages to the victim's family during this period. "[E]ven if an omission is inadvertent, relief is not automatic. The Sixth Amendment guarantees reasonable competence, not perfect advocacy judged with the benefit of hindsight." Yarborough v. Gentry, 540 U.S. 1, 6, 124 S.Ct. 1, 157 L.Ed.2d 1 (2003). As a result, this Court cannot find that this brief mention of a possible domestic violence incident had any effect on the jury's decision.

Counsel failed to object to witness John Presley's offered testimony as to his opinion regarding whether the Applicant's statements were true. The evidence was then allowed to be emphasized by the Solicitor in his closing argument

Presley testified that Applicant first told him that maybe the victim hit him with a stick, at which time he must have become unconscious and fallen on top of victim and accidentally smothered her, but Presley stated that he never believed the Applicant. (Tr. p. 604-6). Presley testified that he did not believe that the victim actually hit Applicant with a stick. (Tr. p. 605, lines 9-13). [A] witness permitted to give an opinion under Rule 608(a) must restrict the opinion to 'character for truthfulness,' and may not testify whether the witness believes a specific statement or account given by another witness." State v. McKerley, 397 S.C. 461, 465, 725

S.E.2d 139, 141 (Ct. App. 2012), reh'g denied (May 21, 2012). Counsel, upon review of the transcript, testified that he could not recall a reason he had for not objecting to Presley's comment as to whether he believed the Applicant.

This Court finds that Counsel was deficient for failing to object to Presley's comment on the truthfulness of Applicant; however, this Court finds no prejudice from this failure to object. The jury was given the option of believing any or all of Presley's testimony. The jury was also presented by Presley's history of lying and criminal behavior. In light of the fact that the circumstantial evidence implicating Petitioner was overwhelming, this Court finds that the failure to object did not affect the outcome of the trial.

Counsel failed to effectively communicate with Applicant in making the decision to not present exculpatory DNA evidence at trial. Further, Counsel failed to object and request a mistrial when the Solicitor improperly made a statement during closing argument that no DNA was found at the scene and that Applicant used the gloves

Applicant testified that he consented to his DNA sample being taken. Applicant testified that he was told by Counsel that the DNA report was exculpatory, but Applicant did not receive a copy of the results until after trial. Applicant testified that he spoke with Counsel regarding the DNA and the fact that the DNA found inside the gloves from the victim's home did not match Applicant. However, Applicant testified that Counsel informed him that because the State did not introduce the report and evidence during trial, if Counsel introduced the report, they would lose last argument and Counsel thought that it was in Applicant's best interest to have last argument.

The DNA report from SLED was introduced as Applicant's Exhibit #2. Counsel testified that he was provided with the report more than a year after it had been completed. Counsel testified that the report excluded Applicant as a contributor to the DNA found in the gloves at the

victim's home, but identified the victim and an unknown male's DNA. Counsel testified that he did object to testimony regarding possible DNA from fingernail scrapings from the investigator from the Richland County Sheriff's office, but based upon a lack of foundation. (Tr. p. 803, lines 6-9). Counsel testified that the absence of Applicant's DNA and presence of an unknown person's DNA on the gloves was absolutely irrelevant to the case because there was no real connection between the gloves and the victim's death.

Counsel testified that on cross-examination and in closing, he was able to point out to the jury that although DNA had been tested from both the fingernail scrapings and the rubber gloves, they never heard the results. (Tr. p. 806; p. 879-880). Counsel also raised the lack of DNA testing on the fetus during his closing argument. (Tr. p. 879). Counsel pointed out to the jury that had any of the DNA tests resulted in a match to Applicant, surely the State would have brought in people and reports to use at trial. (Tr. p. 880). Counsel emphasized the fact that if there was anything to indicate that Applicant used the gloves to clean up the scene, the State would have brought in people to testify. (Tr. p. 880).

This Court finds that the Applicant failed to meet his burden of proof as to this claim. This Court finds that Counsel's strategy of preserving last argument was a valid strategic decision, especially in the light of the fact that he could argue that the State failed to present any evidence that Applicant was a match to any DNA tested. Where counsel articulates valid reasons for employing a certain strategy, counsel's choice of tactics will not be deemed ineffective assistance. Whitehead v. State, 308 S.C. 119, 417 S.E.2d 530 (1992).

Applicant also alleged that Counsel failed to object and request a mistrial when the Solicitor made an improper statement during closing arguments about the gloves and DNA. (Tr. p. 849, lines 19-23). Counsel, upon review of the transcript, testified that he should have

objected to this portion of the closing argument. However, this Court has reviewed the record and finds no merit to Applicant's claim that Counsel was ineffective for failing to object to this portion of closing or for failing to request a mistrial. "A solicitor's closing argument . . . should stay within the record and reasonable inferences to it." Simmons v. State, 331 S.C. 333, 338, 503 S.E.2d 164, 166 (1998). This Court finds that the Solicitor's closing argument was supported by reasonable inferences from the testimony and evidence presented at trial.

This Court cannot find that Counsel was deficient for failing to request a mistrial. A defendant must show both error and resulting prejudice in order to be entitled to a mistrial and a mistrial should only be granted when "absolutely necessary." State v. Thompson, 352 S.C. 552, 560-61, 575 S.E.2d 77, 82 (Ct. App. 2003). Even if Counsel was deficient for failing to object, on appeal, Applicant would have had the burden of proving that he did not receive a fair trial because of the alleged improper argument. Simmons v. State at 338, 166. This Court finds that the Applicant has failed to meet his burden of proof as to this claim.

Further, the South Carolina Supreme Court agreed with the court of appeals that the circumstantial evidence implicating Petitioner was overwhelming. State v. Commander, 396 S.C. 254, 263, 721 S.E.2d 413, 418 (2011). This Court agrees and finds that the Applicant suffered no prejudice as a result of any alleged deficiencies described above.

Counsel failed to request a mistrial when Solicitor incorrectly advised the jury that they were allowed to consider events occurring after the death of the victim and use these events to infer malice existed at the time of the death. Although the trial court correctly instructed the jurors that "malice must exist in the mind of the defendant just before and at the time that the act is committed," the court later refused to instruct the jury as to the Solicitor's version of the law creating confusion in the minds of the jurors as to what the law regarding malice allowed. Counsel again failed to request a mistrial.

During closing arguments, Counsel objected to the Solicitor's statement regarding malice and the use of events following the act to infer malice. (Tr. p. 842-3). However, following a

bench conference, the objection was overruled and the Solicitor informed the jury, "you can take statements and actions made after the events have happened and infer malice existed at the time this happened." (Tr. p. 843).

The trial court then charged the jury that:

Malice is hatred, ill-will or hostility towards another person. It is the intentional doing of a wrongful act without cause or excuse and with an intent to inflict an injury or under circumstances that the law would infer an evil intent.

Malice aforethought does not require that the malice exist for any particular time before the act is committed, but malice **must exist in the mind of the Defendant just before and at the time that the act is committed. Therefore, there must be a combination of the previous evil intent and the act.**

Malice aforethought may be expressed or inferred. Now, these terms expressed and inferred do not mean different kinds of malice, but merely the manner in which malice may be shown to exist; that is, either by direct evidence or by inference from the facts and circumstances which are proven.

....

Malice may be inferred from conduct showing a total disregard for human life.

(Tr. p. 903-4) (emphasis added).

Following the trial court's charge, the Solicitor requested the trial court charge the jury that "if they believe acts by the Defendant after the event . . . showed malice . . . that could be an inference of malice if they felt that was [Defendant's] state of mind at the time of the incident." (Tr. p. 913). Counsel argued against the requested amended charge and the trial court refused to amend the charge, leaving the jury with his standard malice charge. (Tr. p. 913-5).

Counsel acknowledged that he did not request a mistrial based on the Solicitor's comments during closing, but testified that he did discuss the issue with Applicant and made a strategic decision to not request a mistrial because he believed that any incorrect comment made

by the Solicitor during closing was cured by the jury instructions. Where counsel articulates valid reasons for employing a certain strategy, counsel's choice of tactics will not be deemed ineffective assistance. Whitehead v. State, 308 S.C. 119, 417 S.E.2d 530 (1992). This Court finds that the Applicant failed to meet his burden of proof as to this allegation.

Overwhelming Evidence

This Court notes that although Counsel may have been deficient in failing to object to portions of Presley's testimony, because of the overwhelming circumstantial evidence, this Court cannot find any prejudice from any deficiencies. "An error by counsel, even if professionally unreasonable, does not warrant setting aside the judgment of a criminal proceeding if the error had no effect on the judgment." Smith v. State, 386 S.C. 562, 565, 689 S.E.2d 629, 631 (2010). "Moreover, no prejudice occurs, despite trial counsel's deficient performance, where there is otherwise overwhelming evidence of the defendant's guilt." Rosemond v. Catoe, 383 S.C. 320, 325, 680 S.E.2d 5, 8 (2009).

After the victim was found dead in her home, Applicant was found in New Orleans, Louisiana, after traveling through three states and using one of the victim's credit cards to secure a hotel room for several nights in each state. (Tr. p. 652). Applicant was arrested at a hotel by the New Orleans Police Department. At the time of his arrest, Applicant was in possession of the victim's vehicle, victim's birth certificate, ID card of victim's ex-husband, ultrasound photo, victim's checkbook, victim's eight credit cards, and victim's driver's license. (Tr. p. 669-671; 703-4). Police also found the keys to the victim's vehicle in Applicant's hotel room. (Tr. p. 676). Detective Dejean testified that he inspected items found in the victim's vehicle, which included a purse containing a medical appointment card for Midlands OB-GYN, checks, medical slip for Pastoral Counseling Services with the victim's name as a client, and a receipt for a Cracker Barrel in Columbia, SC, for November 29, 2004, at 9:55 am. (Tr. p. 736-8).

At trial, Captain Laviolette testified that when the police entered the hotel room, Applicant held a gun to his head and made the statement, "Get out of the room; I'm going to kill myself like I killed Vonnie." (Tr. p. 656). Sgt. Pari testified that he saw applicant hold a gun to his head and state, "Get out, I'm going to kill myself like I killed Vonnie." (Tr. p. 699). Pari also testified to three room service receipts found in the hotel room, each signed with the name of Gervonya Goodwin. (Tr. p. 705-6). Sgt. Crayton testified that he assisted in locating the victim's vehicle in the hotel parking garage (Tr. p. 719). Crayton also testified that he saw Applicant holding a gun towards his head and heard Applicant say, "Get out, I'm going to kill myself like I killed Vonnie." (Tr. p. 721).

Officer Buzali testified that he assisted in the arrest of Applicant and transport of Applicant to the police station. Buzali testified that while he was transporting Applicant, Applicant stated spontaneously, "I just did what I had to do." (Tr. p. 754).

Following the jury instructions, the jury took less than 45 minutes to return with a verdict of guilty on the charge of murder. Exhibits and verdict form was sent to jury at 3:24 pm and the jury returned to open court with their verdict at 4:10 pm. (Tr. p. 916).

The South Carolina Supreme Court, referencing disputed testimony of Dr. Nichols during the trial, found that the admission of the testimony was harmless in light of the overwhelming evidence of Commander's guilt. State v. Commander, 384 S.C. 66, 75, 681 S.E.2d 31, 35-36 (Ct. App. 2009) aff'd as modified, 396 S.C. 254, 721 S.E.2d 413 (2011) (citing State v. Mizzell, 349 S.C. 326, 333, 563 S.E.2d 315, 318 (2002) (holding that whether error is harmless depends on the facts of each case, including the importance of challenged testimony in prosecution's case, whether the testimony was cumulative, presence or absence of evidence corroborating or

contradicting testimony on material points, extent of cross-examination otherwise permitted, and overall strength of prosecution's case)).

Based upon the overwhelming circumstantial evidence of Applicant's guilt, this Court cannot find any prejudice suffered as a result of any alleged deficiencies on Counsel's behalf. This Court finds that it is improbable that any alleged deficiencies affected the outcome of the trial. Therefore, all claims are denied and dismissed.

Cumulative Error

Applicant also argued that because there are multiple instances of deficiency on Counsel's behalf, the application should be granted based upon the open question of law in South Carolina regarding cumulative error. This Court finds that the doctrine of cumulative error, although often raised in post-conviction relief proceedings, contradicts the use of the Strickland two prong test, requiring both deficiency and prejudice for a finding of ineffective assistance of counsel. Therefore, this Court finds that it is not an appropriate test for a determination of ineffective assistance of counsel.

CONCLUSION

Based on all the foregoing, this Court finds and concludes that the Applicant has not established any constitutional violations or deprivations that would require this court to grant his application. This Court finds that the Applicant's allegation that he was denied effective assistance of trial counsel is without merit. When an ineffectiveness claim is presented the defendant must show that counsel's representation was deficient. Deficient representation amounts to conduct that is not objectively reasonable under the circumstances. Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 688, 104 S.Ct. 2052 (1984). In addition, the Applicant must show that the outcome of his proceeding was prejudiced and it is reasonably probable that the outcome

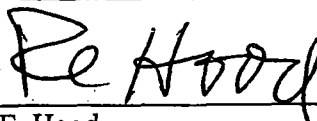
would have been different had counsel's performance not been deficient. Strickland, 466 U.S. at 694. This Court finds that the Applicant's attorney demonstrated a normal degree of skill, knowledge and professional judgment that is expected of an attorney who practices criminal law. State v. Pendergrass, 270 S.C. 1, 239 S.E.2d 750 (1977); Strickland, *supra*; Butler v. State, 286 S.C. 441, 334 S.E.2d 813 (1985). Therefore, this application for post conviction relief must be denied and dismissed with prejudice.

This Court cautions Applicant that he must file and serve a notice of appeal within thirty (30) days from the receipt by counsel of written notice of entry of judgment to secure the appropriate appellate review. See Rule 203, SCACR. Pursuant to Austin v. State, 305 S.C. 453 (1991), an Applicant has a right to an appellate counsel's assistance in seeking review of the denial of PCR. Rule 71.1(g), SCRCP, provides that if the applicant wishes to seek appellate review, PCR counsel must serve and file a Notice of Appeal on the Applicant's behalf. Your attention is directed to South Carolina Appellate Court Rule 243 for appropriate procedures for appeal.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Application for Post-Conviction Relief must be denied and dismissed with prejudice; and
2. The Applicant must be remanded to the custody of the Respondent.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED this 5 day of December, 2014.



Robert E. Hood
Presiding Judge

WITNESSES

(S) T. Holdorf, RCSD

Sgt Scott Mc Donald (S)

DOCKET NO. 2005-GS-40-3186

The State of South Carolina

County of Richland

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

APRIL TERM 2005

52

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

1970321

THE STATE
vs.

CHRISTOPHER SAM COMMANDER

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

TRUE BILL

John K. McLeod
Foreperson of Grand Jury
Date: APR 22 2005

VERDICT

After being fully advised as to my legal rights, I hereby waive presentment to the Grand Jury.

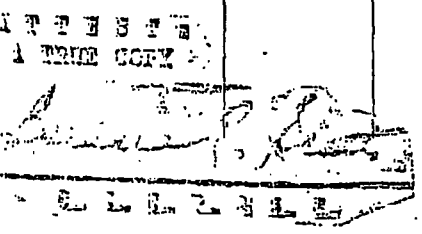
Defendant

I hereby appear in my own proper person and plead guilty to the within indictment or to

Defendant

Witness:

C.C.C. PLS. AND G.S.



Indictment for

MURDER

SC Code: 16-3-10

CDR Code: 0116

Class FEL/EXM(V)

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

1058

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

INDICTMENT

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on April 20, 2005, the Grand Jurors of Richland County present upon their oath:

MURDER

That CHRISTOPHER SAM COMMANDER did in Richland County on or about November 30, 2004, feloniously, willfully and with malice aforethought, kill one Gervonya Goodwin by means of asphyxiation and that the said victim died as a proximate result thereof. All in violation of SC Code of Laws § 16-3-10.

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.


Warren B. Giese, SOLICITOR

June 29, 2014

Kristy Goldberg
Attorney at Law
1720 Main Street
Suite 301
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Re: Christopher Commander
PCR case # 2012-CP-40-03816

Dear Ms. Goldberg:

I am a Forensic Pathologist, board certified in Anatomic Pathology, Clinical Pathology, and Forensic Pathology. I practiced Forensic Pathology from 1995-2008 at the Medical University of South Carolina as a Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and have served as Director of both the Autopsy Pathology and Forensic Pathology Sections during this time. Since 2008, I served as a Forensic Pathologist at the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office in Atlanta, Georgia. I perform postmortem investigations and examinations including utilizing the autopsy to determine the cause and manner of death as well as any underlying pathological conditions or trauma. I have performed an estimated 2700 autopsies with microscopic examinations and interpretation of ancillary studies as well as conducted death scene investigations. I have been qualified as an expert in forensic pathology approximately 250 times. I have never been disqualified as an expert in pathology or forensic pathology. On a state and national level, I am past Chair of the College of American Pathologists Autopsy Committee, past President of the South Carolina Society of Pathologists, and an active member of the National Association of Medical Examiners and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Currently, I serve on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Medical Examiners and on the Executive Committee. I am past Chair of the Pathology Biology section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. I have presented research at numerous national meetings and published in excess of 75 peer-reviewed manuscripts. I currently serve on the editorial boards of *Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine*, *The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology*, *The Journal of Forensic Sciences*, *Journal of Forensic Science, Medicine, and Pathology*, and as Section Editor for the Pathology Text of *eMedicine*.

I have reviewed the case of Christopher Commander and the death of Gervonya D. Goodwin including the following materials:

- Postmortem records
 - Autopsy report
 - Death certificate
 - Coroner report, activity log, evidence transfer, incident report
 - Toxicology report
- Trial transcript of Clay A. Nichols, MD
- Handwritten notes from defense counsel regarding conversation with Dr. Sandra Conradi
- CD of entire/complete trial transcript (930 pages)
- CD with photographs
 - Thirty-nine (39) scene photographs
 - Fourteen (14) autopsy photographs
- Investigative records from law enforcement
- Medical records of Gervonya D. Goodwin



Gervonya D. Goodwin was a 34-year-old woman with sickle cell trait who was approximately four months pregnant at the time of her death. She was last seen alive on 11-29-2004 and was found in her secure residence on 1-7-2005. She was markedly decomposed on her couch, and fetal remains were between her legs. She was positively identified by dental comparisons. An autopsy was performed by Dr. Clay Nichols who estimated that she had been dead for five to six weeks. No external or internal trauma was to the body, including the head and neck. Toxicological analysis performed on liver was negative. The cause of death was listed as asphyxia, and the manner of death was deemed homicide. The fetus was x-rayed but any examination was not documented.

Based on the medical evidence, it is impossible to diagnose asphyxia in this case. Many natural entities can cause maternal death. However, the autopsy reports that all of the organs including the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, spleen, pancreas, and brain are decomposed. Furthermore, no tissues or organs were examined microscopically except for one section of the decomposed liver. However, even when evaluating a decomposed body, all causes of death must be considered and limitations presented by the decomposed state of the body must be appreciated. The fact is that none of the causes of maternal death could be ruled out by this autopsy. In addition, asphyxia was not medically or scientifically supported. Based on the autopsy findings, the cause of death should have been certified undetermined.

At trial, Dr. Nichols testified that there were not any signs of any kind of disease that could have caused her death and, since he did not have any other explanation for her death, he was left with suffocation as the cause of death. He testified "I interpreted the autopsy" and "Ms. Goodwin died of unnatural causes". He goes on to testify that it was "the interpolation of the facts of the case, that being her purse is gone, her car is gone, the house is locked" and "everything gets interpreted by the history". It is true that pathologists do not work in a vacuum but should always consider the scene investigation, law enforcement investigation, decedent's history, and laboratory studies. However, in this case the autopsy neither diagnoses asphyxia nor rules out fatal diseases or conditions that could have caused or contributed to death because the tissues and organs were decomposed.

This is an opinion letter to a reasonable degree of medical certainty of my findings based on the information provided. If any additional records or documentation are received, I reserve the right to amend or supplement my report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kim A. Collins, MD". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kim A. Collins, MD
Forensic Pathologist

05-0035



PALMETTO HEALTH RICHLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
5 RICHLAND MEDICAL PARK
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29203

REPORT OF POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION**NAME:** GOODWIN, GERVONYA**AUTOPSY #:** A05-8**DOB:** (Age: 34)**RACE:** Afro-American**SEX:** F**CHART #:****DATE OF DEATH:** 11/8/2004 00:00**DATE OF AUTOPSY:** 1/8/2005 08:00**REQUESTOR:** GARY M WATTS**PROSECTOR:** CLAY A. NICHOLS MD

FINAL ANATOMICAL DIAGNOSES

- I. HISTORY OF SUSPICIOUS DEATH.
- II. MODERATE DECOMPOSITION.
- III. POSTMORTEM EXPULSION OF PREVIALBLE FETUS.
- IV. TOXICOLOGY PENDING.

CAUSE OF DEATH: PROBABLE ASPHYXIATION.

CAN:et 03/04/05

Electronically Signed Out By Clay A Nichols MD

EXHIBITAppendix 2

REPORT OF POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION

GOODWIN, GERVONYA

A05-8

CLINICAL SUMMARY:

This 34 year old black female was found dead in her residence on the evening of January 7, 2005. According to reports, the deceased had not been heard from since approximately November, 2004. On the evening of January 7th, relatives asked a locksmith to open the door to the house since they had not heard from her for an extended period of time. She was found dead on a sofa with moderate decomposition and mummification. Of note, the deceased was pregnant and the fetus had been expelled from postmortem gas buildup and was found between her legs in a mummified state. It was also noted that the deceased's car and purse were missing from the scene.

CAN:et 03/04/05

GROSS ANATOMICAL DESCRIPTION:

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION: This is the body of a mummified and decomposed black female. The height is 63 inches and the weight is estimated at 100 pounds. The rigor has passed. No lividity is appreciated. The body is identified by the Coroner's office. The head is covered by black hair. The head and face are atraumatic. The neck is free of trauma. The neck is free of trauma. The chest, abdomen and posterior aspects are appropriately developed and free of trauma. Examination of the genitalia is remarkable for the expelled fetus. X-rays are taken of the fetus which demonstrate the fetus to be previable. Dr. Tim Close at Palmetto Health was used as a consultant. The upper and lower extremities are appropriately developed and free of trauma.

INTERNAL DESCRIPTION: The body is opened with a standard Y-shaped incision revealing all organs in their normal anatomic relationship. Dissecting through the soft tissues of the chest and neck reveals no evidence of trauma or contusion. Removal of the chest plate reveals unremarkable bilateral chest cavities. Opening the abdominal cavity reveals all organs in their normal anatomic relationship and no evidence of excess fluid accumulation.

CARDIOVASCULAR: The heart is decomposed although the epicardium appears to be intact. The coronary arteries are identified and sectioned. There is no evidence of atherosclerotic disease.

RESPIRATORY: The lungs are decomposed. The pleural surfaces appear to be intact. On section, there is no evidence of hemorrhage or neoplasia. A pulmonary embolism is not identified. Examination of the tracheobronchial tree shows it to be intact without evidence of trauma. The hyoid bone is not fractured.

LIVER AND BILIARY: The liver is decomposed. The capsule appears to be intact. Sectioning through the remains of the liver do not demonstrate any evidence of a significant pathologic process. Specifically, there is no evidence of trauma or neoplasia.

RENAL AND URINARY: The kidneys are decomposed. The capsular surfaces are intact. Sectioning through the remains of the kidneys do not demonstrate any evidence of trauma or infectious process.

GASTROINTESTINAL: The gastrointestinal tract is decomposed and does not demonstrate any evidence of hemorrhage or trauma.

SPLEEN: The spleen has been liquefied due to decomposition.

PANCREAS: The pancreas is decomposed.

BRAIN: The scalp is reflected and no hemorrhage is found beneath scalp. The calvarium is removed in the usual fashion. The dura is gray tan and intact. The brain has been liquefied. There is no evidence of hemorrhage. The skull is not fractured.

EVIDENCE OF TRANSFER: The right and left hand, fetus, container of liver, striped pants, T-shirt, pair of socks, and an earring identified in the left side of the ear are transferred over to Deputy Robert

REPORT OF POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION

GOODWIN, GERVONYA

A05-8

Oats of the Richland County Sheriff's office.

TOXICOLOGY: Portions of liver and kidney are retained.

CASSETTE SUMMARY:

1. Liver.

CAN:et 03/04/05

MICROSCOPIC DESCRIPTION:

LIVER: Section of liver confirms decomposition.

TOXICOLOGY: This report is being issued without benefit of a final toxicology report. When a report becomes available, an addendum will be issued.

SUMMARY AND COMMENT: This unfortunate woman died under suspicious circumstances. She was in otherwise good health and valuable items were missing from her house when she was found. The skin surfaces and capsular surfaces of the major organs were intact enough despite the decomposition to ascertain that no trauma including a fractured hyoid bone existed. Given the set of circumstances, I feel that the cause of death is due to asphyxiation and the significant findings are summarized under "Final Anatomic Diagnoses".

CAN:et 03/04/05

***Electronically Signed Out By CLAY A. NICHOLS MD ***



PALMETTO HEALTH RICHLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
5 RICHLAND MEDICAL PARK
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29203

REPORT OF POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION

* Amended *

NAME: GOODWIN, GERVONYA

AUTOPSY #: A05-8

DOB: (Age: 34)

RACE: Afro-American

SEX: F

CHART #:

DATE OF DEATH: 11/8/2004 00:00

DATE OF AUTOPSY: 1/8/2005 08:00

REQUESTOR: GARY M WATTS

PROSECTOR: CLAY A. NICHOLS MD

FINAL ANATOMICAL DIAGNOSES

- I. HISTORY OF SUSPICIOUS DEATH.
- II. MODERATE DECOMPOSITION.
- III. POSTMORTEM EXPULSION OF PREVIALBLE FETUS.

CAUSE OF DEATH: PROBABLE ASPHYXIATION.

CAN:et 03/04/05;sjk03/14/05

Electronically Signed Out By Clay A Nichols MD

TOXICOLOGY RESULTS: A drug screen was performed on the liver and no poisons or drugs of concern were identified.

CAN:sjk03/14/05

***Electronically Signed Out By CLAY A. NICHOLS MD ***

Amendments

Amended: 3/14/2005 by Stephanie Koellner

Reason: TOXICOLOGY RESULTS

Previous Signout Date: 3/4/2005



Richland County Sheriffs Department

DNA Department

Forensic Examination Report

June 29, 2005

Inv. Holdorf, T.
Richland County Sheriffs Department
5623 Two Notch Road
Columbia, SC 29223

RCSD EIN: 05-0135
Case Number: 05010621
Incident Date: 01/17/05
(V) Goodwin, Gervonya
(S) Commander, Christopher

Additional Report in Bold

Items Submitted:

1. Right hand nail scrapings
2. Light of left hand nail scrapings
10. Swabs from rubber gloves
- ISM Buccal Swabs from Christopher Commander**

Examinations and Results:

DNA was extracted from items 1SM, 1, 2 and 10. The extracted DNA was amplified and typed using the AmpF/STR Identifier kit (Applied Biosystems). The results are listed in Table 1.

Conclusions:

PCR DNA typing using STR loci and Amelogenin determined the following:

The DNA profile developed from items 1 and 2 is from the same female individual.

The DNA result developed from item 10 is a mixture. The female profile developed in item 1 and 2 is included as a contributor to this mixture. The other contributor is a male. Please submit known samples for inclusion or exclusion purposes. **Christopher Commander is excluded as a contributor to this mixture.**

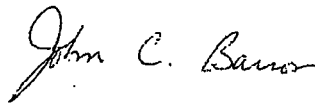
EXHIBIT

Applicant 3

Disposition of Evidence:

Any toxicology samples will be returned to Richland County evidence control to be forwarded to the SLED Toxicology laboratory. Any remaining evidence and/or packaging will be maintained at The Richland County Sheriff's Department.

Investigator John C. Barron, Forensic Analyst, with the Richland County Sheriffs Department, conducted these examinations.



Digitally signed by John C. Barron
DN: CN = John C. Barron, C =
US, O = DNA Laboratory, OU =
RCSD
Date: 2005.06.29 15:18:29 -04'00'

John C. Barron
Digital Signature

Table 1. Identifier.

Items	D8S1179	D21S11	D7S820	CSF1PO	D3S1385	TH01	DL3S317	D1S539	D2S1338	D19S433	VWA	TPOX	D18S51	Amelo.	D5S818	FGA
1	14,16	30, 32,2	10,11	10,12	15	8	12,13	8,9	17,19	14, 15,2	15,16	9,11	12,19	X	11,13	24,25
2	14,16	30, 32,2	10,11	10,12	15	8	12,13	8,9	17,19	14, 15,2	15,16	9,11	12,19	X	11,13	24,25
10	10, 14,16	(28), 30, (32,2)	10	12, (14)	(14), 15,16	(7) 8,9	(11), 12,13	(9), 12	(17)	13,14 (15)	(15), 16, (17)	(8), 9,11	12, (13, 14)	X, Y	11, 12,13	23, (24)
ISM C. Commander	13,14	28,29	10,11	12	15,16	6,9	12,13	9,12	20,25	13	16,18	8,9	18,19	X, Y	11,13	23

() indicated alleles between 75-149 rfu.

Dr. Conradi

7-31-06

* possible manner of death: no trauma

Strangulation

- presumptive diagnosis by frag. fracture of hyoid bone
- end of petrichio (eyo) not there
- tongue protrusion is only thing - could have been asphyxiation or decaying body
- cause of death could be undetermined or homicide
- Nichols would have all police reports
- doesn't - doesn't work in a vacuum
- autopsy alone - undetermined cause
- She going to testify against him
- couldn't
- drugs should still be in there
- drugs wouldn't go anywhere
- no blood & no urine bc body is mummified
- doesn't mention Xraying body of bullets
- theoretically bullet wound could be mixed



- doesn't mention anything about uterus
fetus ovaries, placenta or could have
said couldn't examine b/c ^{too} decomposed
b/c supposed to have cyst

* Latent notes

* Handwriting expert

* Testing of fetus → fetus may have
DNA & femur from fetus
- should be some type of report

* Pillows & cushions → should be blood or
saliva on the pillows
- Spin A down for mouth cells

- could not have been an
overdose

- note - she was going to testify
against him

- sexual activity → woman small →
- compressed her chest long enough for
5-10 minutes - could have asphyxiated
w/ big guy

- no natural disease
- V caused by - if low oxygen density -
- V was not genetic
- could have passed to offspring
- nothing major in medical records
- if think is homicide - remains no indication of natural disease
- never can be sure
- could have died suddenly & unexpectedly from any
- AAs could call it undetermined or undetermined Homicide

Dr. Comadi

8-3-06

- * got person died w/in 15 or 30 mins - can be precise
- estimated 1 to 2 weeks from autopsy
- can't ~~get~~ give ball park % depends on how fat or thin, depends on temp of house
- perfectly compatible to be dead 11-30-06

- ligature marks - hope ligature is still there - if not then it is an indication
- suspect this long after death probably would not be there
- no broken hyoid bone - no ligature & no mark
- w/ this degree of decomposition probably wouldn't see ligature marks

1423

3450

**RICHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
RICHLAND COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER**

1701 MAIN STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 192
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

PHONE (803) 765-2592
FAX (803) 929-6156
TDD # (803) 748-4999

July 24, 2006

Dr. Sandra Conradi
1554 Rifle Range Road
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Dear Dr. Conradi;

Enclosed are materials regarding the case of *The State vs. Christopher Commander*. These materials include discovery, photographs and medical records. I would like to know why the finding is probable asphyxiation. I would also like to know if there were any drugs in her body. In the discovery, they inventoried her medicines because at the beginning, they thought this could be a suicide. Please let me know when you finish reviewing the documents. Thank you so much for your time and patience with these matters.

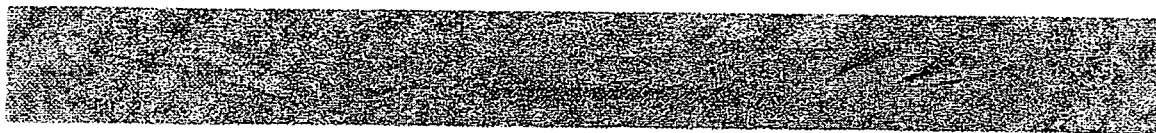
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanette Van Ginhoven". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeanette" being more prominent and the last name "Van Ginhoven" written in a more compact, flowing style.

Jeanette Van Ginhoven
Assistant Public Defender

JEANETTE VANGINHOVEN

From: SAJA BARRINEAU
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 2:06 PM
To: JEANETTE VANGINHOVEN
Subject: CHRIS COMMANDER \$



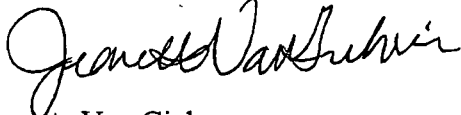
Jeanette, the jdg. approved \$2500 for Conradi in the case of Chris Commander. Saja

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
	)	OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	
	)	INDICTMENT NUMBER: 2005-GS-40-3186
	)	
THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	)	
	)	WITNESS LIST
VS.	)	
CHRISTOPHER COMMANDER,	)	
<u>DEFENDANT</u>	)	

Defense counsel may call the following witnesses during trial:

1. Investigator Robert Oates, RCSD
2. Investigator Scott McDonald, RCSD
3. Tina Goff, RCSD
4. John C. Barron, RCSD
5. Investigator Stan Richards, RCSD
6. Lonnie Gross, RCSD
7. Harold Bouknight, RCSD
8. Lt. Zane Padgett, RCSD
9. Grey Amick, RCSD
10. Dr. Sandra Conradi
11. Dr. Ronald Ostrowski
12. Lee Connolly

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanette Van Ginhoven
 Assistant Public Defender
 Attorney for the Defendant
 Date:

Kimberly Ann Collins, MD
Curriculum Vitae
Page 1

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME

Kimberly Ann Collins, MD

ADDRESS

Road
Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487
Telephone: (843) , (843):
E-mail: :

PERSONAL INFORMATION

BIRTHPLACE AND DATE

Atlanta, Georgia -

CITIZENSHIP

United States

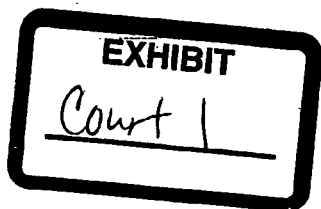
EDUCATION

1981-1985

University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia
BS, Microbiology
(Magna cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa)

1985-1989

Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, Georgia MD



WORK EXPERIENCE

1988-1989

Gracewood State School and Hospital, Augusta,
Georgia, Extern

1989 (Spring)

Medical College of Georgia, Autopsy Service

1988-1989

Research with R. Melcher, M.D.: The Relationship
Between Strokes and Seizures, Medical College of
Georgia

1988-1989

Research with R. Baisden, M.D.: The Effect of Fat
Soluble Substrates on the Growth of Tumor Cell
Cultures, Medical College of Georgia

POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING

1989-1994

Resident in Pathology (Anatomic & Clinical)
North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Bowman Gray
School of Medicine,
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

1993-1994

National Health Laboratories
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

1993-1994

Medical Examiner, State of North Carolina

1994-1995

Fellow in Forensic Pathology
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

EMPLOYMENT

Instructor in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina,
Charleston, South Carolina, 1995-1997

Assistant Professor in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Medical University of South
Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, 1997-1999

Kimberly Ann Collins, MD

Curriculum Vitae

Page 3

EMPLOYMENT (CONTINUED):

Associate Professor in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, 1999-2003

Professor in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, 2003-2008

Co-Director Pathology Education Division, Medical and Dental School, Medical University of South Carolina, 2000-2008

Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, Charleston County, 1995-1998

Chief Medical Examiner, Charleston County, 1998-2001

Forensic Pathology Section, Medical University of South Carolina, Director, 1998-2006

Forensic Pathology Fellowship Director, Medical University of South Carolina, 1998-2006

Autopsy Pathology Section, Medical University of South Carolina, Director, 2000-2006

Careers in Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, Co-Director, 2006-2008

Career Development, Medical University of South Carolina, Co-Director, 2006-2008

Forensic Pathologist, Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office, Atlanta, GA, 2008-2013

Emory University School of Medicine, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, 2008-2013

LifePoint Organ & Tissue Donation Services for South Carolina, Medical Director, Tissue Division, 2012-present

GRANTS

1994-1995

Pathology/Biology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences: "Identification of Sperm and Non-Sperm Male Epithelial Cells in Cervicovaginal Smears Using Novel Molecular-Cytogenetic Technique: Application in Alleged Sexual Assault Cases." Primary Investigator: Kim Collins, MD 1994-1995, \$1,800

1994-1995

Clifton Brooks, Jr. Medical Research Fellowship
Primary Investigators: Kim A. Collins, MD and Wain White, MD; \$25,000

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

North Carolina Medical License, #93-00066
South Carolina Medical License, #17218
Georgia Medical License, #061222

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Anatomic Pathology Board Certification, American Board of Pathology, 1995
Clinical Pathology Board Certification, American Board of Pathology, 1995
Forensic Pathology Board Certification, American Board of Pathology, 1996

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Diplomat of the American Board of Pathology, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology
Diplomat of the American Board of Pathology, Forensic Pathology
American Medical Association
College of American Pathologists
Chair, Residents Forum, 1993-1994
Resident Forum Executive Committee, 1991-1995
CAP Residents Forum - American Medical Association Delegate, 1991-1993
Liaison, Curriculum Committee of the PRODS
North Carolina Resident Delegate, 1990-1991
Environment, Health, and Safety Resource Committee, 1991-1993
Resident Recruitment and Retention Committee, Vice Chair, 1992-1994
Finance Committee, 1993-1994
CAP Strategic Planning Committee, 1993- 1997
Residents and Young Physicians Committee, 1993-1994
Forensics Committee, 1993-1994

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (CONTINUED):

Autopsy Committee, 1996-2009, Vice Chair 2001-2004, Chair 2004-2007
 Education Committee, 2000-2002
 Council on Public Affairs, 2000-2004
 Public and Patient Relations Committee, 2004-2005
 Public Affairs Committee, 2005-2010
 Member and Public Communications Committee, 2011
 Ad Hoc Committee on New and Emerging Technologies, 2006-2007
 Residents, Young Pathologists, and General Membership Committee, 1997-2002, Chair
 Membership Committee, 2002-2003, Chair
 College of American Pathologists Residents Forum Advisor, 1997-2003
 Mentor Program, 2009-present
 CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program Inspector
 State Commissioner for CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, 1998-2004
 CAP Fellow Member Delegate to the CAP House of Delegates, South Carolina, 1997-present
 HOD Nominating Committee Chair, 2006
 CAP Foundation Board of Directors, 1999-2007
 Vice President 2005-2007
 CAP Nominating Committee, 2000 and 2008
 Information Science and Technology Committee, 2001-2003
 Committee on Organ and Tissue Procurement, 2001-2003
 CAP Liaison to Association of Pathology Chairs Graduate Medical Education Committee, 2001-2006
 CAP Liaison to Association of Pathology Chairs Autopsy Committee, 2002
 North Carolina Delegate to the AMA-RPS, 1993
 American Academy of Forensic Sciences
 Pathology/Biology Section Program Director 2007-2008
 Pathology/Biology Section Secretary, 2009-2010
 Pathology/Biology Section Chair, 2010 - 2011
 National Association of Medical Examiners
 South Carolina Liaison, 2001 - present
 Strategic Planning Committee, 2002
 Subcommittee on Assistance to the NAME Membership, 2002
 Education, Program, and Publications Committee, 2010-2011
 Forensic Fellow In-Service exam subcommittee, 2010-2013
 Committee on International Relations, 2010-present
 Committee on Organ and Tissue Procurement, 2010-present
 Board of Directors, 2010-present
 Executive Committee, 2012-present
 Consortium for Forensic Science Organizations, 2013-present. Secretary, 2014-present

Kimberly Ann Collins, MD
Curriculum Vitae
Page 6

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (CONTINUED):

American Society of Clinical Pathologists
ASCP Advisory Council, 1998-2004
United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology
Forensic Evening Seminar Director, 2005-2007
International Academy of Pathology
Forensic Seminar Director, Athens Greece, 2008
South Carolina Medical Association, Delegate, 1999-2008
South Carolina Society of Pathologists, Treasurer, 1998-1999
South Carolina Society of Pathologists, President-Elect, 1999-2001
South Carolina Society of Pathologists, President, 2001-2004
American Red Cross Medical Examiner/Coroner Advisory Committee, 1999-2005. Chair 2002-2003.
Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation, Medical Examiner/Coroner Advisory Committee, 2006 – present, Chair 2011-present
Board of Trustees, 2013-present
Funeral Directors Advisory Committee, 2014-present
Life Point Organ and Tissue Procurement Advisory Board, South Carolina, 2009-present
Regeneration Technologies Inc., Medical Examiner, Coroner, Funeral Director Forum, 2013-present

EDITORIAL BOARDS

Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, 2003 – present
Section Editor, Autopsy Pathology, 2005-present
American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, 2004 - present
eMedicine, 2008-present, Autopsy Section Editor, 2008-present
Journal of Forensic Sciences, 2010-present
Journal of Forensic Science, Medicine, and Pathology, 2010 - present

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

Section Editor, Autopsy Pathology, *Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine*
Section Chief Editor, Autopsy Pathology, *eMedicine*

Review manuscripts for publication:

American Society of Clinical Pathologists
Southern Medical Journal
Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Pediatrics
American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology
American Journal of Clinical Forensic Medicine
Clinical Infectious Diseases
National Institute of Justice, Forensic Science Research and Development Peer Reviewer, 2005-2006
Journal of Forensic Sciences
Journal of Forensic Science, Medicine, and Pathology

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

College of Medicine Faculty Advisor, 1998-1999, 2003-2008
College of Medicine Admissions Committee, 1999-2008
MUSC Blood and Tissue Utilization Committee, 2000-2006
MUSC Internal Residency Review Committee, 2001-2003
MUSC Autopsy QA Committee for Clinicopathological Correlation, 2000-2006
College of Medicine Curriculum Committee, 2000-2008
College of Medicine Progress Committee, 2000-2004
Faculty Development Committee, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, 1999-2006
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Faculty Advisor (Zaloga:2001-3, Eason:2001-3, Van
Ells:2001-2007, Rose:2006-2008, Havard:2006-2008)
JCAHO Special Function Laboratory Survey and Inspection Committee, 2002
MUSC Point of Care Testing, Medical Director, 2002-2006
Performance Improvement Committee, Chair, 2002-2006

HONORS AND AWARDS

UNDERGRADUATE

- Phi Beta Kappa
- "Jasper Dorsey Outstanding Student Award," 1983-1984, University of Georgia
- Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society
- Student Government, University of Georgia
- Student Union, University of Georgia
- American Leadership Study Group
- United States Friendship Force, US Ambassador
- Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society
- Mortar Board National Honor Society
- Angel Flight - Air Force R.O.T.C., University of Georgia Southeastern Area Officer
- Outstanding Justice: Student Judiciary, University of Georgia
- Who's Who Among American College Students (1983-85)

MEDICAL SCHOOL

- MENSA Scholarship Recipient
- United Methodist Church Scholarship Recipient
- Outstanding Service, Medical College of Georgia (1988-89)

HONORS AND AWARDS (CONTINUED):

RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP

- Southern Medical Association, "Physician-In-Training Award" First Place, 1993-1994
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences, "Best Resident Research Paper," First Place, 1994
- "The Warren R. Lang, M.D., Resident Physician Award" of the American Society of Cytopathology, First Place, 1994
- "The New Frontiers in Cytology Award" of the American Society of Cytopathology, First Place, 1994

FACULTY/PATHOLOGY PRACTICE

- Pathology Resident Teaching Award, Medical University of South Carolina, 1996-1997
- Faculty Excellence Award, MUSC College of Medicine, 1996-1997
- Faculty Excellence Award, MUSC, College of Medicine, Outstanding Professor runner-up, 2001
- Outstanding Basic Science Professor, MUSC School of Dentistry, 2001
- Golden Apple Award, American Medical Student Association, School of Medicine, 2001
- Health Sciences Foundation Teaching Excellence Award Nominee, 2001
- Strathmore's Who's Who, 2002-present
- President's Award, National Association of Medical Examiners, 2001
- President's Honor, College of American Pathologists, 2001
- Faculty Excellence Award, MUSC College of Medicine, 2002
- Best Lecture Award, Medical College of Georgia, 2002-2003
- ASDA Basic Science Teacher of the Year Award, Nominee, 2003-2004
- College of American Pathologists Resident Advocate Award, 2004
- Faculty Excellence Award, MUSC College of Medicine, 2004
- Health Sciences Foundation Teaching Excellence Award Nominee, 2004
- Golden Apple Award, American Medical Student Association, School of Medicine, 2004
- Faculty Excellence Award, MUSC College of Medicine, Nominee, 2004-2005
- Faculty Excellence Award, MUSC College of Medicine, 2005-2006
- ASDA Basic Science Teacher of the Year Award, 2005-2006
- Oath Ceremony Speaker, MUSC College of Medicine, 5-18-06
- Golden Apple Award, American Medical Student Association, School of Medicine, 2006
- Faculty Excellence Award, MUSC College of Medicine, 2006-2007
- Faculty Excellence Award, MUSC College of Medicine, 2007-2008
- ASDA Basic Science Teacher of the Year Award, 2007-2008
- Dove Award, LifePoint Organ and Tissue Procurement, 2008
- College of American Pathologists Distinguished Patient Care Award, 2008
- College of American Pathologists Foundation Lansky Award, 2008
- College of American Pathologists William H. Kuehn, PhD Outstanding Communicator Award, 2010

COMMUNITY SERVICE/HONORS

Charleston County School District High School Mentor Program 1995-1996.

"The Role of the Medical Examiner", Berkeley-Dorchester Underwriters Association, Summerville, South Carolina, November 16, 1995.

"Forensic Pathology", The Sertoma Club, Charleston, South Carolina, November 20, 1995.

"Violent Deaths," Roper-Berkeley Leadership Conference, Leiber Correctional Facility, Ridgeville, South Carolina, April 3, 1996.

"The Role of the Forensic Pathologist", Rotary International, Charleston, South Carolina, April 16, 1996.

"Homicide, Suicide, and Time of Death: Responsibilities of the Coroner", South Carolina Coroner's Association, Chesterfield, South Carolina, May 7, 1996.

Recognition of Appreciation from the South Carolina Coroner's Association, May 7, 1996.

"Sudden Infant Death Syndrome", CBS Health Connection Television Broadcast, Charleston, South Carolina, September 27, 1996.

"Forensic Pathology For First Responders", Emergency Responders Appreciation Day, Aiken, South Carolina, October 4, 1996.

"Weapons Awareness", South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services, Charleston, South Carolina, October 11, 1996.

Charleston County School District Mentor Program, 1996-1997, Adrie Sims.

"Forensic Pathology and Violent Death", Myrtle Beach High School and Medical University of South Carolina Public Relations, December 3, 1996.

"Violence In Our Society", C.E. Williams Middle School, Charleston, South Carolina, January 24, 1997.

"Violence, Forensic Pathology, and Our Youth", Brentwood Middle School, Charleston, South Carolina, February 26th, 1997.

"When The Crying Stops: Partners In Preventing Infant Deaths", East Cooper Hospital, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, April 1, 1997.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/HONORS (CONTINUED):

"Violence in Our Society", Union Middle School, Charleston, South Carolina, April 3, 1997.

"Shaken Baby Syndrome", CBS Health Connection Television Broadcast, Charleston, South Carolina, April 17, 1997.

"Weapons Awareness", South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services, Charleston, South Carolina, April 18, 1997.

"Science and Your Profession", Alice Birney School, North Charleston, South Carolina, April 18, 1997.

"When The Crying Stops: Partners in Preventing Infant Deaths", Mount Pleasant Exchange Club, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, April 23, 1997.

"Pediatric Deaths: Roper Hospital Training", Roper Hospital, Charleston, South Carolina, April 23, 1997.

"Domestic Violence", Rotary Club, Beaufort, South Carolina, May 6, 1997.

"Forensic Pathology Today", Berkeley County School System, Charleston, South Carolina, May 21, 1997.

"Weapons Awareness", South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services, Charleston, South Carolina, May 23, 1997.

"Weapons Awareness", South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services, Charleston, South Carolina, July 11, 1997.

"Overlaying", CBS Health Connection Television Broadcast, Charleston, South Carolina, July 25, 1997.

"Death by Drowning", Department of Natural Resources, James Island, South Carolina, March 16, 1998.

"Forensic Pathology Update", Rotary Club of St. Andrews, Charleston, South Carolina, May 14, 1998.

"The Role of the Medical Examiner", Tri-County Communicators-Dispatch Association, Charleston, South Carolina, May 27, 1998.

"Atherosclerotic Heart Disease", American Heart Association, American Heart Walk Recruitment Leader Kick-off, Charleston, South Carolina, August 13, 1998.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/HONORS (CONTINUED):

"Forensic Pathology", Academy of the Arts, Science, and Technology, Charleston, South Carolina, September 22, 1998.

Charleston County School District Mentor Program, 1997-1998, Tia Smalls.

"Sexually Transmitted Diseases", Radio Interview, Washington, DC for South Carolina Broadcasting, October 20, 1998.

"Forensic Pathology", Fort Dorchester High School, November 13, 1998.

National Medical Examiner/Coroner Advisory Committee for the American Red Cross, Las Vegas, Nevada, February 24-25, 1999.

"Forensic Fair - First Annual", Trident Technical College Palmer Campus, Charleston, South Carolina, March 11-12, 1999.

"Violence and Forensic Pathology", Maury Povich Show, Charleston, South Carolina, March 25, 1999.

"Breast Carcinoma", Hometown Radio Interviews, CAP Council on Public Affairs, Orlando, Florida, April 12-13, 1999.

"Forensic Pathology", Fort Dorchester School, Charleston, South Carolina, April 27, 1999.

Charleston County School District Mentor Program, 1999, Laura Hatcher.

"Forensic Pathology and the Combined Coroner-Medical Examiner System", Russian Ambassadors/Russian Leadership Program, United States Library of Congress, Charleston, South Carolina, August 5, 1999.

"Shaken Baby Syndrome...A Multidisciplinary Perspective", County Directors and Supervisors Conference for Department of Social Services, Hilton Head, South Carolina, September 2, 1999.

"Pap Smears Save Lives", Hometown Radio Interviews, CAP Council on Public Affairs, New Orleans, Louisiana, September 28, 1999.

"Forensic Pathology", Maury Povich Show, Charleston, South Carolina, October 28, 1999.

"Forensic Pathology", Phenix Center, Manning School District, Charleston, South Carolina, October 28, 1999.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/HONORS (CONTINUED):

"The Risk Factors of SIDS", ABC Charleston, October 29, 1999.

"SIDS... Sleeping Environment and Other Risk Factors", CBS Charleston 'Noonday', Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, December 9, 1999.

"End Result" Program with South Carolina Probation and Parole, 1998-1999.

"Forensic Pathology and the Autopsy", Medical Technology School Tour, Charleston, South Carolina, January 20, 2000.

"Pathology: The Autopsy and Forensics", Charleston Southern University, Department of Anthropology, Charleston, South Carolina, January 27, 2000.

"Forensic Pathology and Forensic Science", Saturday Scholars Program, Charleston, South Carolina, January 29, 2000.

"The Medical Examiner and the Coroner", Academic Magnet High School, North Charleston, South Carolina, February 2, 2000.

"Child Abuse and Neglect", East Cooper Hospital Department of Nursing, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, April 3, 2000.

"Sudden Infant Death Syndrome", Hometown Radio Interviews, Boston, Massachusetts, April 11, 2000.

"Drug-Related Deaths", American Red Cross Tissue Procurement, Columbia, South Carolina, June 21, 2000.

"Alcohol and Teen Driving" College of American Pathologists Council on Public Affairs Video News Release (VNR), national distribution and broadcast, Charleston, South Carolina, taping April 19, 2001.

Wofford College Interim Program Mentor, January 2002, Katie Sellars

College of Charleston Internship Mentor, 2002, Chris Grivas

College of Charleston Internship Mentor, 2002, Jessica Bruhm

College of Charleston Internship Mentor, 2002, Aaron Otte

COMMUNITY SERVICE/HONORS (CONTINUED):

College of Charleston Internship Mentor, 2003 (spring), Candace Moorer

College of Charleston Internship Mentor, 2003 (spring), Betsy Brabham

College of Charleston Internship Mentor, 2003 (fall), Kimberly Steele

Trident Technical College Internship Mentor, 2004 (winter, spring), Christine Kinney

College of Charleston Internship Mentor, 2005-2006, Ansley

College of Charleston Internship Mentor, Colin Clarke, 2005-2006

College of Charleston Internship Mentor, Jackie Ong, 2005-2006

College of Charleston Internship Mentor, Sarah Bjorkman, 2007

Citadel Military College Mentor, Aaron Kelly, 2007-2008

"Religious Perspectives and the Autopsy", Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy, Charleston, South Carolina, May 3, 2006.

"Blood Donation", Hometown Radio Interviews, Boston, Massachusetts, May 18, 2006

"Gun Safety", College of American Pathologists Public Affairs Committee Video News Release (VNR), national distribution and broadcast, taping May 25, 2006

"Breast Cancer", Radio Interviews, College of American Pathologists, 2007

Satellite media tour on breast cancer, live broadcast from Chicago, Illinois, October 2007

"Breast Cancer" radio interview through the College of American Pathologists, 2008

Satellite Media Tour, Breast Cancer, live broadcast from Chicago, Illinois, national distribution, October 2009

Teaching at Capers Preparatory Christian Academy, Johns Island, South Carolina, 2009-2012

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS

"Infiltrating Angiolipoma of the Vulva," Southern Medical Association, George Papanicolaou Memorial Seminar in Gynecologic Pathology, Atlanta, Georgia, November 1991.

"Extragenadal Germ Cell Tumors: A Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy Study," American Society of Cytology, Los Angeles, California, November 6, 1991.

"Atypical Lymphocytosis in Ascitic Fluid in Young Children - A Potential Diagnostic Challenge," American Society of Cytology, Quebec City, Canada, October 1, 1992.

"The Cytologic Evaluation of Lipid-Laden Alveolar Macrophages as an Indicator of Aspiration Pneumonia in Young Children," American Society of Cytology, Quebec City, Canada, October 1, 1992.

"Primary Malignant Melanoma of the Uterus," Southern Medical Association, George Papanicolaou Memorial Seminar in Gynecologic Pathology, San Antonio, Texas, November 14, 1992.

"A Retrospective and Prospective Study of Cerebral Tissue Pulmonary Embolization in Severe Head Trauma," American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Boston, Massachusetts, February 18, 1993.

"Interpretation of Fatal Multiple and Exiting Gunshot Wounds by Trauma Specialists," American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Boston, Massachusetts, February 18, 1993.

"The Accuracy of Clinical Evaluations of Gunshot Wounds," North Carolina Medicolegal Seminar, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, June 26, 1993.

"What Makes A Residency Program Attractive to Residents," Association of Pathology Chairmen/PRODS Conference, Aspen, Colorado, July 28, 1993.

"An Unusual Case of Maternal-Fetal Death Due to Vaginal Insufflation of Cocaine," National Association of Medical Examiners, Fort Worth, Texas, September 13, 1993.

"Death by Bull-Edger: An Unusual Homicide Utilizing a Woodworking Implement," National Association of Medical Examiners, Fort Worth, Texas, September 13, 1993.

"Identification of Male Cells Using FISH with Y-probes in Cervicovaginal Smears in Alleged Sexual Assault Cases," American Society of Human Genetics, New Orleans, Louisiana, October, 6, 1993.

"History of United States Pathology," Seminar Moderator, College of American Pathologists, Orlando, Florida, October 16, 1993.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"An Introduction to Laboratory Management," Seminar Moderator, College of American Pathologists, Orlando, Florida, October 17, 1993.

"An Unusual Case of Angiotropic Large Cell Lymphoma," Southern Medical Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 28, 1993.

"Identification of Male Cells Using FISH with Y-probes in Cervicovaginal Smears in Alleged Sexual Assault Cases," American Society of Human Genetics, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1993.

"Sneddon-Wilkinson Disease: Clinical and Histopathologic Features of This Controversial Entity," Southern Medical Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 28, 1993.

"Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy of Hepatic Lymphomas: Cytomorphology and Ancillary Studies," American Society of Cytology, Houston, Texas, November 3, 1993.

"Residents Forum Update," CAP Leadership Conference, Miami, Florida, January 15, 1994.

"Resident Issues in Pathology - Training, Recruitment/Retention, Organized Medicine," Texas Society of Pathologists, Austin, Texas, January 28, 1994.

"Identification of Sperm and Non-Sperm Male Cells in Cervicovaginal Smears Using Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization: Applications in Alleged Sexual Assault Cases," American Academy of Forensic Sciences, San Antonio, Texas, February 17, 1994.

"The Presence of Bcl-2 Protein Precedes ICAM-1 Expression in Early Evolving Malignant Melanoma," International Academy of Pathology, San Francisco, California, March 15, 1994.

"The Use of Cytogenetics in Forensics," University of California, San Francisco, California, March 16, 1994.

"Physician Liability and Courtroom Testimony," Seminar Moderator, College of American Pathologists, Seattle, Washington, April 9, 1994.

"Legislative Update: CAP and Washington, D.C.," Seminar Moderator, College of American Pathologists, Seattle, Washington, April 10, 1994.

"Contract Negotiations," Seminar Moderator, College of American Pathologists, Seattle, Washington, April 10, 1994.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Application of Molecular Cytogenetics to Cervicovaginal Smears in Alleged Sexual Assault Cases," American Society of Cytology, Chicago, Illinois, November 2, 1994.

"South Carolina: A Dual Medical Examiner-Coroner System: Does It Work?" American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Seattle, Washington, February 16, 1995.

"Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization: A New Technique to Detect Male Cells in Cervicovaginal Smears From Sexual Assault Victims," International Academy of Pathology, Toronto, Canada, March 13, 1995.

"Duct Tape Tales," National Association of Medical Examiners, San Diego, California, October 1995.

"A Decade of Drug Overdose Deaths at the Medical University of South Carolina," National Association of Medical Examiners, San Diego, California, October 1995.

"Gas Embolism Due to a Hepatic Abscess Caused by Clostridium perfringens," American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Nashville, Tennessee, February 22, 1996.

"Sudden Death in an Infant After Swallowing 'Crack' Cocaine," American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Nashville, Tennessee, February 22, 1996.

"New Developments in SIDS and Child Abuse," Forensic Pathology Seminar, Charleston, South Carolina, May 19, 1996.

"Forensic Pathology: Violent Death, Trace Evidence, and Scene Investigation," Governor's Program, Charleston, South Carolina, June 1996.

"Forensic Pathology: Cause of Death, Manner of Death, and Trauma," University of South Carolina, Department of Anthropology, Columbia, South Carolina, July 1, 1996.

"Overview and Update of Forensic Pathology," Florence-Darlington Technical College Seminar, Charleston, South Carolina, July 19, 1996.

"Analysis of Childhood Deaths in South Carolina," National Association of Medical Examiners, Traverse City, Michigan, September 14, 1996.

"Crack Cocaine as it Relates to a Child's Death," International Association of Forensic Nurses, Kansas City, Missouri, November 3, 1996.

"The Use of Review Teams as an Investigative Tool in Children's Deaths," International Association of Forensic Nurses, Kansas City, Missouri, November 3, 1996.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Forensic Pathology- Using Medical Science To Develop Evidence Used To Solve Crimes", South Carolina Probation and Parole Association, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, November 7, 1996.

"Coroner Training: "Forensic Pathology", Criminal Justice Academy, Columbia, South Carolina, November 29, 1996.

"Youthful Offenders, Violence, and Forensic Pathology," American Medical Association and The Charleston Marine Institute, Charleston, South Carolina, December 7, 1996.

"Pediatric Homicide by Shaking: A Ten Year Retrospective Study", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, New York, New York, February 21, 1997.

"Sudden Unexpected Death Resulting From an Anomalous Left Coronary Artery", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, New York, New York, February 21, 1997.

"A Decade of SIDS: The MUSC Experience", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, New York, New York, February 21, 1997.

"Speedballing With Needle Embolization: Case Study and Review of the Literature", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, New York, New York, February 21, 1997.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology" Pathology/Biology Section, Seminar Moderator, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, New York, New York, February 21, 1997.

"Sudden Infant Death Syndrome: A Ten Year Retrospective Study of Pulmonary Histopathology", United States and Canadian Division of the International Academy of Pathology, Orlando, Florida, March 3, 1997.

"The Use of Polymerase Chain Reaction To Detect Evidence of Y Chromosome-Positive Cells in Cases of Sexual Assault", United States and Canadian Division of the International Academy of Pathology, Orlando, Florida, March 5, 1997.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology", University of South Carolina School of Law, Columbia, South Carolina, April 16, 1997.

"Pediatric Forensic Deaths", Medical University of South Carolina Pediatric Grand Rounds, Charleston, South Carolina, April 25, 1997.

"Elder Abuse: A Ten Year Retrospective Study at the Medical University of South Carolina", National Association of Medical Examiners, Baltimore, Maryland, September 13, 1997.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"A Decade of Pediatric Homicide: A Retrospective Study at the Medical University of South Carolina", National Association of Medical Examiners, Baltimore, Maryland, September 13, 1997.

"Death by No-Doz Overdose", National Association of Medical Examiners, Baltimore, Maryland, September 13, 1997.

"Forensics", South Carolina Probation and Parole Association---Tri-Association Conference, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, November 11, 1997.

"SIDS and Child Abuse", South Carolina Coroners Association, Columbia, South Carolina, May 6, 1997.

"When The Crying Stops", Navy Hospital, North Charleston, South Carolina, May 21, 1997.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology", Pediatric Grand Rounds, Roper Hospital, Charleston, South Carolina, May 22, 1997.

"In The Wink Of The Eye", International Association of Forensic Nurses, Irvine, California, September 28, 1997.

"Child Beating: Death by Soft Tissue Damage and Hemorrhage", Conference on Child Maltreatment, San Diego, California, January 29, 1998.

"Pediatric Homicide by Shaking: A Ten Year Retrospective Study", Conference on Child Maltreatment, San Diego, California, January 29, 1998.

"Shaken Baby Syndrome?....Or Accident?", 1998 Forensic Seminar, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, March 22, 1998.

"Domestic Violence: Recognition, Documentation, and Reporting", Alabama Dental Association, Vail, Colorado, March 31, 1998.

"Speaking Before Groups," College of American Pathologists, Los Angeles, California, April 5, 1998.

"Forensic Nursing in the Emergency Room", Low Country Emergency Nurses Association, Charleston, South Carolina, May 20, 1998.

"Charleston and Low Country Forensics", International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners, Charleston, South Carolina, June 16, 1998.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Shaken Baby Syndrome: A Ten Year Retrospective Study", National Shaken Baby Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, September 14, 1998.

"Speaking Before Groups", College of American Pathologists, Washington, DC, October 18, 1998.

"Pierre W. Keitges, MD, Memorial Program on Medical Ethics", Washington, DC, October 19, 1998.

"Photography and the Pathologist", College of American Pathologists, Washington, DC, October 21, 1998.

"Suicide Under the Age of Eighteen: A Ten Year Retrospective Study", National Association of Medical Examiners, Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 2, 1998.

"The Suicide That Wasn't", National Association of Medical Examiners, Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 3, 1998.

"Fire Deaths and Self-Immolation: An Eleven Year Review, 1986-1996", National Association of Medical Examiners, November 3, 1998.

"Identification of Female Cells in Postcoital Penile Swabs Using Fluorescence in situ hybridization and PCR: Application in Sexual Assault", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Orlando, Florida, February 19, 1999.

"Suicide: A Ten Year Retrospective Study", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Orlando, Florida, February 19, 1999.

"Child Beating: The Examination of Death By Soft Tissue Hemorrhage", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Orlando, Florida, February 19, 1999.

"A Ten Year Retrospective Study of Drowning Deaths", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Orlando, Florida, February 19, 1999.

"Overview of Forensic Pathology", Carolina Clinical Connection '99, Charleston, South Carolina, March 26, 1999.

"Meet the Experts: Discussions in Pathology", College of American Pathologists, Orlando, Florida, April 12, 1999.

"Breast Cancer", Hometown Radio Interview for South Carolina Broadcasting, Orlando, Florida, April 12, 1999.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Back To Sleep: SIDS and Risk Factors", North Charleston, South Carolina, June 4, 1999.

"Benign or Malignant? The Borderline Lesions of Medicolegal Diagnostics", College of American Pathologists, New Orleans, Louisiana, September 26, 1999.

"Speaking Before Groups", College of American Pathologists, New Orleans, Louisiana, September 26, 1999.

"Improper Airbag Deployment in a Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality", National Association of Medical Examiners, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 18, 1999.

"Elderly Suicide: A Ten Year Retrospective Study", National Association of Medical Examiners, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 18, 1999.

"Sudden Death in a Three Year Old: A Case of Primary Pulmonary Hypertension", National Association of Medical Examiners, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 18, 1999.

"Multifactorial Analysis of Gunshot Wounds to the Head with Attention to Anatomic Location", National Association of Medical Examiners, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 18, 1999.

"Pediatric Toxicologic Deaths: A Ten Year Retrospective Study", National Association of Medical Examiners, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 19, 1999.

"Persistence of Spermatozoa and Prostatic Acid Phosphatase in Specimens from Deceased Individuals Over Varied Postmortem Intervals", National Association of Medical Examiners, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 19, 1999.

"Beginning the Job Search", Virtual Management College Audio Conference, November 9, 1999.
"Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference", 3rd Annual, Co-Director, Orlando, Florida, December 1-4, 1999.

"SIDS, Overlaying and Suffocation", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 3, 1999.

"Pediatric Neglect", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 4, 1999.

"The Roles of the Pathologist in Forensics", Criminal Justice Academy, South Carolina Law Enforcement, Columbia, South Carolina, February 22, 2000.

"Expert Panel Discussion on Elder Abuse and Neglect", Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect Prevention Conference, United States Department of Justice, Columbia, South Carolina, February 23, 2000.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Fused Vertebrae: Skeletal Manifestations of Psoriasis Used to Corroborate Radiographic Identification", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Reno, Nevada, February 24, 2000.

"Neonatal Poisoning: Accident or Homicide? Case Report and Review of the Literature", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Reno, Nevada, February 25, 2000.

"Ancillary Procedures: Getting the Most out of the Autopsy", College of American Pathologists, Boston, Massachusetts, April 8, 2000.

"Fetal Death: A Ten Year Retrospective Study", National Association of Medical Examiners, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 18, 2000.

"An Unusual Case of Anaphylaxis: Mold in Pancake Mix", National Association of Medical Examiners, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 18, 2000.

"Death By Overlaying and Wedging: A 15 Year Retrospective Study", National Association of Medical Examiners, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 18, 2000.

"Breast Bud Hemorrhage in a Neonate", National Association of Medical Examiners, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 19, 2000.

"Speaking Before Groups", College of American Pathologists, October 15, 2000.

"So Now You've Been Offered a Job", Moderator/Facilitator, College of American Pathologists, October 15, 2000.

"Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference", 4th Annual, Co-director, Las Vegas, Nevada, December 4-7, 2000. SIDS, Overlaying, and Suffocation", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, December 6, 2000.

"Pediatric Neglect", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, December 6, 2000.

"Pediatric and Elder Death Investigation Seminar", Chesterfield Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Responders, Chesterfield, South Carolina, January 23, 2001.

"Forensic Pathology: Update and Overview", Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia, February 16, 2001.

"College of American Pathologists Laboratory Accreditation Program Inspector Training Seminar", Charleston, South Carolina, May 31, 2001.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Planning the Job Search", Virtual Management College of the College of American Pathologists, Audioconference, October 9, 2001.

"Forensic Pathology: The Next Generation. The Academic Forensic Pathologist", National Association of Medical Examiners, Richmond, Virginia, October 12, 2001.

"Accidental Deaths in Children", National Association of Medical Examiners, Richmond, Virginia, October 15, 2001.

"Sudden Death Due to Airway Fibrin Clot: Case Report and Review of Airway Obstructions", National Association of Medical Examiners, Richmond, Virginia, October 15, 2001.

"Sudden Death to Asphyxia by Esophageal Polyp: Case Report and Review of the Literature", National Association of Medical Examiners, Richmond, Virginia, October 15, 2001.

"Twenty-six Years of Fatal Pediatric Burns", National Association of Medical Examiners, Richmond, Virginia, October 15, 2001.

"The Perinatal Decedent: Viability, Postmortem Artifact, and Trauma", National Association of Medical Examiners, Richmond, Virginia, October 15, 2001.

"Elderly Homicide: A Retrospective Study 1985-2000", National Association of Medical Examiners, Richmond, Virginia, October 17, 2001.

"Responding to Disaster: Lessons Learned", College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Clinical Pathology Joint Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 20, 2001.

"Shaken Baby Syndrome and BAPP", College of American pathologist and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists Joint Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 20, 2001.

"Elder Abuse", College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Clinical Pathology Joint Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 21, 2001.

"Speaking Before Groups", College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Clinical Pathology Joint Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 21, 2001.

"Pierre W. Keitges, MD Memorial Program on Ethics: Issues Surrounding Organ and Tissue Procurement and Donation", College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Clinical Pathology Joint Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 22, 2001.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology", Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Forensic Course, Faculty, Bethesda, Maryland, November 16, 2001.

Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, 5th Annual, Co-Director, Orlando, Florida, December 3-6, 2001.

"Perinatal and Neonatal Death", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 3, 2001.

"Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Injuries vs. Blunt Force Trauma", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 4, 2001.

"Pediatric Neglect", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 5, 2001.

"Fetal Death", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 6, 2001.

"Differential Diagnosis in Forensic Pathology", Short Course, United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, Chicago, Illinois, February 28, 2002.

"The Role of Radiology in Forensic Pathology", South Carolina Society of Radiologic Technologists, Charleston, South Carolina, March 1, 2002.

"Forensic Pathology: a Focus on Domestic Violence", Medical Views Southern Vistas Conference, Charleston, South Carolina, April 6, 2002.

"Pseudo-Elder Abuse: A Case of Vertebral Artery Laceration", National Association of Medical Examiners, Shreveport, Louisiana, September 30, 2002.

"Aortoesophageal Fistula due to Ingestion of a Small Round Object", National Association of Medical Examiners, Shreveport, Louisiana, October 1, 2002.

"Now That You've Passed the Boards", College of American Pathologists, Washington, DC, October 12, 2002.

"Speaking Before Groups", College of American Pathologists, Washington, DC, October 13, 2002.

"Achievement of Competency", College of American Pathologists, Washington, DC, October 14, 2002.

"Women in Pathology", College of American Pathologists, Washington, DC, October 14, 2002.

"Forensic Pathology", Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia, October 25, 2002.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology", Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Forensic Course, Faculty, Bethesda, Maryland, November 22, 2002.

"Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, 6th Annual", Co-director, Orlando, Florida, December 4-7, 2002.

"The Basics of Pediatric Forensic Pathology", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, 6th Annual, Orlando, Florida, December 4, 2002.

"Differential Diagnosis in Forensic Pathology", Short Course, United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, Washington, DC, March 28, 2003.

"Pathologic Findings in Malignant Hyperthermia: A Case Report and Review of the Literature", National Association of Medical Examiners, San Jose, California, September 22, 2003.

"Childhood Panhypopituitarism Presenting as Child Abuse: A Case Report and Review of the Literature", National Association of Medical Examiners, San Jose, California, September 22, 2003.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology", Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Forensic Course, Faculty, Rockville, Maryland, November 21, 2003.

"Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, 6th Annual", Co-director, Orlando, Florida, December 3-6, 2003.

"Differential Diagnosis in Forensic Pathology", Short Course, United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, Vancouver, BC, March 12, 2004.

"Pediatric Homicidal Burns: a Retrospective Study", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Dallas, Texas, February 20, 2004.

"Pediatric Toxicology and Pharmacokinetics", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Dallas, Texas, February 20, 2004.

"Unusual Cases of Ethanol Overdose: Deaths Following Treatment for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy", National Association of Medical Examiners, Nashville, Tennessee, September 11, 2004.

"Fentanyl Toxicity Due to Improper Placement of the Fentanyl Patch", National Association of Medical Examiners, Nashville, Tennessee, September 11, 2004.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"New Ancillary Studies in Amniotic Fluid Embolism: A Case Report and Review of the Literature", National Association of Medical Examiners, Nashville, Tennessee, September 13, 2004.

"Pregnancy Associated Deaths: A 15 Year Retrospective Study", National Association of Medical Examiners, Nashville, Tennessee, September 13, 2004.

"The Natural Autopsy: A 15 Year Retrospective Study", National Association of Medical Examiners, Nashville, Tennessee, September 13, 2004.

"A 25-Year Retrospective Review of Deaths Due to Child Neglect", National Association of Medical Examiners, Nashville, Tennessee, September 13, 2004.

"Cardiac Injury Secondary to Motor Vehicle Collision: A 15 Year Retrospective Study at the Medical University of South Carolina", National Association of Medical Examiners, Nashville, Tennessee, September 13, 2004.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology", Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Forensic Course, Faculty, Rockville, Maryland, November 19, 2004.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology", Medical College of Georgia, Department of Pathology, Augusta, Georgia, October 13, 2004.

"Spokesperson Training", College of American Pathologists, Chicago, Illinois, November 20, 2004.

"Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference", Course Co-Director, Orlando, Florida, December 1-4, 2004.

"Ancillary Studies in the Pediatric Autopsy", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 1, 2004.

"Pediatric Pharmacokinetics", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 2, 2004.

"Courtroom Testimony", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 3, 2004.

"Soft Tissue Trauma", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 4, 2004.

"Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Injuries", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 4, 2004.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Challenges in Pediatric Toxicology", National Association of Medical Examiners, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 22, 2005.

"Adolescent Death: A 15-Year Retrospective Study", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 24, 2005.

"The Tragic Voyage of the Morning Dew", Last Word Society, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 24, 2005.

"The History of Warfare: An Overview", United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, Forensic Evening Session, San Antonio, Texas, March 1, 2005.

"Forensic Evening Session", Moderator, United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, Forensic Evening Session, San Antonio, Texas, March 1, 2005.

"Differential Diagnosis in Forensic Medicine", United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, Short Course, San Antonio, Texas, March 3, 2005.

"Basic Forensic Pathology", Charleston School of Law, Charleston, South Carolina, April 2005.

"Fatal Birth Trauma due to Undiagnosed Abdominal Teratoma: Case Report and Review of the Literature" National Association of Medical Examiners, Los Angeles, California, October 15, 2005.

"An Unusual Gross Presentation of Inflicted Head Trauma", National Association of Medical Examiners, Los Angeles, California, October 17, 2005.

"Adolescent Death", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Anaheim, California, December 1, 2005.

"Birth Trauma", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Anaheim, California, December 2, 2005.

Co-Director, Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Anaheim, California, November 30-December 3, 2005.

"Forensic Identification" and Forensic Evening Session Moderator, United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, Atlanta, Georgia, February 15, 2006.

"Taser Death", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Seattle, Washington, February 23, 2006.

"Basic Forensic Pathology", Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia, February 23, 2006.

"Elder Abuse", Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia, February 23, 2006.

Kimberly Ann Collins, MD
Curriculum Vitae
Page 27

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Adolescent Death", South Carolina Society of Radiologic Technologists, Charleston, South Carolina, March 9, 2006.

"Elder Maltreatment", South Carolina Society of Radiologic Technologists, Charleston, South Carolina, March 9, 2006.

"Pediatric Autopsy for the Practicing Pathologist", College of American Pathologists, CAP'06 annual meeting, San Diego, California, September 10, 2006.

"Atraumatic Cardiac Deaths in the Pediatric Population: A 15-Year Review", National Association of Medical Examiners, San Antonio, Texas, October 15, 2006.

"Left Atrial Myocardial Infarction and Sudden Death: Review of the Literature and Approach to the Autopsy", National Association of Medical Examiners, San Antonio, Texas, October 15, 2006.

"Intentionally-Induced Premature Labor Using Black-Market Misoprostol: A Case Report and Review of the Literature", National Association of Medical Examiners, San Antonio, Texas, October 16, 2006.

"Death by Wax Bullet", National Association of Medical Examiners, San Antonio, Texas, October 16, 2006.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology", Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Basic Forensic Pathology Course, Faculty, Rockville, Maryland, November 3, 2006.

Co-Director, Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 6-9, 2006.

"Adolescent Death, the Choking Game, and Russian Roulette", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 6, 2006.

"Birth Injuries and Trauma", Pediatric Forensic Issues Conference, Orlando, Florida, December 7, 2006.

"Basic Forensic Pathology, Pediatric Forensic Pathology, and Elder Maltreatment", Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia, February 12, 2007.

"The Role of Postmortem Cardiac Enzymes in the Diagnosis of Acute Cardiac Deaths", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, San Antonio, Texas, February 21, 2007.

"Child Maltreatment", South Carolina Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Greenville, South Carolina, April 12, 2007.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Career Planning as a Required Medical School Course: The MUSC Experience", Careers in Medicine Professional Development Conference: Peaks of Excellence, Association of American Medical Colleges, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 11, 2007.

"Organ and Tissue Donation in Forensic Cases", South Carolina Coroner's Association 2007 Training Conference, Pawley's Island, South Carolina, June 14, 2007.

"Adolescent Deaths and the Roulettes", Masters Conference for Advanced Death Investigation, St. Louis, Missouri, July 24, 2007.

"Pediatric Autopsy for the Practicing Pathologist", College of American Pathologist' Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, October 1, 2007.

"Elder Abuse Pilot Training", National College of District Attorneys, Orlando, Florida, October 28, 2007.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology", 2008 Pediatric Intersession, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia, January 7, 2008.

"Current Topics in Pediatric Forensic Medicine: Beyond Abusive Head Trauma", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, February 18, 2008.

"Cardiovascular Trauma in Motor Vehicle Collisions: A 20 Year Retrospective Study and Review of the Literature", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, February 21, 2008.

Multidisciplinary Session "Medical Devices and Their Impact on Death Investigations", Moderator, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, February 21, 2008.

"Cytomegalovirus Enteritis with Profuse Gastrointestinal Bleeding diagnosed at Autopsy: A Case Report and Review of the Literature", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, February 21, 2008.

"Primitive Neuroectodermal Tumor (PNET) Masquerading as Non-Accidental Head Trauma in and Infant: Lessons for Multiple Disciplines", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, February 22, 2008.

"Medical Aspects of Fatal Child Maltreatment", Fatal Child Maltreatment Investigation Course, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the University of South Carolina Children's Law Center, Columbia, South Carolina, March 12, 2008.

"Organ and Tissue Donation in Forensic Cases", South Carolina Coroner's Association 2008 Training Conference, Pawley's Island, South Carolina, June 18, 2008.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"Elder Abuse Pilot Training", National College of District Attorneys, Columbia, South Carolina, September 23, 2008.

"Pediatric Forensic Medicine" Workshop, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Denver, Colorado, February 16, 2009.

"Prosecuting Elder Abuse Cases", National District Attorneys Association, Columbia, South Carolina, June 9-11, 2009.

"High Impact Communications", College of American Pathologists CAP'09 Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, September 2009.

"Elder Abuse", National College of District Attorneys, Columbia, South Carolina, September 2009.

"Spokesperson Training", Faculty, College of American Pathologists, Chicago, Illinois, December 2009.

"Love and a Bullet", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Seattle, Washington, February 26, 2010.

"Forensic Pathology in cases of Alleged Sexual Molestation", The Defense of Child Molestation Cases in Georgia, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Atlanta, Georgia, March 5, 2010.

"An Overview of Forensic Pathology", Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia, March 12, 2010.

"Pediatric Homicide", New York State Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners, Binghamton, New York, March 20, 2010.

"Issues in Pediatric Forensic Pathology", Toronto, Canada, March 27, 2010.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology: Basic Knowledge and New Information", 2010 Sara Schuh Child Abuse Conference, Charleston, South Carolina, April 30, 2010.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology and Sexual Abuse", 2010 SELETS Conference (Southeastern Law Enforcement Training Seminars), Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, June 1, 2010.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology", South Carolina Coroner's Association, Litchfield Beach, South Carolina, June 25, 2010.

LECTURES, SPEECHES, EXHIBITS, RESEARCH PRESENTED, FILMS (CONT.):

"High Impact Communication Made Easy", College of American Pathologists CAP'10, Chicago, Illinois, September 27, 2010.

"Tissue Procurement in Forensic Cases and the Medical Examiner Release of Tissues for Transplantation: The United States View", 19th Annual Congress of the European Association of Tissue Banks, Berlin, Germany, November 3, 2010.

"College of American Pathologists Spokesperson Training", Faculty, Chicago, Illinois, December 4, 2010.

"Elder Maltreatment in Institutions", Elder Justice Seminar, National Advocacy Center, Columbia, South Carolina, January 5, 2011.

"Organ and Tissue Procurement in Forensic Cases", SC Coroner Training, Criminal Justice Academy, Columbia, South Carolina, January 7, 2011.

"Overview of Forensic Pathology", Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia, March 11, 2011.

"Medical Examiners, Transplant Professionals, and Supportive Public Policy: A Partnership for Life", American Association of Tissue Banks, Austin, Texas, March 28, 2011.

"Prosecution of Elder Abuse Cases", National District Attorneys Association, Columbia, South Carolina, May 3, 2011.

"Forensic Evidence and Donation for Transplantation: Mutually Exclusive", Medicolegal Seminar 2011, University of North Carolina and The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, June 11, 2011.

"Pediatric Forensic Pathology", Principles of Forensic Pathology Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, August 23, 2011.

"High Impact Communications Boot Camp", College of American Pathologists Annual Meeting CAP'11, Dallas, Texas, September 12, 2011.

College of American Pathologists Breast Predictive Factors Testing, Advanced Pathology Program, Faculty, Northbrook, Illinois, October 30, 2011.

"Spokesperson Training", Faculty, College of American Pathologists, Chicago, Illinois, December 3-5, 2011.

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“Death Investigation and Organ Recovery”, Mutually Exclusive?”, Fitting The Pieces of the Puzzle Death Investigation Seminar, East Carolina University, Greenville, South Carolina, December 14, 2011.

“Pediatric Forensic Pathology”, Newberry Pathology Associates Forensic Seminar, Columbia, South Carolina, January 21, 2012.

“The Engaged Pathologist”, Faculty, College of American Pathologists, Chicago, Illinois, December 1-3, 2012

“Multidisciplinary Approaches to Effective Communication and Report Writing”, American Academy of Forensic Sciences Workshop, Washington, DC, February 18, 2013.

“Pediatric Pathology for the Forensic Pathologists: What They Can Do For Us”, Workshop Co-Chair and Speaker, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, February 19, 2013.

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