

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Appeal from Edgefield County  
Eugene C. Griffith, Circuit Court Judge

**RECEIVED**

JUN 07 2018

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO 2017-000152

\_\_\_\_\_  
RECORD ON APPEAL  
\_\_\_\_\_

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County of Edgefield

Court of General Sessions

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January 17 - 18, 2017  
Edgefield, South Carolina

B E F O R E:

The Honorable Eugene C. Griffith, Jr., Judge; and a jury

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Circuit Court Reporter

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1           (Whereupon, the following proceedings were held  
2 January 17, 2017, beginning at 11:02 AM.)

3           **THE COURT:** All right. Give me a thumbnail.

4           **MR. MAYE:** So on December the 22nd of 2015, officers  
5 from the Edgefield County Sheriff's Office, SLED, Alcohol,  
6 Tobacco and Firearms and other agencies, executed a search  
7 warrant here in Edgefield County. At the residence were  
8 the two co-defendants in this case, Mr. Wheeler and  
9 Ms. Hall. There were actually -- there was a third person  
10 there, a cooperating witness named, Jennifer Dewitt,  
11 who's not -- the State would not intend to call her case  
12 for trial today. We would -- we would intend to call  
13 Ms. Hall's or Mr. Wheeler's unless the Court determines  
14 there's a conflict, and if it is, we would call  
15 Mr. Wheeler's case because we believe he would be the  
16 most culpable.

17           Your Honor, when the -- based on the confidential  
18 informant that was arrested over in Aiken County, he  
19 provided the information that he had been provided -- had  
20 been on an ongoing basis provided methamphetamine out of  
21 this residence; that he had been dealing with Mr. Coon,  
22 who was tried last week, Your Honor, and had eventually  
23 pleaded guilty and got a twenty-five year sentence for  
24 trafficking methamphetamine and a variety of other charges.  
25 But he provided information to law enforcement that there



1 was an ongoing operation there; that Ms. Hall and  
2 Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Coon were all involved in it; that  
3 they were taking stolen vehicles and guns and trading them  
4 for drugs of various types. He described methamphetamine,  
5 pills, marijuana, a variety of different drugs there.

6 Law enforcement corroborated the information of the  
7 confidential informant. He had given information to the  
8 State Law Enforcement Division about his own stolen vehicle  
9 ring, assisted them in recovering stolen vehicles. The  
10 officer was able to vet his information with the deputies  
11 who had noticed this same traffic and knew, in fact, that  
12 these individuals were residing at the residence.

13 Based on that a search warrant was issued by summary  
14 court judge Brenda Carpenter. The search warrant was  
15 executed on December the 22nd of 2015 when these officers  
16 raided the residence. These two co-defendants, Ms. Hall  
17 and Mr. Wheeler, were actually there at the residence  
18 when they raided it. They discovered some 717 grams of  
19 methamphetamine, pills, among them Xanax, PWID marijuana.  
20 There were a number of sawed-off shotguns there, Your  
21 Honor. They recovered three of the sawed-off shotguns.

22 **THE COURT:** All right. So the gist of it is it's a  
23 search warrant case with a bunch of meth found?

24 **MR. MAYE:** Meth, guns and stolen vehicles. And each  
25 face the same charges. We were told that we needed to try

1 this case this term of court by Judge Hayes at the last  
2 term of court, Your Honor. They have continually moved  
3 to be released on bond. Some of the other people in this  
4 ring were tried over in Aiken County in federal court.  
5 When the -- we received information before the last term  
6 of court that the Feds were not gonna adopt these  
7 co-defendants and we have immediately been in a posture  
8 to proceed to trial.

9 We had some exchange of discovery with Mr. Thuss.  
10 I made sure by December the 16th before we got into the  
11 Christmas holidays that we had absolutely all of the  
12 information that we had at time to Mr. Thuss. We got a  
13 full exchange of discovery. The only new discovery is  
14 last week Ms. Dewitt gave a statement just prior to coming  
15 in and testifying. Mr. Thuss was present here for the  
16 entire trial last week. He was provided a copy of that  
17 statement within an hour or so of it being generated.

18 **THE COURT:** All right. I got that. I got that.

19 **MR. MAYE:** Yes, sir.

20 **THE COURT:** Quit trying the case in here now. I'm  
21 trying to see where we're gonna go. What offer has been  
22 made? The guy pled last week to trafficking and got the  
23 minimum. What offer -- I mean, is there any offer out  
24 there?

25 **MR. MAYE:** I made an offer of twenty-two and the girl

1 five.

2 **THE COURT:** And that's off? You don't want that?

3 **MR. THUSS:** He doesn't want it. She wants it, but  
4 they're tied.

5 **THE COURT:** Yeah. Okay.

6 **MR. THUSS:** They're -- they're tied.

7 **MR. MAYE:** And I would not extend the five to her,  
8 you know, on a split deal unless she was gonna testify  
9 against him, which I don't think she'll do. And if you  
10 determine there's a conflict, Your Honor, I'm ready to try  
11 Mr. Wheeler and we can certainly do that.

12 **THE COURT:** Can you go with Wheeler and let the girl  
13 -- find her alternate counsel?

14 **MR. THUSS:** I don't know. I have to -- I mean, I  
15 would have to sit down with them and talk through it.  
16 All this has happened -- they're out there kind of  
17 communicating some, but they're still in the dark.

18 **THE COURT:** I know, but how did --

19 **MR. THUSS:** I -- they --

20 **THE COURT:** How did you not talk about it over the  
21 weekend after last week?

22 **MR. THUSS:** I talked with Wheeler about it on -- I  
23 came down and talked to Wheeler -- I talked to Wheeler  
24 Thursday and Friday and I tried to talk to Wheeler about  
25 it -- I mean, to Hall about it, but my ability to speak

1 with her, she's out on bond, is -- is not the same.  
2 I'm a little more concerned about her because of her  
3 youthfulness and -- and emotional ties. She just saw her  
4 dad convicted and now she's got this other fellow, who's  
5 her boyfriend, who they're in a relationship that's sort  
6 of being maintained, but I don't know how -- how well she  
7 can exercise judgment at her age.

8 **THE COURT:** All right. Well, if I relieve you on  
9 her and go forward on Wheeler, will she -- what decision  
10 does that make for her?

11 **MR. THUSS:** Well, I don't know that she's gonna have  
12 an opportunity to decide whether or not she would testify  
13 against Wheeler.

14 **THE COURT:** All right. So what? He don't need her.

15 **MR. MAYE:** I don't need her.

16 **THE COURT:** He didn't say he wanted her to testify.

17 **MR. MAYE:** No, I don't need her. Your Honor, the  
18 only thing I would ask given the fact that Ms. Hall --  
19 I've got Ms. Dewitt, the co-defendant, in jail. She's  
20 been threatened and so I've basically got her in  
21 protective custody. I have information from Ms. Dewitt  
22 that Ms. Hall has been contacting her, been trying to  
23 intimidate her, and I would move to revoke her bond,  
24 Your Honor. That's all I'm asking.

25 **THE COURT:** All right. Well, I'm not worried about

1 her right now. Say we go forward on Wheeler, what's --  
2 what's the downside for her other than she loses her  
3 opportunity to cooperate, but he don't want it now. I  
4 mean, from what he says they don't want her help. It's  
5 too late. I don't care. I mean, what's the downside for  
6 her other than she's already missed an opportunity really,  
7 but, like you say, her daddy and her boyfriend, she wasn't  
8 really gonna jump on that opportunity anyway.

9 **MR. THUSS:** Well, I mean, I don't know. It's just  
10 -- it's been hard for her to make a decision whether --  
11 whether she would. But, I mean, it's -- that's kind of  
12 the ambiguities I've been dealing with knowing what it is  
13 she could do or not do. I mean, this last offer was  
14 contingent upon what he did, but I just heard that, you  
15 know, they'd give her five if she would testify against  
16 Wheeler. I don't know.

17 **THE COURT:** Who had the guy last week, Drylie?

18 **MR. MAYE:** The public defender.

19 **MR. THUSS:** And Coon's here. I haven't been able to  
20 talk to Coon. I've subpoenaed him, but I haven't been  
21 able to talk to him to determine whether or not I would  
22 want to put him up because gave a statement at the end of  
23 the last trial saying that --

24 **MR. MAYE:** He's here. You have time.

25 **MR. THUSS:** -- that he was -- that all the charges

1     were his and the other people weren't culpable.

2     **THE COURT:**   Well, I mean, he -- you can call him.  
3     He's gonna tell you either way.

4     **MR. THUSS:**   He's the loose gun on the deck. I don't  
5     know what he's gonna say.

6     **THE COURT:**   I guarantee he's gonna be a loose cannon.

7     **MR. THUSS:**   And I don't know if I want to -- you  
8     know, want to do that.

9     **THE COURT:**   Well, I'll tell you what we'll do. Let's  
10    go forward with Wheeler. If you need time to talk to Coon,  
11    we've got a lunch break, we've got this afternoon. We've  
12    got some built-in breaks in there. I'll give you time to  
13    talk to him, that won't be a problem, to see where you're  
14    gonna go.

15    **MR. THUSS:**   Okay.

16    **THE COURT:**   And we'll just -- we'll put the next  
17    person on the 408 list. 408, is that the rule? The  
18    conflict list? Whatever that rule is, the conflict list,  
19    we'll pick up the next attorney down the list, whoever's  
20    picking up those things. The PD had one, she'll get  
21    someone else. Do you know who it is, Mr. Reel, who's the  
22    next up in line?

23    **THE CLERK:**   No, sir.

24    **THE COURT:**   All right.

25    **MR. MAYE:**   Your Honor, that's the only thing I would

1 ask. I'm very concerned about that one witness. I might  
2 want to keep her in jail until the next term. I don't want  
3 to keep the cooperating witness in jail and leave her out,  
4 so we'd like before the term is over if she gets somebody  
5 else appointed, I'd like to take up the issue of her bond.

6 **MR. THUSS:** Well, before I -- I ask before that  
7 happens if I go tell Hall that she's gonna be revoked --

8 **THE COURT:** No, I'm not saying revoked. He's asking  
9 for that. I didn't say that. I'm kind of inclined not to  
10 because she's here, but --

11 **MR. THUSS:** But she's gonna say I want to go forward  
12 with Wheeler, but -

13 **THE COURT:** She can't. I mean, there's no way.  
14 We're gonna remove that conflict. She's not gonna get an  
15 opportunity. She can say what she wants to, but I'm not  
16 gonna -- I'm gonna get you out of that box.

17 **MR. THUSS:** Okay.

18 **THE COURT:** You've got him, she's gonna have somebody  
19 else. If she's getting offered five years, she's not very  
20 culpable anyway. They make something -- once they get  
21 these two big guys, they're gonna -- they'll work with the  
22 girls. They're gonna come up with something different. I  
23 mean, something reasonable, nonviolent -- some nonviolent  
24 time I would guess. It seems to me their focus is on the  
25 guys.

1           **MR. MAYE:** Well, either -- you know, she is -- her --  
2 the daddy's lieutenant in the biker gang's is dating his  
3 daughter, so she's there. And, you know, they -- there's  
4 certainly -- from the information last week, there's enough  
5 to tie her to trafficking. I don't know that we'll go  
6 forward on that or not.

7           **THE COURT:** But, you know, the thing is, is if her  
8 daddy was convicted last week, she's not -- she's gonna be  
9 protected by her daddy.

10          **MR. THUSS:** Right. Yeah.

11          **MR. MAYE:** He's gonna try to. He's already said that.  
12 He's gonna try to.

13          **MR. THUSS:** You know, there's -- but then it's still  
14 an issue of believability.

15          **THE COURT:** Okay. That's fine.

16          **MR. THUSS:** You know, I was just -- you know, my duty  
17 is to be loyal to both and to try to protect both and I  
18 just can't --

19          **THE COURT:** All right. We've got a record here. I'm  
20 gonna cut you loose on Ms. --

21          **MR. MAYE:** Hall. Heather Hall.

22          **THE COURT:** -- Ms. Heather Leighann Hall and we'll go  
23 forward on Timothy Wayne Wheeler. Go talk to him and see  
24 what he wants to do, if he wants to go forward. The jury's  
25 at break for another few minutes. We'll -- I'll give you



1 another ten minutes to talk to him and let's start picking  
2 a jury here and get them seated before lunch and then we  
3 can work with the other gentleman.

4 **MR. MAYE:** And, Judge, I'll try to bring every one of  
5 my witnesses today. I'll try to get everybody up here so  
6 we can run as long as you want to.

7 **THE COURT:** All right.

8 (Pause in proceedings.)

9 (Recess taken.)

10 **BAILIFF:** All rise.

11 **THE COURT:** Be seated, please.

12 All right. Solicitor, are we ready to go?

13 **MR. MAYE:** The State's ready, Your Honor.

14 **THE COURT:** All right. Call your first case.

15 **MR. MAYE:** Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the  
16 Court, Your Honor, the State now calls for trial Indictment  
17 2016-GS-19-251, the State versus Timothy Wayne Wheeler, an  
18 indictment for trafficking methamphetamine. It's been  
19 true-billed by the grand jury of Edgefield County. The  
20 State now calls it for trial.

21 Also Indictment 2016-GS-19-244, the State versus  
22 Timothy Wayne Wheeler, an indictment for possession with  
23 intent to distribute a Schedule IV controlled substance,  
24 also true-billed by the grand jury.

25 Indictment 2016-GS-19-250, an indictment for

1 possession with intent to distribute marijuana against  
2 Timothy Wayne Wheeler, true-billed by the grand jury.

3 Indictment 2016-GS-19-245, the State versus Timothy  
4 Wayne Wheeler, an indictment for possession of a sawed-off  
5 shotgun, Your Honor, true-billed by the grand jury.

6 Indictment 2016-GS-19-246, the State versus Timothy  
7 Wayne Wheeler, an indictment for possession of a sawed-off  
8 shotgun. It's been true-billed by the grand jury.

9 Indictment 2016-GS-19-247, the State versus Timothy  
10 Wayne Wheeler, an indictment for possession of a sawed-off  
11 shotgun, Your Honor, true-billed by the grand jury.

12 Indictment 2017-GS-19-075, an indictment for receiving  
13 stolen goods. Indictment 2017-GS-19-074, the State versus  
14 Timothy Wayne Wheeler, an indictment for possession or  
15 receiving stolen goods.

16 Indictment 2016-GS-19-258, the State versus Timothy  
17 Wayne Wheeler, an indictment for possession or receiving  
18 stolen goods.

19 Indictment 2016-GS-19-256, the State versus Timothy  
20 Wayne Wheeler, an indictment for receiving stolen goods.

21 Indictment 2016-GS-19-255, the State versus Timothy  
22 Wayne Wheeler, an indictment for possession of receiving  
23 stolen goods.

24 All these cases have been true-billed by the grand  
25 jury. The State's prepared for trial on each of these

1 indictments, Your Honor. Thank you.

2 **THE COURT:** All right. Thank you.

3 All right. Mr. Thuss, are you and Mr. Wheeler ready?

4 **MR. THUSS:** Yes, Your Honor.

5 **THE COURT:** All right. Ladies and gentlemen of the  
6 jury, just so y'all understand, the indictments being  
7 called, as the lawyers have explained to me in chambers  
8 when we had that break, that these indictments allege  
9 crimes by Edgefield County through the solicitor's office  
10 against Mr. Timothy Wayne Wheeler and that these -- the  
11 facts and situation which gave right to these allegations  
12 occurred December 22nd of 2015.

13 Now Mr. Wheeler has pled not guilty to all of these  
14 indictments. So y'all understand, an indictment is a mere  
15 allegation in writing made by the State of South Carolina  
16 by each of the respective counties to a person accused of  
17 a crime. It's a formal accusation that the State believes  
18 it can prove. Mr. Wheeler has pled not guilty.

19 These indictments provide him more or less notice on  
20 what to be prepared to come to court and defend himself  
21 against. That's all they are. They aren't proof of  
22 anything. There's twelve indictments. Because there's  
23 twelve it doesn't mean any more or less than if there were  
24 just one or two. They're allegations the State must prove  
25 against Mr. Wheeler. The State is required to present its

1 evidence first. Mr. Wheeler may not present any evidence.  
2 I don't know. It doesn't matter to me as Mr. Wheeler has  
3 no burden or responsibility or duty whatsoever to disprove  
4 the allegations. The State's got to prove them.

5 Now my understanding is there were the twelve  
6 indictments read and the allegations and facts concerning  
7 Mr. Wheeler in several property crimes and several drugs  
8 crimes. Has any -- now I'm gonna ask these questions to  
9 you as a group. I'm gonna ask you in a moment do you know  
10 the lawyers, the investigators, the lawyers, Mr. Wheeler  
11 and that sort of thing, and the end result of my questions  
12 is gonna be notwithstanding that fact that you know  
13 someone, notwithstanding that fact that you heard something  
14 about the case, if that -- if that is the actual case, can  
15 you be fair and impartial.

16 Newberry's a very small county. Edgefield's a very  
17 small county. There's generally a lot of common  
18 friendships, common knowledge, you go to school with  
19 people, that kind of thing, so notwithstanding that can  
20 you still be fair and impartial. Because what I'm looking  
21 for are jurors on this jury that can listen attentively to  
22 the evidence and the testimony presented, listen to the  
23 instructions on the law provided by me, which is my job in  
24 every trial is to provide the law of the case, apply the  
25 law as instructed and then deliberate and consider what's

1 been presented and reach a fair and impartial verdict.  
2 That's the job of the jury. So I'm looking for good  
3 listeners who can listen well and can follow instructions.  
4 That's what I'm looking for. That's the end goal.

5 So the first question. Now if I ask you a question  
6 to which you can affirmatively tell me I know some of  
7 these people, the investigator, the solicitor, whomever,  
8 and if that's an issue that's gonna create for you being  
9 fair and impartial, but I'm gonna ask that question to  
10 you. What I don't need is somebody standing up and saying  
11 oh, yeah, I know everybody involved, the sheriff and I  
12 grew up together, and Mr. Wheeler, he and I were in the  
13 same kindergarten class, and this, that and the other.  
14 Let me ask the question so I don't get the whole  
15 explanation because one explanation may just give me more  
16 information than I can digest at one time.

17 So my question is gonna be who do you know and that  
18 relationship would it make you not be able to be fair and  
19 impartial and a good listener, yes or no; not because and  
20 then all the reasons given because then all the rest of  
21 the jurors will hear that and it may influence their  
22 decision if they don't know anything.

23 All right. The first question. Does any member  
24 of the jury panel know anything about the facts and  
25 allegations contained in the indictments published

1 moments ago by Solicitor Maye regarding the incident on  
2 December 22nd of 2015 involving Mr. Wheeler? If so,  
3 please stand. No one's standing.

4 Mr. Maye, please introduce everybody at your table.

5 **MR. MAYE:** Seated at the State's table with me is  
6 Assistant Solicitor Al Eargle. My name is Ervin Maye.  
7 I'm a prosecutor with the Eleventh Circuit Solicitor's  
8 Office. And, of course, Sheriff Dobey of Edgefield County  
9 here, and Investigator James Smith and Assistant Solicitor  
10 Doug Fender.

11 **THE COURT:** All right. Mr. Thuss, introduce everybody  
12 at your table also, please.

13 **MR. THUSS:** Good morning. I'm Robert Thuss and  
14 present with me are Mr. Timothy Wheeler and Ms. Heather  
15 Leighann Hall.

16 **THE COURT:** All right. Ladies and gentlemen of the  
17 jury, is any member of the jury panel related by blood,  
18 marriage, close personal friends of any of those parties at  
19 the two tables just introduced? If so, please stand.

20 (Jurors stand.)

21 **THE COURT:** We got one. And your name is Smith?

22 **JUROR:** No, William Hall.

23 **THE COURT:** Hall.. Mr. Hall, who do you know?

24 **JUROR:** Heather Hall.

25 **THE COURT:** Now is she kin to you?

1           **JUROR:** No, not blood-related, but we are close like  
2 a family member.

3           **THE COURT:** Do you socialize with Mr. Wheeler and  
4 Ms. Hall on occasion?

5           **JUROR:** Only -- only Ms. Hall.

6           **THE COURT:** Only Ms. Hall. And she's not on trial.  
7 She's just sitting at the table. You understand that?

8           **JUROR:** Yeah. I've never met Mr. Wheeler.

9           **THE COURT:** Never met Mr. Wheeler. Now the fact that  
10 Ms. Hall is seated there, will that create an issue for you  
11 being fair and impartial for the State and/or Mr. Wheeler?

12           **JUROR:** No.

13           **THE COURT:** You can be fair?

14           **JUROR:** Yes.

15           **THE COURT:** Very well. All right. Thank you, sir.

16 All right. Lady in the black and white check, tell me  
17 your name again.

18           **JUROR:** Cathy Cooper.

19           **THE COURT:** Ms. Cooper. Your juror number?

20           **THE CLERK:** 25.

21           **JUROR:** 25.

22           **THE COURT:** 25. Which party do you know?

23           **JUROR:** Jimmy Smith.

24           **THE COURT:** And how do you know him?

25           **JUROR:** Personal friend.

1           **THE COURT:** And would that personal friendship with  
2 him create an issue for you being fair and impartial in  
3 this case?

4           **JUROR:** No.

5           **THE COURT:** You can be fair?

6           **JUROR:** Yes.

7           **THE COURT:** All right. Thank you, Ms. Cooper.  
8 Gentleman last standing, tell me your name.

9           **JUROR:** Zack Rearden.

10          **THE COURT:** Zack?

11          **JUROR:** Rearden.

12          **THE COURT:** Rearden?

13          **JUROR:** Yes, sir.

14          **THE COURT:** What number is he?

15          **THE CLERK:** 135.

16          **THE COURT:** 135. Mr. Rearden, which party do you  
17 know?

18          **JUROR:** Mr. Jimmy Smith. I'm on the fire department  
19 transport team.

20          **THE COURT:** All right. Now the fact that you're a  
21 fireman -- or a firefighter or a part of that with him,  
22 would that create an issue for you being fair and impartial  
23 in this case?

24          **JUROR:** No, sir. I just wanted to make it known.

25          **THE COURT:** Okay. Very well.



1 All right. The next question. Any member of the  
2 jury panel ever been represented in any fashion by any  
3 of the four lawyers introduced; that being Mr. Eargle,  
4 Mr. Fender, Mr. Maye or Mr. Thuss? If so, please stand.  
5 No one's standing.

6 All right. Potential witnesses in this case in no  
7 particular order. I'm gonna read them in two groups. I'm  
8 gonna read one group and basically ask the same questions  
9 just asked. So the first group of witnesses, Brian Wade,  
10 Curtis Morris, Ricardo Prince, Stewart Robinson, Warren  
11 Miller, Jennifer Aycock, Shana Sorrells, Fred Teeter. Any  
12 member of the jury panel related by blood, marriage or  
13 close personal friends to any of that group of potential  
14 witnesses, please stand. No one's standing.

15 Last group of witnesses potentially. Chris Harmon,  
16 Stewart Robinson, James Densmore, Jennifer Dewitt, Jearl  
17 Guy Fletcher, Jose Negron, Roosevelt Young, William Cecil  
18 Allen, James Thomas Minor. Any member of the jury panel  
19 related by blood, marriage or close personal friends to any  
20 of those potential witnesses, please stand. No one's  
21 standing.

22 All right. Any member of the jury panel -- this is  
23 for information -- a member of your immediate family a  
24 member of the law enforcement community whether it be a  
25 probation officer, a SLED local -- local officer or an

1 officer -- police officer in another jurisdiction? If so,  
2 please stand. I got a couple, three.

3 (Jurors stand.)

4 **THE COURT:** All right. I'm gonna start with you,  
5 ma'am, in the blue. Tell me your name.

6 **JUROR:** Jessica Bone.

7 **THE CLERK:** Number 7.

8 **THE COURT:** Number 7. Ma'am, who do you know or  
9 who's related to you by blood or marriage that's a police  
10 officer?

11 **JUROR:** My ex-husband's an officer.

12 **THE COURT:** And where's he employed?

13 **JUROR:** North Augusta.

14 **THE COURT:** And the fact that your ex-husband is a  
15 police officer in North Augusta, would that affect your  
16 ability to be fair and impartial in this case?

17 **JUROR:** No.

18 **THE COURT:** Thank you very much.

19 Gentleman in the middle, tell me your name.

20 **JUROR:** John Allen.

21 **THE COURT:** Somebody coughed when you said your name.  
22 What was your name?

23 **JUROR:** John Allen. Juror Number 3.

24 **THE COURT:** Number 3?

25 **JUROR:** Yes, sir.

1           **THE COURT:** And you or a member of your immediate  
2 family in law enforcement?

3           **JUROR:** No.

4           **THE COURT:** Who?

5           **JUROR:** A friend. Just a friend.

6           **THE COURT:** A close friend. All right. And how close  
7 friends? Are you best friends or --

8           **JUROR:** No.

9           **THE COURT:** All right. Would that affect your ability  
10 to be fair and impartial in this case?

11          **JUROR:** It won't.

12          **THE COURT:** All right. Now your friend is employed by  
13 whom?

14          **JUROR:** One's highway patrol and one's North Augusta.

15          **THE COURT:** Okay. None of the jurisdictions involved  
16 in this case?

17          **JUROR:** No.

18          **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you very much.  
19 Gentleman in the necktie, tell me your name.

20          **JUROR:** Caleb Veihman.

21          **THE CLERK:** 160.

22          **THE COURT:** Juror Number 160. All right. Who in your  
23 family is law enforcement?

24          **JUROR:** My brother.

25          **THE COURT:** And which department does he work for?

1           **JUROR:** Columbia County.

2           **THE COURT:** And that would be over near Augusta?

3           **JUROR:** Yes, sir.

4           **THE COURT:** All right. Would that affect your ability  
5 to be fair and impartial in this case?

6           **JUROR:** No, sir.

7           **THE COURT:** Thank you very much.

8           Any member of the -- I forgot one. Ma'am, you stood  
9 up when I looked down. I'm sorry. Tell me your name.

10          **JUROR:** Victoria Robinson. Paul Hammond.

11          **THE COURT:** All right. Tell me her name again.

12          **THE CLERK:** Number 143, Victoria Robinson.

13          **JUROR:** I'm Victoria Robinson.

14          **THE COURT:** You're 143?

15          **JUROR:** Number 143.

16          **THE COURT:** Who in your family is law enforcement?

17          **JUROR:** Paul Hammond.

18          **THE COURT:** And how is he kin to you?

19          **JUROR:** Cousin.

20          **THE COURT:** Cousin. Who does he work for?

21          **JUROR:** Edgefield County.

22          **THE COURT:** How close of a cousin?

23          **JUROR:** First cousin.

24          **THE COURT:** First?

25          **JUROR:** (Nods head.)

1       **THE COURT:** So he's currently with Edgefield County?

2       **JUROR:** He's supposed to be a jailer.

3       **DEPUTY:** He's no longer employed.

4       **THE COURT:** He doesn't work for the sheriff's  
5 department anymore?

6       **DEPUTY:** No, sir.

7       **THE COURT:** All right. Ma'am, the fact that your  
8 cousin used to work for the Edgefield County Sheriff's  
9 Department, would that affect your ability to be fair and  
10 impartial here?

11       **JUROR:** No, sir.

12       **THE COURT:** All right. Thank you very much.

13       Any member of the jury panel or member of your  
14 immediate family employed in any capacity as a prosecutor,  
15 solicitor, attorney general, anything of that sort, any  
16 type of attorney? If so, please stand. No one's standing.

17       Any member of the jury panel or member of your  
18 immediate family either been accused of committing a  
19 violent crime or been a victim of a violent crime? If so,  
20 please stand.

21       (Jurors stand.)

22       **THE COURT:** Now those standing, I don't really care  
23 which side it was, whether a victim or accused of. My  
24 question is for the benefit of, whatever it was, would that  
25 affect your ability to be fair and impartial, okay? So

1 anybody that's been accused of or a victim of, you or your  
2 immediate family, please stand.

3 (Jurors stand.)

4 **THE COURT:** We've got one gentleman. Tell me your  
5 name.

6 **JUROR:** Joseph Beasley.

7 **THE CLERK:** Number 43.

8 **THE COURT:** Mr. Beasley. And you told me that there's  
9 a current case pending right now against a family member  
10 that he's involved with?

11 **JUROR:** Yes, sir.

12 **THE COURT:** Would that affect your ability to be fair  
13 and impartial in this case?

14 **JUROR:** No.

15 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you, sir.

16 All right. Ms. --

17 **JUROR:** Bone.

18 **THE COURT:** -- Bone. Tell me -- you're Juror Number  
19 34?

20 **JUROR:** 7, I think.

21 **THE COURT:** 7. Have you or a member of your family  
22 been accused of or a victim of a crime?

23 **JUROR:** My brother was accused.

24 **THE COURT:** Okay.

25 **JUROR:** My brother, attempted armed robbery.

1           **THE COURT:** See, that's what I don't want to hear. I  
2 just want to know whether it was a family member. See,  
3 that's how it works. That's okay. Now the fact that your  
4 brother was involved in an accusation, would that affect  
5 your ability to be fair and impartial in this case?

6           **JUROR:** No.

7           **THE COURT:** Thank you very much.

8           Any member of the jury panel or a member of your  
9 immediate family a member of any organization which  
10 encourages temperance against the use of alcohol, any  
11 illicit drugs and/or violence and crime? So Citizens  
12 Against Violence Crime, Bikers Against Child Abuse, MADD  
13 mothers, SADD students, organizations such as that. If so,  
14 please stand. No one's standing.

15          Any of -- this is information only. Any member of the  
16 jury panel or member of your immediate family ever struggle  
17 with substance abuse? If so, please stand. No one's  
18 standing.

19          Any member of the jury panel know of any reason  
20 whatsoever y'all can't give a fair and impartial trial  
21 to both the State of South Carolina, Edgefield County  
22 Sheriff's Department and Mr. Timothy Wayne Wheeler? If so,  
23 please stand. No one's standing.

24          Any further voir dire?

25          **MR. MAYE:** Nothing from the State, Your Honor. Thank

1 you.

2 **THE COURT:** Mr. Thuss?

3 **MR. THUSS:** No, Your Honor.

4 **THE COURT:** All right, folks. Here's how it works.  
5 The Clerk of Court, Mr. Reel, is gonna direct his deputy  
6 clerk of court to ask the magic computer to generate a  
7 random list of you and y'all will be called up here one at  
8 a time and each side gets a certain number of "please  
9 excuse the jurors" if they so choose. Now I'll tell you  
10 this, in selecting a jury it's entirely -- not guesswork,  
11 but gut work, a hunch. I used to strike jurors and -- I  
12 would keep brown eyed people and strike blue eyed people.  
13 But, anyway, don't worry about it if you don't get put on  
14 the jury. If you do get put on the jury, don't worry about  
15 it either. I'm certain you'll be like most jurors that I  
16 interact with; is people find that it's very educational,  
17 particularly about things going on and what the law is and  
18 how the courtroom works. And most people, although it'll  
19 be an inconvenience on your time, it's -- they find it very  
20 rewarding and they're generally glad they did it. So it is  
21 a responsibility that we have as citizens in South Carolina  
22 to sit on one as jurors -- as jurors.

23 Back -- way back when before we came and started the  
24 United States, if the king accused of you a crime, the  
25 judge that was picked by the king was the judge and jury.



1 And guess who won? The king. Well, that was our solution  
2 is we didn't want the king calling the shots and so that's  
3 how our jury system kind of got laid out way back when we  
4 founded the country was we were a little unhappy when we  
5 moved from Europe to America because that the king always  
6 won all the cases.

7 Are y'all ready?

8 **MR. MAYE:** The State's ready, Your Honor. Thank you.

9 **THE COURT:** Are you ready, Mr. Thuss?

10 **MR. THUSS:** Yes, sir.

11 **THE COURT:** All right. Any objection to the jurors  
12 being called to just stand in their place rather than come  
13 all the way up here and be presented, Mr. Maye?

14 **MR. MAYE:** None from the State.

15 **THE COURT:** Mr. Thuss, are you okay with that?

16 **MR. THUSS:** Yes, sir.

17 **THE COURT:** Okay. Let's go with that, Mr. Reel.

18 **THE CLERK:** Okay. When I call your name, just stand  
19 up where you are. We'll ask the State, then we'll ask the  
20 defense. If they say please dismiss the juror, then just  
21 sit back down. If they say please present the juror or  
22 seat the juror, you will come up the side here up this ramp  
23 and my bailiff here, Ms. Clark, will seat you in the jury  
24 booth.

25 Juror Number 139; Michael P. Reynolds.

1 (Whereupon, Michael P. Reynolds, a white male, stood  
2 up.)

3 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

4 **MR. MAYE:** Please excuse the juror from the trial of  
5 this case.

6 **MR. THUSS:** Please dismiss the juror.

7 **THE CLERK:** You may be seated.

8 Juror Number 160, Caleb Veihman.

9 (Whereupon, Caleb Veihman, a white male, stood up.)

10 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

11 **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

12 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

13 **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

14 **THE CLERK:** Come up, sir.

15 **THE COURT:** Mr. Reel, did the State excuse the first  
16 juror?

17 **THE CLERK:** Yes, sir.

18 **THE COURT:** Okay. That's what I thought.

19 **THE CLERK:** Juror Number 143, Victoria Robinson.

20 (Whereupon, Victoria Robinson, a white female, stood  
21 up.)

22 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

23 **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

24 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

25 **MR. THUSS:** Please dismiss the juror.

1           **THE CLERK:** You may be seated, ma'am.  
2           Juror Number 41, Dustin Doolittle.  
3           (Whereupon, Dustin Doolittle, a white male, stood up.)  
4           **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?  
5           **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.  
6           **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?  
7           **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.  
8           **THE CLERK:** Come forward, sir.  
9           Juror Number 55, Lloyd T. Gordon.  
10          (Whereupon, Lloyd T. Gordon, a white male, stood up.)  
11          **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?  
12          **MR. MAYE:** Please excuse the juror from the trial of  
13          this case.  
14          **THE CLERK:** You may be seated.  
15          Juror Number 29, Amy Covar.  
16          (Whereupon, Amy Covar, a white female, stood up.)  
17          **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?  
18          **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.  
19          **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?  
20          **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.  
21          **THE CLERK:** Juror Number 4, William Bacon.  
22          (Whereupon, William Bacon, a white male, stood up.)  
23          **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?  
24          **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.  
25          **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

1       **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

2       **THE CLERK:** Come forward, sir.

3       Juror Number 44, Anita Ellefson.

4       (Whereupon, Anita Ellefson, a white female, stood up.)

5       **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

6       **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

7       **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

8       **MR. THUSS:** Please excuse the juror.

9       **THE CLERK:** You may be seated, ma'am.

10       Juror Number 135, Zachariah Rearden.

11       (Zachariah Rearden, a white male, stood up.)

12       **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

13       **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

14       **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

15       **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

16       **THE CLERK:** Some forward, sir.

17       Juror Number 25, Cathy Cooper.

18       (Whereupon, Cathy Cooper, a white female, stood up.)

19       **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

20       **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

21       **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

22       **MR. THUSS:** Please excuse the juror.

23       **THE CLERK:** You may be seated.

24       **MR. THUSS:** How many strikes does that make?

25       **THE CLERK:** That's three out of five.

1 Juror Number 13, Dorothy Brown.

2 (Whereupon, Dorothy Brown, a black female, stood up.)

3 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

4 **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

5 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

6 **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

7 **THE CLERK:** Come forward, ma'am.

8 Juror Number 18, Rodger Burgess.

9 (Whereupon, Rodger Burgess, a white male, stood up.

10 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

11 **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

12 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

13 **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

14 Juror Number 74, Alex Hillary.

15 (Whereupon, Alex Hillary, a black male, stood up.)

16 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

17 **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

18 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

19 **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

20 **THE CLERK:** Come forward, sir.

21 Juror Number 62, William Hall.

22 (Whereupon, William Hall, a white male, stood up.)

23 **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

24 **MR. MAYE:** Please excuse the juror from the trial of  
25 this case.

1       **THE CLERK:** You may be seated.

2       Juror Number 123, Michael Pace.

3       (Whereupon, Michael Pace, a white male, stood up.)

4       **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

5       **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

6       **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

7       **MR. THUSS:** Please excuse the juror.

8       **THE CLERK:** Juror Number 67, Shannon Hammond.

9       (Whereupon, Shannon Hammond, a white female, stood  
10      up.)

11      **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

12      **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

13      **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

14      **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

15      **THE CLERK:** Juror Number 114, John Mitchem.

16      (Whereupon, John Mitchem, a black male, stood up.

17      **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

18      **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

19      **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

20      **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

21      **THE CLERK:** Juror Number 5, Stanley Barnes.

22      (Whereupon, Stanley Barnes, a black male, stood up.)

23      **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

24      **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

25      **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

1           **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

2           **THE CLERK:** Juror Number 15, Donovan Brunson.

3           (Whereupon, Donovan Brunson, a black male, stood up.)

4           **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

5           **MR. MAYE:** Please excuse the juror from the trial of  
6 this case.

7           **THE CLERK:** Juror Number 90, Sandra Johnson.

8           (Whereupon, Sandra Johnson, a black female, stood up.)

9           **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

10          **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

11          **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

12          **MR. THUSS:** Please excuse the juror.

13          Juror Number 43, Joseph Easler.

14          (Whereupon, Joseph Easler, a white male, stood up.)

15          **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

16          **MR. MAYE:** Please excuse the juror from the trial of  
17 this case.

18          **THE CLERK:** Juror Number 117, Nathaniel Moton.

19          (Whereupon, Nathaniel Moton, a black male, stood up.)

20          **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

21          **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

22          **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

23          **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

24          **THE CLERK:** Two alternates?

25          **THE COURT:** Let's just do one.

1           **THE CLERK:** One?

2           **THE COURT:** Uh-huh.

3           **THE CLERK:** Strikes one and one?

4           **THE COURT:** Yes.

5           **THE CLERK:** Juror Number 2, Terri Adams.

6           (Where upon, Terri Adams, a white female, stood up.)

7           **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

8           **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

9           **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

10          **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

11          **THE COURT:** Is one alternate enough, gentlemen?

12          **MR. MAYE:** I'll leave it to the Court's discretion,

13          Your Honor. I do not know.

14          **THE COURT:** Let's get one more just in case. That way

15          we'll have an extra alternate. We'll have two.

16          **THE CLERK:** Juror Number 82, Diane Hooper.

17          (Whereupon, Diane Hooper, a black female, stood up.)

18          **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the State?

19          **MR. MAYE:** Please present the juror.

20          **THE CLERK:** What sayeth the defense?

21          **MR. THUSS:** Please seat the juror.

22          **THE COURT:** All right. Now are there any matters of

23          law the Court needs to take up with regard to the selection

24          process employed and/or the composition of the jury from

25          either side?



1       **MR. MAYE:** Nothing from the State, Your Honor. Thank  
2 you.

3       **MR. THUSS:** Nothing, Your Honor.

4       **THE COURT:** Very well. All right, folks. I'm gonna  
5 send y'all to the jury room so y'all get to see where it  
6 is, then I'll bring you back in here and give you some  
7 instructions and we'll probably go to lunch. It's 12:00  
8 noon. I've got to make plans on how we're gonna proceed.  
9 Y'all step in the jury room.

10       Now at every break I'm gonna tell you don't discuss  
11 the case. I'll tell you more about that. Just don't  
12 discuss the case. Just discuss the nice weather we're  
13 having in January, okay? So step into the jury room.

14       (Whereupon, the jury retires to the jury room at  
15 11:59 AM.)

16       **THE COURT:** All right. Out of an abundance of  
17 caution, do we want these jurors to call back tonight or --

18       **MR. MAYE:** No, sir, Your Honor. I think we're good.  
19 We could run pleas if anything were to happen.

20       **THE COURT:** All right. I don't know if y'all  
21 understand what that meant. Those are the jurors I need  
22 for this week. Y'all are done for the week. Thank you for  
23 your patience. Y'all are free to go. Have a good week.

24       (Whereupon, the remaining jury panel was excused at  
25 12:01 AM.)

1           **THE COURT:** All right. Gentlemen, do y'all want to  
2 let me to speak to the jury briefly and send them to lunch  
3 and get them back here at 1:15, something like that, before  
4 1:30 and we get started or do we have pre-trial stuff we  
5 need to do?

6           **MR. MAYE:** I don't have any pre-trial motions. I  
7 don't know if they do.

8           **MR. THUSS:** No, Your Honor. I do want to put this  
9 -- that memo into the court record, the one I submitted to  
10 you --

11           **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

12           **MR. THUSS:** -- and ask that to be --

13           **THE COURT:** We'll accept that as a Court's exhibit  
14 and we can -- and so the Court -- we have a record of what  
15 we did today in chambers and so I don't need to go any  
16 further on that because Ms. Johnson took down everything  
17 that was said in the chambers here.

18           **MR. THUSS:** Yes, Your Honor.

19           **THE COURT:** Okay. Fair enough.

20           (Court's Exhibit Number 1 was marked for  
21 identification.)

22           **MR. THUSS:** Did you want to say anything to Ms. Hall?

23           **THE COURT:** I actually want her to know that you've  
24 been relieved of representing her and we'll either let her  
25 hire private counsel or I'll appoint her a public defender

1 off of the conflict of the interest list because the public  
2 defender is representing a co-defendant. We'll figure that  
3 out later today who that will be unless you want to hire  
4 private counsel.

5 Now that being the case, I don't think it would be  
6 appropriate for her to be seated at counsel table. We'll  
7 put her in the audience right there and we'll bring the  
8 jury back out, okay?

9 **MR. THUSS:** Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

10 **THE COURT:** Do you understand?

11 **MS. HALL:** Yes, sir.

12 **MR. MAYE:** And may it please the Court, Your Honor? I  
13 don't know if they're gonna move -- it may be strategy not  
14 to move to suppress the search warrant, so if they don't  
15 want to take that up pretrial, you know, I -- that's what  
16 we did last week. I'm not trying his case for him. If  
17 that's not part of their strategy, I'll stand aside, but we  
18 do have a search warrant.

19 **THE COURT:** All right.

20 **MR. THUSS:** Yes, Your Honor. I was here and I was  
21 able to hear the -- hear the argument in court. It was a  
22 search warrant that was supported by sworn oral testimony  
23 and within the four corners of the search warrant it looked  
24 like there could be issues and those issues were presented  
25 by Mr. Drylie, but then after hearing Investigator Smith's

1 testimony concerning the oral testimony that he gave to the  
2 magistrate, I don't believe that there's -- that there's  
3 an issue here that I would want to present on the search  
4 warrant especially in light of what we're dealing with with  
5 the constraints on time.

6 **THE COURT:** Okay.

7 **MR. MAYE:** No worries about that. I just wanted to  
8 make sure it was strategy and we'll -- we do have a search  
9 warrant and I understand there'll be no contesting it.  
10 Thank you.

11 **THE COURT:** Mr. Thuss, for the record, this case does,  
12 as I'm informed, involve the results of a search of a piece  
13 of property based on a search warrant and that issue was  
14 presented to Judge Hayes last week via the affidavit from  
15 the magistrate as well as sworn testimony from the  
16 investigator. Mr. Thuss was present during the entire  
17 trial and observed that and he is making an informed  
18 decision that the search warrant appeared after considering  
19 everything to be sufficient and probable cause was found to  
20 have a search presented.

21 **MR. THUSS:** Yes, Your Honor. Because the real issue  
22 was reliability of the confidential informant and whether  
23 or not there was any corroboration investigation and the  
24 supplemented oral testimony addressed those.

25 **THE COURT:** Okay. All right.

1 All right. I'm gonna bring the jury in here and give  
2 them some brief instructions and then we're gonna break  
3 for -- I'm gonna say a -- a long hour, hour and fifteen  
4 minutes, along about there. So bring the jury in, please.

5 (Whereupon, the jury returns to the courtroom at  
6 12:05 PM.)

7 **THE COURT:** All right. I don't know whose sunglasses  
8 got brought up, but did anybody lose any sunglasses? There  
9 you go. It's your lucky day.

10 All right, folks. As I told you a little bit earlier,  
11 my name is Eugene Griffith. I'm a circuit judge from  
12 Newberry. It's my pleasure to preside over this trial. It  
13 shouldn't last too very long. As I've already told you,  
14 Friday's already booked up for all the judges, so we ought  
15 to get through this fairly quickly.

16 Now here's y'all's job. Y'all get to listen  
17 attentively. I allow jurors to take notes. If you'd like,  
18 there should be some notepads available. The bailiff can  
19 show you when y'all come back after lunch. If y'all want  
20 to take a notepad to take notes, you can. You're not  
21 required to. It makes no difference to me. I have to take  
22 notes as part of my job, but I'm listening for certain  
23 things and y'all will be listening to the testimony and the  
24 evidence presented. Importantly, you've got to listen and  
25 pay attention about what's going on and that's your job.

1 So if notes help you or don't help you, it's your choice.

2 Now the State goes first. They're gonna present  
3 their testimony and evidence first. Mr. Wheeler may not  
4 submit any witnesses. It's his decision whether or not he  
5 wants to or not and he doesn't have to tell us ahead of  
6 time. Now he may choose not to testify. That's his  
7 constitutional right. No one accused of a crime has to  
8 disprove or prove they didn't do it. The State's got to  
9 prove it happened beyond a reasonable doubt; it's the  
10 State's job therefore. Generally people that are in trial  
11 don't make the decision on whether they wish to present  
12 witnesses and evidence until they see what the State  
13 presents, and so that's their right and they can do that.

14 Now Mr. Wheeler stands -- he doesn't stand, but  
15 figuratively stands in the courtroom presumed innocent.  
16 Until the State disproves his innocence, he's presumed  
17 innocent, all right?

18 So y'all are gonna be attentive listeners, y'all  
19 don't get to ask questions, but, importantly, y'all don't  
20 get to decide the case as it's being presented. You decide  
21 at the very end after you hear everything and you hear my  
22 instructions on the law. That's very important. At every  
23 break I'm gonna say don't discuss, don't discuss the case.  
24 Because you can't make up your mind after the first  
25 witness, the second witness, the third witness. You make

1 up your mind when I say okay, it's fair to now go talk  
2 about the facts.

3       Additionally, what you need to decide this case  
4 you'll get here in the courtroom on the record. Y'all  
5 heard is that on the record, is that on the record?  
6 Everything in the courtroom is on the record. Here it is  
7 right here. She's typing it up and it's coming up on her  
8 screen, it's pretty neat to watch, but she takes down  
9 everything everybody says, my comments, questions, answers,  
10 everything.

11       Now my job is to make certain the trial is fair and  
12 your job is to make certain questions of fact are answered  
13 fairly. Y'all answer questions of fact, I answer and rule  
14 on questions of law. Meaning, I was in court last week in  
15 Lexington. I don't have any idea who the witnesses are in  
16 this case. I'll be hearing it just like y'all are, so if  
17 one witness gets asked a question and he answers a question  
18 about a conversation he had the day before with somebody  
19 else and that somebody else isn't in the courtroom, that's  
20 called hearsay. The other lawyer can say hey, Judge,  
21 that's hearsay, it's not fair, it's against the rules.

22       I make the calls on the fly. Kind of like a  
23 basketball, football, baseball game. They pitch, catch,  
24 score, whatever; if it's instant replay, they look at it  
25 and then they go on forward. Well, here's what the problem

1 is. I can't rewind it and look at it a second time. If  
2 it's not supposed to be said and it gets said and y'all  
3 heard it and y'all can't forget what you just heard, that's  
4 hard to do if you think about it. So I get kind of a  
5 reversed instant replay. If a lawyer says judge, I believe  
6 this next testimony is gonna be unfair to my side, okay, I  
7 send the jury out and I say all right, ask your question,  
8 let me kind of get a preview of it and I'll decide whether  
9 it's fair and allowed under the rules or not. If it is, it  
10 is; if it isn't, it isn't. Those calls that I make are my  
11 job and you don't need to be in here helping me do my job  
12 because you might not understand the law like I do.

13 Now equally important, when y'all get asked to resolve  
14 the questions of fact in the jury room, I won't be back  
15 there listening to y'all resolve those facts either. So  
16 I'll do my job, and we'll have to work hand in hand, and  
17 y'all do y'all's job. I can't influence you in your  
18 decision, nor can you influence me or figure out why I made  
19 my decision. We work together and do the best we can with  
20 the instructions. It's my job to rule on the law and  
21 y'all's job to rule on the facts, okay?

22 Now during lunch, any break, tonight, whenever, do not  
23 get on Facebook, Twitter, any social media and say I'm on  
24 the jury because then you're inviting someone who doesn't  
25 know what's going on to talk with you about the case and



1 that can't happen. Y'all can only talk about the case in  
2 the jury room. Well, why would you be allowed to talk  
3 about it at the backyard fence, social media or otherwise?  
4 So my instruction is don't talk about the case. That  
5 includes going home tonight and talking to your family  
6 about it or anybody on social media. Y'all are gonna  
7 base your decision, what you need to decide the case, from  
8 here in the courtroom and not something outside of this  
9 courtroom because we have no control over what's said out  
10 there.

11 Additionally, y'all will take an oath in a little bit  
12 to follow the law as I instruct it, so you don't need to go  
13 on the Internet and Google the law. Holy smokes, there's  
14 so much bad law on the Internet that's wrong. Our General  
15 Assembly and the Supreme Court hands down the law we're  
16 supposed to follow, okay? That's the law that I'm gonna  
17 instruct you with. What's on the Internet makes no  
18 difference to me. It could -- there's no rhyme or reason  
19 who puts what on the Internet. You don't -- you don't get  
20 graded on it, you don't get scored on it. It doesn't get  
21 -- it has no influence on the actual law what's on the  
22 Internet. So I'm gonna tell you don't do any independent  
23 research, don't get chatting up to somebody about what's  
24 going on in the case. Until the case is over confine your  
25 discussions to the weather, what you got for Christmas,

1     Clemson's nice win the other night, that sort of thing.  
2     Just don't talk about the case until I tell you all right,  
3     go discuss the case, all right?

4             Now it is 12:15. If y'all will be back in the jury  
5     room that you've just now seen by 1:30 we're gonna get  
6     started and I'll place you under oath. Again, I need you  
7     back before 1:15 so I can start at 1:30, okay? Enjoy your  
8     lunch.

9             (Whereupon, the jury is excused for lunch at  
10    12:15 PM.)

11            **THE COURT:** All right. We'll stand at ease until  
12    about 1:25.

13            **MR. MAYE:** 1:25?

14            **THE COURT:** Yeah.

15            **MR. MAYE:** Thank you.

16            **THE COURT:** I'll try to get the jury in at 1:30 sharp.

17            **MR. MAYE:** Thank you..

18            (Whereupon, a luncheon recess was taken.)

19            (Defendant's Exhibit Numbers 1 through 11 were marked  
20    and stipulated into evidence.)

21            (State's Exhibits Number 2, an aerial diagram; State's  
22    Exhibit Number 3, a diagram; State's Exhibit Numbers 4, 5,  
23    6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, photographs; State's Exhibit Number 12,  
24    a map; State's Exhibit Numbers 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19,  
25    20, 21, photographs; State's Exhibit Number 22, a gun;

1 State's Exhibit Number 23, an ammo box; State's Exhibit  
2 Numbers 24 and 25, drugs; State's Exhibit Numbers 26, 27,  
3 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42,  
4 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49, photographs; State's Exhibit  
5 Numbers 50, 51 and 52, shotguns; State's Exhibit Numbers  
6 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67,  
7 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, photos, were marked and stipulated  
8 into evidence.)

9 **THE COURT:** All right. Lawyers, are you ready?

10 **MR. FENDER:** Yes, Your Honor.

11 **THE COURT:** Are y'all gonna sequester the witnesses?  
12 You've got the lead investigator and the Defendant. Who  
13 else you got here?

14 **MR. MAYE:** One other investigator. He can go out.

15 **THE COURT:** It's up to you, Mr. Thuss.

16 **MR. THUSS:** Well, Your Honor, I heard the case last  
17 week. I'm gonna stipulate to a lot of --

18 **MR. MAYE:** And, Your Honor, I think before the jury  
19 comes in I guess we need to do something.

20 Madam Court Reporter, can you tell me the items of  
21 evidence that we have by stipulation?

22 **THE COURT REPORTER:** Defendant's 1 through 11, photos.  
23 And then the State's are -- there's a bunch of them. 2, 3,  
24 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19,  
25 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38,

1 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 53 through 73  
2 are all stipulated to.

3 **MR. MAYE:** Your Honor, we have a variety of photos. I  
4 have a box of maps and items that came in the last time and  
5 the defense has 1 through 11. All of those items are in by  
6 stipulation. I -- I agree to the defense exhibits coming  
7 in. Mr. Thuss informs me that --

8 **THE COURT:** Are all stipulated to?

9 **MR. MAYE:** Those are in by stipulation and in  
10 concordance with the State. I'll let Mr. Thuss put his  
11 stipulation on the record.

12 **THE COURT:** All right. Mr. Thuss?

13 **MR. THUSS:** Yes, Your Honor. I've reviewed the -- the  
14 exhibits and I'm stipulating --

15 **THE COURT:** Are any of them that you aren't gonna  
16 stipulate to?

17 **MR. MAYE:** Yes, Your Honor. I have obviously the  
18 drug evidence in the case and I have some weapons here.  
19 Everything other than that, everything else --

20 **THE COURT:** All right. So I can tell the jury most of  
21 the photographs have been agreed to?

22 **MR. MAYE:** Yes.

23 **MR. THUSS:** Yes, Your Honor.

24 **THE COURT:** Bring the jury in.

25 **MR. THUSS:** Thank you.

1       **MR. MAYE:** And, Your Honor, we have witnesses  
2 scheduled throughout the day. We are certainly available  
3 to run as late as Your Honor can today in order to expedite  
4 it.

5       **THE COURT:** Okay.

6       **MR. MAYE:** Thank you.

7       (Whereupon, the jury enters the courtroom at 1:32 PM.)

8       **THE COURT:** All right, folks. Good afternoon. I hope  
9 your lunch was good. We're ready to start the case, so  
10 what we're gonna do is I'm gonna tell you kind of the  
11 outline is that the State will make opening comments first  
12 and then the defense will make his opening comments;  
13 basically what the case will show, what they can prove,  
14 that kind of thing. Once they give their opening remarks,  
15 after that then the State will then call its witnesses.  
16 They'll be able to ask questions and introduce evidence  
17 and then the defense will be allowed an opportunity to  
18 cross-examine them.

19       Now I'll tell you that during a trial I generally  
20 sit and enjoy a piece of hard candy sometimes and I also  
21 provide it in the basket over there on the rail for the  
22 jury to enjoy. There's some chocolate in there, some  
23 Lifesavers and different things, so y'all pass that around.  
24 As long as you don't throw the paper on the courtroom  
25 floor, our bailiffs will be okay with us.

1        Now if you see one of the lawyers sneaking over there  
2        to get a piece, I don't allow that. This is for jurors and  
3        judges, okay? We're the ones doing the listening and we  
4        need to be able to enjoy the candy. So that's for y'all,  
5        I put that over there for you. So if y'all will give your  
6        attention to the clerk, he'll place you under oath.

7        **THE CLERK:** Please rise and raise your right hand.

8        (Whereupon, the jury was duly sworn by the Clerk of  
9        Court.)

10       **THE CLERK:** You may be seated. If is there any member  
11       of the jury panel that was unable to take the oath, please  
12       stand. No one stood.

13       **THE COURT:** Very well. All right. Mr. Fender. Or  
14       Mr. Maye.

15       **MR. MAYE:** May it please the Court, Your Honor? Thank  
16       you.

17       Ladies and gentlemen, let me first off say we  
18       certainly appreciate the fact that each one of you have  
19       been taken away from what you would have normally been  
20       doing this week. You're not going to work, you're not  
21       with your family, you're not doing whatever your planned  
22       activities were for this week and we're certainly cognizant  
23       of that. A lot of people up here in the courtroom have  
24       heard me say this over and over again and they might smile,  
25       but it's no less true, maybe it's gonna be new to y'all, I

1     doubt that when any of you went down to the mailbox or you  
2     went down to the post office box and you saw that jury  
3     summons, I doubt anybody was skipping for joy or dancing  
4     when they went back to either their car or went back up  
5     to their house from the mailbox, but this is the last  
6     compulsory public service that we have. There used to be  
7     a day -- believe it or not there used to be a day before  
8     they had the highway department that you had to go out and  
9     get a shovel and dig and work the road or you had to pay a  
10    tax and get somebody to pick or shovel in your place. On  
11    this square and a lot of other squares around South  
12    Carolina and around the nation are monuments to the people  
13    who had the ultimate compulsory public service. They had  
14    to go and serve their country in foreign wars and a lot  
15    didn't come back home. There used to be all sorts of  
16    things that were a requirement for citizenship. We don't  
17    have any of those anymore except for service on a jury.

18           Winston Churchill once said that the highest duty that  
19    a citizen has during peacetime is service on a jury. And  
20    you already heard some of the people that introduced  
21    themselves up here this week. There are a lot of people  
22    from other places. They're not from Edgefield County. The  
23    judge here, he's from up the road. A lot of folks are  
24    gonna get in their car at the end of this week and they're  
25    gonna go back to wherever they're from. But the twelve of

1 you that are gonna go back into that jury room and  
2 deliberate. The one thing that all of you've got in common  
3 is you're all residents here of Edgefield County and what  
4 goes on up here at the courthouse and what goes on out on  
5 the street is vitally important to all of you because y'all  
6 live here.

7 Now the State's got the burden of proof in this case.  
8 You heard the State get up and publish all of the charges  
9 that are levied against Mr. Timothy Wayne Wheeler, who's  
10 sitting over there to the far side over there, and I  
11 submit to you we've got the burden of proving all of those  
12 indictments, and we welcome that. He's charged with  
13 trafficking various drugs, he's charged with possession of  
14 sawed-off shotguns, stolen vehicles of every description,  
15 just a -- you heard all of the laundry list of things that  
16 he's charged with in this case, and I submit to you the  
17 tale that you're gonna hear starts not out -- the items  
18 were all taken here in Edgefield County at a doublewide  
19 mobile home that's way off from the road down a rough,  
20 twisted dirt road. [REDACTED] is the address.

21 What you're gonna hear in this case as far as the law  
22 enforcement, and I mean a passel of them, the sheriff's  
23 department here in Edgefield, ATF, SLED, a whole group of  
24 people on December the 22nd of 2015 descended on this  
25 doublewide mobile home on Rainforest Lane and you're gonna



1 hear why all of that group got together and you're gonna  
2 hear why they felt like they needed all of them to go, but  
3 this starts several days earlier when a Brian Wade, who's  
4 from over in Aiken, and he's gonna get up and you'll hear  
5 him because he's gonna be the first witness to testify for  
6 the State in this case, and he's basically gonna get up and  
7 tell you that he's from the Valley over in Aiken because a  
8 lot of these folks are Aiken County people. This is over  
9 -- in Edgefield County, but a lot of the people involved in  
10 it come from over in Aiken, and he's gonna tell you all  
11 about himself. He's gonna talk about how he grew up there  
12 and went to school, how he fell into drugs and started  
13 using marijuana and he ultimately started using meth, then  
14 he went to the Army and he got into a mess in the Army and  
15 he got put out of the Army over something absolutely  
16 stupid, but that he came back to the Valley and he came  
17 back to Aiken and he fell back in with some of his bad  
18 friends and he started right back up using methamphetamine.  
19 And you will ultimately hear this veteran of our armed  
20 services tell how drugs reduced him down to just basically  
21 stealing vehicles and living in stolen vehicles and just  
22 basically living from pillar to post on the street.

23 What you're further gonna hear is the life that he  
24 was leading obviously was attracting the attention of law  
25 enforcement and so he got what's called vehicle crimes from

1 the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, SLED. They  
2 were working on this because cars were getting stolen all  
3 around Aiken County and they believed he was involved in  
4 it. And you're gonna hear how before December the 22nd of  
5 2015 they caught up with him and they caught him red-handed  
6 with a stolen vehicle and he also had some drugs on him.  
7 Well, of course, afterwards when they caught him with this  
8 they started talking to him and he basically came clean and  
9 said yeah, I've been stealing vehicles, you got me with  
10 stolen vehicles, you got me with some drugs in this case,  
11 and I'll tell you about where they came from.

12 So the location where he said he was getting drugs  
13 from and he's been dealing with these stolen vehicles is  
14 over in Edgefield County. So the Aiken County Sheriff's  
15 Department, like you would expect, they cooperated and they  
16 worked with the Edgefield County Sheriff's Department.  
17 They summoned some investigators from over here in  
18 Edgefield County. Mr. Jimmy Smith seated over here at the  
19 State's table was one of them. He and another experienced  
20 investigator named Phil Ireland they went over and  
21 interviewed Brian Wade and they collected information from  
22 him. What he laid out to them was basically an organized  
23 operation that was going around this [REDACTED]  
24 here in Edgefield. Because what he was doing was stealing  
25 vehicles and he was taking over there these stolen vehicles

1 and he's trading them for methamphetamine and he's gonna  
2 say that that's what he was involved with. He knew the  
3 people that were at this address, one of which was  
4 Mr. Wheeler.. He called him Biker Tim or some name that he  
5 had for him, but he identified Mr. Tim Wheeler, the  
6 Defendant in this case, when they go over initially and  
7 talk to him. He said he's one of the people that's there.  
8 He said there's another guy there named David Coon. He's  
9 also there. There's a lady living there named Heather  
10 Hall. He laid out what the arrangement was between these  
11 people. Mr. Coon is the father of Heather Hall.  
12 Ms. Hall's the boyfriend of Timothy Wheeler.

13 Now there was another lady there when they executed  
14 the search warrant there. It was a lady named Jennifer  
15 Dewitt. There were three people that were actually there  
16 the day they raided and they hit this place with the search  
17 warrant. Actually there at the residence when they descend  
18 on this place with all these law enforcement officers, the  
19 Defendant in this case, Mr. Wheeler, his girlfriend  
20 Ms. Hall and Ms. Jennifer Dewitt. Now at that time  
21 Mr. Coon he was over somewhere else in Aiken County. They  
22 caught up with him later.

23 Well, they all get charged with all these different  
24 things. They all get charged with trafficking, they get  
25 charged with different offenses, all these stolen vehicles,

1 a laundry list of things, everybody up there. Mr. Coon as  
2 well.

3 Now you're gonna hear that Brian Wade laid out for  
4 them you ought to be careful when you go over there  
5 because they've got guns of every description, they've got  
6 sawed-off shotguns, they've got surveillance, they've got  
7 cameras on the driveway so that when somebody comes down  
8 the driveway they know somebody's coming. They've got  
9 explosives. They've got all sorts of things as  
10 countermeasures for somebody coming in trying to, A, rip  
11 them off and steal their dope or law enforcement coming in.  
12 And he's gonna tell how he went over there and that he  
13 developed a relationship with Mr. Coon and they go over to  
14 the house and he said that he'd actually been there at this  
15 [REDACTED]. He basically went over there as kind  
16 of a get-to-know-you with Mr. Coon and they hung out and  
17 they took these sawed-off shotguns and they blasted at an  
18 old van that was in the front yard and Mr. Coon was laying  
19 out all of the stuff that they were doing there. They went  
20 through and they looked at all of the guns that they had  
21 there, heard the huffing and puffing about the surveillance  
22 and the things that were there, and basically said because  
23 they had an on-going relationship, a successful  
24 relationship of him bringing stolen property there and  
25 trading it for methamphetamine, that what it would shift

1 into was they were actually gonna let him start selling  
2 meth for them and they were gonna front him the drugs, let  
3 him sell them, bring back the proceeds, bring him a little  
4 further into the operation of trafficking of  
5 methamphetamine. And he's gonna tell you he had  
6 discussions with Mr. Coon, but ultimately when they reached  
7 this agreement they also bring in Mr. Wheeler, who's the  
8 main man with the methamphetamine. You're gonna hear in  
9 this case he had a great old big green box that was just  
10 full of methamphetamine and other drugs and that that was  
11 his role there.

12 You're gonna hear from Ms. Dewitt who's gonna come and  
13 testify and she's charged. I anticipate that you will hear  
14 her say that basically she acted as the lookout when people  
15 would come -- folks would come up to the door that wanted  
16 methamphetamine. Some of them would ask for Mr. Coon, some  
17 of them would ask for Mr. Wheeler, just whoever they were  
18 comfortable dealing with. She's gonna tell you what her  
19 role there -- what Ms. Hall's role was. She's gonna tell  
20 you basically she stayed for several weeks before then, she  
21 had been staying there months actually, that she'd been on  
22 and off in and out of that [REDACTED] and that the  
23 four of them had basically been residing there. Mr. Coon  
24 lived in one bedroom, she stayed there at the house there  
25 in the den or bedroom, and because Mr. Wheeler and Ms. Hall

1 were boyfriend and girlfriend they were staying in another  
2 bedroom in the house together and they were all residing  
3 there.

4 And she's going to tell you about this on-going  
5 operation that they had there, people bringing in either  
6 cash to buy methamphetamine, people bringing in goods, and  
7 she's gonna lay out for you what her role was. She and  
8 Ms. Hall were going and getting the supplies, the little  
9 bags to bag the stuff up in, going to the grocery store,  
10 running errands for them, but they were all basically  
11 involved in this trafficking operation.

12 Now the judge in this case is gonna tell you that we  
13 put all of the evidence up and we're gonna bring in  
14 officers around here who did the search warrant. We've  
15 already agreed that a lot of the photographs that we took  
16 out there on December the 22nd of 2015 are coming into  
17 evidence and you will see pictures of guns, you're gonna  
18 see pictures of the drugs, you're gonna see pictures of  
19 everything that they took into custody there that day when  
20 they executed their search warrant.

21 Now they got SLED and they got ATF, they got everybody  
22 under the sun to go down there and help them because they  
23 were worried about explosives, they were worried about  
24 booby traps, they were worried about surveillance, so they  
25 went down there ready to deal with the situation.

1       You're gonna hear from the officers that went in and  
2 actually logged the evidence in this case and they're gonna  
3 tell you about finding -- one of the things that we've got  
4 to prove, and the judge is gonna charge you with the law at  
5 the conclusion of all this, is that there was trafficking  
6 going on. Now there are all levels of drug activity, but  
7 in South Carolina the highest is trafficking. What we've  
8 got to prove is that they were trafficking more than  
9 400 grams of methamphetamine along with all the other  
10 things that we've got to prove.

11       But in this case you're gonna hear that they went in  
12 there and they seized from this green box that's associated  
13 with Mr. Wheeler that he was taking that box in and out and  
14 dealing with people, 717 grams of finished product of  
15 methamphetamine that was there in the house that they  
16 seized in the bedroom immediately adjacent to where Wheeler  
17 was staying. You're gonna also hear that they found all  
18 sorts of personal items in this case associated with  
19 Mr. Wheeler; bills, mail, his clothes, all the things  
20 showing that he was, in fact, living there. You're gonna  
21 hear that they found his billfold there with his driver's  
22 license in it with another address with \$7,300 in cash in  
23 it. You'll hear from the officers in this case, and  
24 they'll go through all the things that they found; a stolen  
25 Harley-Davidson, a stolen pick-up truck, campers, three

1   sawed-off shotguns, Xanax tablets, marijuana tablets.  
2   You're gonna hear about all of the things that they took  
3   out of this place and you're gonna see a mountain of  
4   photographs that were taken there the day that they  
5   executed the search warrant.

6         Now you're gonna hear from all of these witnesses and  
7   at the conclusion of all of the evidence the State's gonna  
8   rest in this case and the judge he'll tell you in great  
9   detail what the law is, what we've got to prove, each and  
10  every element of it. We've got to prove that all of these  
11  things happened in Edgefield County. He'll go through the  
12  elements of all the crimes in this case and charge you with  
13  what the law is and then you take the law as the judge  
14  gives it to you. You'll hear it discussed and talked  
15  about, but at the conclusion of all of the evidence you're  
16  gonna get the law from the judge.

17        Now the word "verdict" actually means to speak the  
18  truth. All that we're gonna ask that the twelve of you do,  
19  and I've talked about those responsibilities that a juror  
20  has, all that we're gonna ask that the twelve of you do is  
21  take the evidence that the State puts forth to you and  
22  apply it to the law that the judge gives you in this case  
23  and come back with a verdict. The word "verdict" means  
24  to speak the truth. Just come back with a verdict that  
25  speaks the truth and if the twelve of you that go back to



1 the jury room to deliberate do that, you will certainly  
2 have fulfilled your role as jurors. I appreciate your  
3 close attention.

4 **THE COURT:** All right. Mr. Thuss.

5 **MR. THUSS:** May it please the Court?

6 **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

7 **MR. THUSS:** Good afternoon, folks. I'm Rob Thuss.

8 I'm from Irmo, South Carolina, and I'm representing  
9 Mr. Timothy Wheeler here, who is the Defendant in this  
10 action. And Mr. Wheeler has pled that he's not guilty and  
11 as the judge instructed you, he is innocent until there is  
12 a decision by this jury about whether or not he's guilty --  
13 whether or not he's guilty and he gets the presumption of  
14 innocence until you make that decision.

15 I listened to the story that Mr. Maye told about the  
16 story of this case and it's true that a search warrant was  
17 executed at [REDACTED] in Edgefield and it's true  
18 that when that search occurred the drugs and the weapons  
19 alleged on the property were found. That is Mr. Coon's  
20 residence. Mr. Coon, who is a co-defendant in this case  
21 and was tried last week, he may appear here today or  
22 tomorrow as a witness and you can hear from him.

23 Mr. Wheeler was in a relationship with Mr. Coon's  
24 daughter, Heather Hall, who is also charged but she's not  
25 -- hasn't been tried yet on this, but he did not reside

1 at [REDACTED]. He was present when the search  
2 warrant was executed and he was charged with these crimes,  
3 but he denies that that methamphetamine that was taken is  
4 his. He denies that the stolen goods that were taken were  
5 his and he denies that the various weapons, some of which  
6 were illegal -- I mean, they weren't sawed-off shotguns,  
7 but -- which they were, which you'll see, those were not  
8 his, that those belonged to someone else, but not to him,  
9 and that, again, the judge will charge you at the end of  
10 the case on -- on the law, the law that you are to apply.  
11 We do not believe that you'll find that the State will meet  
12 its burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that these  
13 items belonged to Mr. -- Mr. Wheeler.

14 The two witnesses who I expect you will hear from who  
15 will try to link Mr. Wheeler to this are this Brian Wade,  
16 who you will hear from, and from Jennifer Nicole Dewitt.  
17 Brian Wade will testify that he came to the house with  
18 Mr. Coon and that they hung out together and he'll testify  
19 about his -- his background, his trouble with the law and  
20 his drug addiction and his drug issues.

21 Ms. Dewitt will also testify she was present at the  
22 house when -- when the search warrant was executed and she  
23 was there and she will testify that she was there four or  
24 five days, she might have been there in the past, and she  
25 will give -- attempt to give testimony against Mr. Wheeler.

1 And she is a drug addict and she has a problem and she is  
2 charged now with these same charges as Mr. Wheeler and  
3 Ms. Hall are charged with. Both of them are cooperating  
4 with the authorities to give testimony related to this and  
5 Ms. Dewitt -- the day that this bust occurred was on  
6 December 22nd of 2015 and that afternoon of the bust before  
7 Ms. Dewitt was charged with any crimes she gave an oral  
8 statement, a recorded statement, to the police that she  
9 said was truthful, that last Thursday at Mr. Coon's trial  
10 she contradicted, and you're gonna have to determine what  
11 the truth is in this matter and I hope that you will listen  
12 carefully to the evidence that is given, the testimony of  
13 these witnesses and make your judgments based upon what  
14 they say, what comes out of their mouth and judge their  
15 credibility and not on the stories that we present in our  
16 opening statements to you.

17 Mr. Wheeler is fifty-four years old. He's been a  
18 resident of Aiken County -- or the Aiken area for several  
19 years. He served in the military, he was honorably  
20 discharged and he worked for many years after he left the  
21 military as an arborist, trees and landscaping and things  
22 along those lines. Four or five months before he was  
23 arrested, he developed a relationship with Heather Hall.  
24 Heather Hall is Mr. Coon's stepdaughter. And Mr. Coon had  
25 serious health issues, cancer, things along those lines,

1 and there was a strong attachment between Mr. Coon and his  
2 daughter, and what brought Mr. Wheeler to Rainforest Drive  
3 was Ms. Hall's activities caring for her father. He was  
4 present when the search warrant was executed and we can't  
5 contest that, but what we do contest was whether or not he  
6 had involvement with or actual possession of the drugs, the  
7 stolen property or weapons.

8 I'll let you hear the rest of the evidence in the case  
9 and then you can draw your own conclusions. Thank you.

10 **THE COURT:** Folks, before I brought y'all out here the  
11 lawyers told me that they've agreed to a large number of  
12 exhibits, photographs and some of the other exhibits,  
13 they've already agreed will come into evidence. They may  
14 pick them up and say we agree this is in evidence and talk  
15 about it. Anything that they introduce into evidence y'all  
16 will have in the jury room.

17 So call your first witness.

18 **MR. MAYE:** The State would call Walter Brian Wade,  
19 Junior.

20 **THE CLERK:** Raise your right hand and place your left  
21 hand on the Bible.

22 (Whereupon, Walter Brian Wade, Jr., was duly sworn by  
23 the Clerk of Court.)

24 **THE CLERK:** Thank you, sir. You may be seated. Scoot  
25 up close to the mic. State your full name for the record

1 and spell your last name.

2 **THE WITNESS:** My name is Walter Brian Wade, W-A-D-E.

3 WALTER BRIAN WADE, JR.,

4 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. MAYE:

7 Q. Mr. Wade, tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury  
8 what you actually go by. What -- what do you go by? What  
9 do people typically call you?

10 A. Brian.

11 Q. Brian Wade?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. Brian, tell them where you grew up. Where are  
14 you originally from?

15 A. I grew up in the Valley of South Carolina.

16 Q. The Valley, what -- what county is that in? What part  
17 of the state is that in?

18 A. That's Bath. Bath in Aiken.

19 Q. Over in Aiken County?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. Did you go to school and all over in Aiken  
22 County?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. Where all did you go to school over there?

25 A. I went to Byrd Elementary, Leavelle McCampbell and

1 Midland Valley High School.

2 Q. Okay. Have you got family members that live over  
3 there in the area of Aiken County as well?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury who are your  
6 family members.

7 A. I've got a mother and a father and I've got three  
8 sisters.

9 Q. Okay. What do your mother and father do? What do  
10 they do? What kind of work?

11 A. My father's a plant manager at AB Beverage and my  
12 mother's an insurance lawyer at Tom Murphy's law firm.

13 Q. Okay. And you got -- you said you got sisters there  
14 as well?

15 A. I do.

16 Q. Okay. Once you got out of high school -- what did you  
17 do when you got out of high school? What was the first  
18 thing you did, Mr. Wade?

19 A. I went into the military.

20 Q. Okay. What branch of the military were you in and  
21 where did you go?

22 A. I was in the Army and I've been to Fort Sill,  
23 Oklahoma; Fort Bliss, Texas. I've been to Korea and Iraq.

24 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. What year did you go in  
25 to start with, Mr. Wade?

1 A. It was at the end of 2004.

2 Q. In 2004?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And when did you get put out? What year was it?

5 A. 2007.

6 Q. 2007?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. What caused the end of your military career?

9 A. Me and another soldier played a joke on another  
10 soldier. You know, we ordered food to a room, you know,  
11 that cost a lot of money and they didn't take it very well.

12 Q. They didn't take it well at all. They court  
13 marshalled you, didn't they?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And put you out of the military, didn't they?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Okay. Once you got out of the military, what did you  
18 do when you got back? When you came back to Aiken, what  
19 happened to you?

20 A. I got with my child's mother, you know, and --

21 Q. Okay. Had y'all -- you previously had a child with  
22 somebody over in Aiken?

23 A. I did, yes, sir.

24 Q. Okay. So you got with her and what happened in your  
25 life at that point in time?

1 A. You know, at the time, you know, it went downhill.

2 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. Before you ever went in  
3 the military or anything, when did you first start using  
4 drugs, Brian?

5 A. At a young age, you know. Probably about age of  
6 thirteen or fourteen.

7 Q. What did you first start using, Brian?

8 A. Marijuana and then meth.

9 Q. What happens when you start using meth? Do you care  
10 about other drugs at all when you start using meth?

11 A. Not particularly, no, sir.

12 Q. Does that pretty much take over your life at that  
13 point?

14 A. Absolutely.

15 Q. Were you able to get out from under that and get  
16 yourself together and go on to the military though?

17 A. I did, yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. But once you got back here after you got put  
19 out, what happened involving your drug use?

20 A. You know, it got worse and, you know, eventually, you  
21 know, it split my family apart.

22 Q. Okay. What did you start doing to get money to buy  
23 drugs? I mean, what were you stealing?

24 A. I was stealing vehicles.

25 Q. You were stealing vehicles?



1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Okay. Were you pretty active at stealing vehicles?

3 A. Yes, sir, you could say so.

4 Q. Okay. Now what would you do with the vehicles? To  
5 get drugs, how do you convert stealing vehicles into  
6 getting drugs?

7 A. You know, I'd, you know, basically, you know, find  
8 someone that will take the vehicles, you know, either for  
9 cash or drugs.

10 Q. Okay. How about over at [REDACTED]? Were you  
11 able to trade stolen vehicles for drugs there?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. Did you do so -- let's say, prior to December  
14 of 2015, did you do so?

15 A. I did. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Not just once, but several times, didn't you?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. Now let's talk about December of 2015.

19 December the 10th of 2015. Law enforcement caught up with  
20 you involving stealing stolen vehicles, didn't they?

21 A. They did.

22 Q. Or having -- stealing vehicles, didn't they?

23 A. They did. Yes, sir.

24 Q. What agency was working that case against you and who  
25 actually caught you?

1 A. I was caught by a SLED agent out of Columbia, Daquan  
2 Smith.

3 Q. He actually works vehicle crimes for SLED, doesn't he?

4 A. He does. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Now once he caught you with stolen vehicles, you had  
6 meth on you, too, when they caught you, didn't you?

7 A. (Nods head.) I did. Yes, sir.

8 Q. And you caught a whole variety of charges at that  
9 time, didn't you, when they arrested you?

10 A. I did.

11 Q. What all did they charge you with, Brian?

12 A. I got possession of stolen vehicles, grand larceny,  
13 receiving stolen goods and escape.

14 Q. Okay. You tried to run from them initially, didn't  
15 you?

16 A. I did. Yes, sir.

17 Q. It didn't work, did it?

18 A. No, it didn't.

19 Q. Okay. Did you tell them -- when they started talking  
20 with you, did you give them information involving your  
21 stolen vehicle crimes? Did you help them get back some of  
22 the vehicles you'd taken?

23 A. I did. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Okay. Involving this [REDACTED] here in  
25 Edgefield County where you'd previously been taking the

1 stolen vehicles and trading them for drugs, what  
2 information did you pass on and who did you give that  
3 information to here in Edgefield County?

4 A. You know, there were two investigators that came and  
5 visited me while I was in Aiken County, you know --

6 Q. Uh-huh.

7 A. -- and I told them, you know, that I, you know, might  
8 have information that could help them lead, you know, to  
9 the -- you know, where I was taking the vehicles.

10 Q. Uh-huh. Did you talk to Investigator James Smith? Do  
11 you remember Mr. Smith coming over and talking with you?

12 A. I do. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. Tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury what  
14 you told him about what was going on at [REDACTED],  
15 who the people were, what your involvement was in going out  
16 there. Just relate what you told them.

17 A. Yes, sir. I told them that, you know, there was a  
18 guy, you know, named Pops, you know.

19 Q. Who is Pops? What's his real name?

20 A. Mr. David Coons {sic}.

21 Q. David Coon. Okay. Who else did you tell them that  
22 was there at that place?

23 A. There was another person that lived there, Timothy  
24 Wheeler.

25 Q. Okay. And who else did you tell them that was there?

1 A. There was another female. Her name was Heather Hall.

2 Q. Heather Hall?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Okay. Once you identified the people that were there,  
5 what did you tell them about what you knew about what was  
6 going on there at [REDACTED]?

7 A. You know, I told them, you know, they would -- you  
8 know, they would accept the vehicles and I would trade them  
9 for meth.

10 Q. Okay. Now let's talk about December the 6th of 2015.  
11 Did you actually go over to [REDACTED]?

12 A. Yes, sir. I did.

13 Q. Let me stop you and ask you this. This [REDACTED]  
14 Lane, it sounds like a stupid question, what county is that  
15 in?

16 A. Edgefield.

17 Q. In Edgefield County. Okay. So you went over there.  
18 What kind of place is [REDACTED]?

19 A. I'd say as you go down the driveway, it's a dirt road,  
20 you know. It's pretty -- you know, you go down into the  
21 woods pretty deep.

22 Q. How did you end up going to [REDACTED]? What  
23 led up to you getting down there to that property?

24 A. I had met Mr. Coons at a hotel, me and my girlfriend,  
25 and, you know, we had left the hotel with him and went down

1 to his home.

2 Q. Okay. What did you do once you got there? Once you  
3 went with Mr. Coon and he took you back there, what  
4 happened?

5 A. You know, we just talked about people we knew and, you  
6 know, we fired some, you know, firearms.

7 Q. You fired firearms?

8 A. Yes, sir, we did.

9 Q. Okay. What kind of guns and all did you see there at  
10 the residence?

11 A. You know, there was rifles, assault rifles, handguns,  
12 sawed-off shotguns, pistols. There were multiple.

13 Q. Okay. Did you learn about the measures that they had  
14 in place there involving surveillance, booby traps and  
15 those sorts of things?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. What did you relate to Investigator Smith in regard to  
18 that?

19 A. You know, I was -- you know, informed him, you know,  
20 that there was C-4 planted around the perimeter of the  
21 property, you know, in case something were to happen and,  
22 you know, they needed to get away, you know, they had it.

23 Q. Okay. Did you see a live camera feed, a surveillance  
24 camera, that they had there as well?

25 A. I did, yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. So once you got there you said y'all shot guns.  
2 What kind of guns did you shoot?

3 A. We shot just sawed-offs mostly.

4 Q. Just sawed-offs?

5 A. (Nods head.)

6 Q. What did you shoot them at?

7 A. There was a van there that was -- you know, that was,  
8 you know, already, you know, broken down there in their  
9 driveway.

10 Q. Okay. I guess once y'all got through with the show  
11 and tell, the guns and all that stuff, what happened next?

12 A. That's when, you know, my girlfriend and Ms. Hall went  
13 to the store, you know, and when they left to the store  
14 that's when, you know, I had a conversation about the meth,  
15 you know, that I could get fronted to, you know, if I could  
16 bring it back, you know, we could speak more about, you  
17 know, getting bigger quantities.

18 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. So you initially went and  
19 start dealing with Mr. Coon, correct?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. And you had been taking stolen vehicles over there  
22 and trading them and getting drugs from that address,  
23 correct?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. Okay. Who else did you deal with there that day

1 when they were talking about beginning to front the  
2 methamphetamine, this changed relationship? Who else did  
3 you deal with?

4 A. Mr. Wheeler.

5 Q. Okay. Are you talking about the Defendant in this  
6 case, Tim Wheeler?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Is he present here in the courtroom today?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Could you point out where he is?

11 A. He's right here, sir.

12 Q. Okay. And so what conversations did y'all have, you  
13 Mr. Coon and Mr. Wheeler, about what your activities were  
14 to be, what your role was and what you were expected to do?

15 A. Like I said, you know, that I could get -- you know,  
16 they would front me, you know, some -- you know, a quarter  
17 ounce, you know, and if I could bring that back, you know,  
18 then the quantities would get bigger.

19 Q. Okay. Did they, in fact, front you a quarter ounce of  
20 meth that day?

21 A. They did. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. The meth that you were caught with by Daquan  
23 Smith with SLED when you got caught on the 10th, is that  
24 the same drugs that they had fronted you that day?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. What conversation specifically did you have  
2 with -- I mean, what did Mr. Wheeler do while you were  
3 there that day? What's everything you saw and observed?

4 A. You know -- you know, when I was talking to Mr. Coons,  
5 you know, he went -- he went back to his room and he was  
6 the one that brought it to Coon's room, you know, to give  
7 it to me.

8 Q. Okay. So Mr. Wheeler actual actually brought the  
9 drugs to Coon?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. How was it packaged and all for you and what  
12 did you see in the way of drug evidence while you were  
13 there that day?

14 A. It was in -- in Ziploc bags.

15 Q. Like --

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. -- like you get at the grocery store? It was in a  
18 Ziploc bag?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Okay. All right. Come down here off the stand, if  
21 you would.

22 (Whereupon, the witness steps down from the witness  
23 stand.)

24 Q. And let's back up here just a little bit. I'm gonna  
25 show you what's already been into evidence -- admitted into



1 evidence by stipulation State's Exhibit Number 59. Do you  
2 recognize that?

3 A. I do.

4 Q. What is this?

5 A. That's the home I went to.

6 **THE COURT REPORTER:** I'm sorry, you're gonna have  
7 to --

8 **MR. MAYE:** Talk up.

9 **THE WITNESS:** I'm sorry. That's the home that I went  
10 to.

11 BY MR. MAYE:

12 Q. The home that you went to at Rainforest Lane here in  
13 Edgefield?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. State's --

16 **MR. MAYE:** Could you tell me what that number is? I'm  
17 sorry.

18 **THE COURT REPORTER:** That's 61.

19 BY MR. MAYE:

20 Q. 61. I'm gonna show you what's in evidence already as  
21 State's 61. What does that show, 61?

22 A. That's the back side of the home.

23 Q. Had you seen this pick-up there at the property  
24 previously?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. State's 60, what is that?

2 A. That's the back side of the home.

3 Q. The back side of the trailer?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Let's talk about State's 54. What's that?

6 A. That's the motorcycle Mr. Wheeler drove.

7 Q. State's 54 is a motorcycle that you saw Mr. Wheeler  
8 operate and drive?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Okay. I'm gonna show you what's in by stipulation as  
11 State's 4 and ask you to take a look at all of the items  
12 that are in this photograph here.

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Are you familiar with these items here and what does  
15 that depict?

16 A. You know, there's multiples of the ones that I seen in  
17 the home that day.

18 Q. Do these fairly and accurately reflect the weapons  
19 that you saw there in the house that day when you went --

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. -- on the 6th of December of 2015? Okay. Do you see  
22 photographs of the sawed-off shotguns that you fired that  
23 day at the van?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Okay. Let me show you State's 5 in evidence already.

1 What is that?

2 A. That's the van.

3 Q. The van that y'all fired the weapons at?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. I'm gonna show you  
6 State's 6 that's in evidence already. What is that? Do  
7 you recognize that?

8 A. Yes, sir. That's one of the sawed-offs that I shot.

9 Q. You shot one of those sawed-off shotguns that day?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Let's talk about State's 7. What's that show?

12 A. That's another sawed-off I shot that day.

13 Q. You shot State's 7 that day?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. What in particular happened when you fired this  
16 shotgun on that day?

17 A. I just -- you know, when I shot it, the handgrip, when  
18 I held it, you know, it was so powerful, you know, when I  
19 shot it, you know, it came off in one hand, you know, and I  
20 had the other part in the other hand.

21 Q. Okay. In State's 7, is there damage to the foregrip  
22 on the shotgun? Is that what you're talking about?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Is that the damage that resulted that day when you  
25 fired it, the handgrip came off?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And you're certain about that?

3 A. 100 percent.

4 Q. Okay. I'm gonna show you State's 8 in this case. Is  
5 that the kind of Ziploc bags that you're talking about --

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. -- that the drugs were in that Mr. Wheeler brought out  
8 that day?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Let's talk about State's 9 here. What does that show?

11 A. That's the motorcycle that Mr. Coons drove.

12 Q. Mr. Coon rode this motorcycle?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. And it was there when you went out there that day?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. I'm gonna show you State's 11 in this case. What all  
17 is depicted in State's 11?

18 A. The camper and the truck.

19 Q. A camper and a truck?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Were they there that day when you went out there?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Did you inform Investigator Smith that you had seen  
24 those items there?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Let me ask you this. Could you obtain other drugs --  
2 could you obtain other drugs other than methamphetamine if  
3 you went out to [REDACTED] and dealt with them?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. What else could you obtain?

6 A. You know, there was pills you could get, you know,  
7 there's different -- you know, sometimes it vary, but  
8 mostly, you know, meth.

9 Q. Mostly meth, but you could also get pills and other  
10 drugs if you wanted?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. What does State's 16 show?

13 A. It shows pills, meth, scales and money.

14 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. What all vehicles had  
15 you seen the various individuals operating out there at  
16 different times?

17 A. You know, there were motorcycles, there was a truck  
18 -- there was another truck, an F-150, camouflaged that  
19 Mr. Coon drove.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. You know, those -- those four-wheelers and, like I  
22 said, the motorcycles.

23 Q. Okay. And you -- could you basically trade whatever  
24 stolen items that you had? Could you trade guns? Could  
25 you trade any stolen item out there?

1 A. If they wanted them, yes, sir.

2 Q. Okay. And you could swap them for drugs --

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. -- out at that location?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Okay. Go back and take the stand.

7 (Whereupon, the witness returns to the witness stand.)

8 Q. Now let me ask you this. You got court marshalled and  
9 put out of the Army, right?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. You got caught -- what did they actually convict you  
12 of over in Aiken? You got all those charges from Daquan  
13 Smith that led you to cooperate with Edgefield. What all  
14 actually were -- did you end up pleading to and what  
15 happened to you?

16 A. I pled to the escape, I pled to grand larceny,  
17 possession of meth, failure to stop for a blue light.

18 Q. Okay. What happened as a result of that?

19 A. I got sentenced to prison time in the State -- you  
20 know, SCDC.

21 Q. SCDC. And as you sit here right now, where are you a  
22 resident now?

23 A. I'm a prisoner.

24 Q. You're a prisoner at SCDC right now?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. Mr. Wade, you cooperated initially with  
2 Edgefield County, correct?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Did you really get any assistance on your charges from  
5 Edgefield on the front end of your charges?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Okay. You went to prison, didn't you?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. Mr. Wade, was it your hope that you could help  
10 yourself in cooperating --

11 A. (Nods head.)

12 Q. -- you know, when you gave that other information  
13 initially?

14 A. I would hope so. Yes, sir.

15 Q. You hoped you could, didn't you?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. It actually didn't end up working out very well, did  
18 it?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. Now, Mr. Wade, you are aware in this case as you  
21 testify up here today that there is a method why we -- we  
22 could review your sentence that you got previously,  
23 correct?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. And you know that and you've been informed that,

1 haven't you?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Has anybody made you actually any specific promises as  
4 to what actually will be able to be done and what we will  
5 do? Do you have any specific promises?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Okay. But you're gonna -- you certainly hope for the  
8 best in that case, don't you?

9 A. Absolutely. Absolutely.

10 Q. Okay. Mr. Wade, in 2014 you got convicted for giving  
11 false information to law enforcement, correct?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. So you previously had a charge?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. So that was part of your downhill slide once  
16 you got back into drugs, wasn't it?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. Brian, are you absolutely certain that the  
19 source of the drugs that you were fronted there that you  
20 left with on December the 6th of 2015 came from the  
21 Defendant in this case, Mr. Wheeler?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. You're certain of that?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. You actually saw him hand them to Mr. Coon and they



1 were provided to you?

2 A. I did.

3 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. What were you paying for  
4 methamphetamine? You know, what -- if you had to go out  
5 and buy it, what was the street value if you were doing it  
6 per gram? What would you have to pay?

7 A. You know, like I said, my girlfriend, you know,  
8 introduced me to them, you know, earlier, you know, that  
9 year, you know, because, you know, I was able to get it  
10 cheaper from them.

11 Q. You could get a better deal from them?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. From Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Coon?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. What kind of money are we talking about when  
16 you're dealing with meth?

17 A. You know, any other person, you know, I'd get a gram  
18 for a hundred, but, you know, I could get it from them for  
19 sixty or seventy.

20 Q. Sixty or seventy a gram from them?

21 A. (Nods head.)

22 Q. When you left with the drugs that you were fronted,  
23 how much did you hope to be able to realize from that in  
24 return? What was your goal? What did you believe that you  
25 could do involved in selling it?

1 A. You know, like I could double it. You know, I was  
2 told that, you know, to bring back two hundred, you know.

3 Q. Okay. So you were gonna get it upfront? That was the  
4 deal that you struck with them?

5 A. (Nods head.)

6 Q. You got -- you were gonna sell it and bring that back  
7 to them and keep the profit, correct?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. Was that also gonna provide you with a steady  
10 pipeline of methamphetamine for your own use?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. And so y'all had discussions about that and  
13 that's was what y'all agreed on before you left?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay.

16 **MR. MAYE:** Answer any questions that the defense has  
17 for you, Brian. Thank you.

18 **THE WITNESS:** Absolutely.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. THUSS:

21 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Wade. I'm Rob Thuss. I'm  
22 Mr. Wheeler's attorney.

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. You stated that you had been convicted of giving false  
25 information to the police --

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- 2 Q. -- prior to this?
- 3 A. I lied about my name.
- 4 Q. Pardon me?
- 5 A. I lied about my name.
- 6 Q. You lied about your name?
- 7 A. Yes, sir.
- 8 Q. And what other criminal history do you have?
- 9 A. Like I said, I had receiving stolen goods, possession
- 10 of stolen vehicles.
- 11 Q. Okay. I'm looking back. Were you charged with a
- 12 forgery at some point?
- 13 A. Yes, sir, you know, but that was settled out of court,
- 14 you know.
- 15 Q. And then you have prior drug convictions?
- 16 A. No, sir. That was the first drug --
- 17 Q. That was the first drug -- have you been convicted of
- 18 any drug convictions?
- 19 A. No, sir.
- 20 Q. What about, you know, financial transaction theft?
- 21 A. That's the same thing as the forgery.
- 22 Q. Criminal domestic violence?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- 24 Q. Assault and battery?
- 25 A. Again, that was settled out of court, you know. That

1 was dismissed.

2 Q. And you've got the -- the grand larceny charge, the  
3 stolen vehicle charges?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Those were in 2015?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Those were -- now do you recall when you were arrested  
8 for the -- the stolen vehicles that you've discussed? When  
9 did SLED arrest you?

10 A. They arrested me the 10th of December.

11 Q. Okay. And -- and I believe you testified -- what date  
12 had -- had you been to the Rainforest address?

13 A. It was the 6th of December.

14 Q. The 6th of December?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. Now you -- after you were arrested on the -- on  
17 the stolen vehicle charges on the 10th --

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. -- did you -- did you make bond on that?

20 A. I did. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. And did you receive any subsequent charges?

22 A. All I was, you know, arrested for was the possession  
23 of stolen vehicle and -- you know, the possession of stolen  
24 vehicle and the grand larceny that was -- you know, I had a  
25 warrant out for my arrest for a grand larceny. It was for

1 another vehicle.

2 Q. For another vehicle?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Okay. Were you -- were you arrested while you were  
5 out on bond?

6 A. Yes, sir, I was.

7 Q. And what were you arrested for?

8 A. That's when I, you know, got the escape, the grand  
9 larceny, receiving stolen goods and possession of meth.

10 Q. And what was the -- you said escape?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. What was the nature of that?

13 A. I got out of the back of the police car and ran.

14 Q. Okay. Now after you were out on bond, did you  
15 continue to use drugs?

16 A. Yes, sir. You know, of course. Yes, sir.

17 Q. So you have a -- you have a drug problem?

18 A. I did, yes, sir.

19 Q. And when was it that -- you said you had gone  
20 downhill. When did the drug problem really begin to get  
21 worse where you started to commit crimes?

22 A. Well, like after -- you know, during, you know, the  
23 time me and my child's mother were together.

24 Q. Do you have date or a year?

25 A. No, sir. You know, it's within -- you know, from

1 2007, you know, to present.

2 Q. To present?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. So -- so you've been in the lifestyle of drugs and  
5 crime since 2007?

6 A. No. Like I said, you know, if you could see my arrest  
7 record, you know, it started basically within the last  
8 three years. You know, that's when I heavily started  
9 getting back into it, yes, sir.

10 Q. Okay. Now you said that you know -- you know David  
11 Coon?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. And how long had you known him?

14 A. I'd known him a couple of months prior.

15 Q. A couple of months prior to what?

16 A. You know, the -- you know, me getting, you know, the  
17 meth fronted to me.

18 Q. From Coon?

19 A. Yeah, you know, from Coons. Yes, sir.

20 Q. So that's -- you were -- you were -- so about two  
21 months prior to December you met Mr. Coon?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Okay. And how did you meet him?

24 A. You know, I met him -- you know, I was friends with a  
25 guy that stayed down the road, you know, and he told me,

1 you know, that if I -- you know, eventually, you know, if  
2 I could show that, you know, I could bring money that he  
3 would, you know, invite me, you know, to their home, you  
4 know, so I could meet Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Coons.

5 Q. Some -- somebody told you that if you could -- well,  
6 did you know Mr. Wheeler?

7 A. At that time, no, sir.

8 Q. All right. But you -- but that's how you met Mr. Coon  
9 two months earlier?

10 A. Yes, sir. You know, I had seen Mr. Wheeler, but I --  
11 you know, I didn't get to speak with him, no, sir.

12 Q. You had seen him where?

13 A. You know, he would come down to, you know, my friend's  
14 house that was down the road.

15 Q. But, in other words, your relationship with Coon began  
16 first?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And -- and that relationship went back two months  
19 prior to December of 2015?

20 A. You know, yes, sir, you know, it was prior. You know,  
21 I don't know the exact time, but, yes, sir, it was prior to  
22 that.

23 Q. Okay. Because in your -- in the arrest warrant you  
24 didn't identify Tim Wheeler as Tim Wheeler, did you?

25 A. It was, you know, Biker Tim.

1 Q. It was Biker -- someone you just described as Biker  
2 Tim. You didn't know his real name?

3 A. I knew the name was Timothy. I didn't know his last  
4 name, no, sir.

5 Q. The -- so you also testified that from what I could  
6 understand you had been bringing stolen property out to the  
7 Rainforest Drive?

8 A. Yes, sir, I had.

9 Q. On about how many occasions?

10 A. Maybe three or four times.

11 Q. Three or four times. During that time, did you ever  
12 meet Mr. Wheeler there?

13 A. No, sir, I'd just -- you know, I'd stay outside and my  
14 girlfriend would go in, you know, and trade and we'd leave  
15 from there.

16 Q. With Mr. Coon?

17 A. I don't know that. She just went in, you know, and I  
18 sat outside.

19 Q. Oh, she -- your girlfriend went in?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And -- okay. Who is she? Is she your -- who was she?

22 A. She was my girlfriend at that point, you know, but,  
23 you know, I haven't spoke with her.

24 Q. Okay. Were you ever involved with a Jennifer Dewitt  
25 or Nicole Dewitt?



1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. You don't know her?

3 A. I know her. We grew up in the same, you know, county.

4 Q. You know Nicole Dewitt?

5 A. I do, yes, sir.

6 Q. Did you two use drugs together, too?

7 A. Did we use drugs together?

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. The -- you had said that you came to that Rainforest  
11 Drive location on December 6th?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. And -- and you said that, what, over a  
14 two-month period you might have been there three or four  
15 times?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. All right. What -- did you tell the police that when  
18 you -- when Investigator Smith and Investigator Ireland  
19 came to talk to you?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. You didn't? You withheld that?

22 A. I guess, you know, I wasn't asked, you know, how many  
23 times I was out there.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. You know, I just gave them the information that I knew

1 and they wrote it down.

2 Q. Okay. Did -- when they came to see you, was -- were  
3 you surprised that the investigators came to see you?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. Did you contact -- did you contact them from the jail?

6 A. Daquan Smith, the SLED agent from the stolen vehicles,  
7 he contacted them and they came to me, you know, from my  
8 request.

9 Q. Did you ask -- did you ask the SLED agent for them to  
10 do that?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. When you were there that day, did Mr. Coon take you --  
13 you said that you went with Mr. Coon to the house?

14 A. I did, yes, sir.

15 Q. And did Mr. Coon take you through and show you his  
16 firearms and things like that?

17 A. He did, yes, sir.

18 Q. Was Mr. Wheeler doing that, too, or was this Mr. Coon?

19 A. Mr. Wheeler. You know, we had shot a handgun right  
20 off -- right when he opened the front door and he had a gun  
21 that he shot and, you know, asked me if I'd like to shoot,  
22 too, and I shot one with him, too, yes, sir.

23 Q. Was he outside shooting at the -- at the van with  
24 y'all?

25 A. No, sir, it was just me and Mr. Coons then.

1 Q. You and Mr. Coon. Did Mr. Coon ever say anything  
2 about who owned these various firearms?

3 A. No, it was never mentioned, you know, who owned them.

4 Q. He never told you that -- did you go into Mr. Coon's  
5 bedroom?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. And did you see a number of firearms that were in  
8 Mr. Coon's bedroom?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. And did he ever point any of these out to you and say  
11 -- and say look at this, this is mine?

12 A. Yes, sir. He had a couple of them.

13 Q. So he -- so he did say that -- he did say that some of  
14 these firearms belonged to him?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Can you come down so we can look at some of these --

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. -- and I'll show them to you.

19 (Whereupon, the witness steps down from the witness  
20 stand.)

21 Q. Do you remember if Mr. Coon said that this was his?

22 A. No, sir, he never -- he did not specify whose that one  
23 is.

24 Q. Okay. Was this the one that you shot?

25 A. I shot that one, yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. Who gave it to you to shoot?

2 A. Mr. Coon.

3 Q. Did Mr. Coon give you this --

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. -- to shoot?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Did he get this from his room?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. And this was the one I just showed you. This is the  
10 one Mr. Coon gave you --

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. -- that he said it was his to shoot? Let me ask you  
13 about -- go back to the stand for a second, please.

14 (Whereupon, the witness returns to the witness stand.)

15 Q. You identified a red Chevy pick-up truck?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Let me ask you, before -- the time before that you had  
18 been there, in other words, you were there on December --  
19 on December 6th?

20 A. (Nods head.)

21 Q. How many weeks before that was the last time you had  
22 been there?

23 A. Oh, I don't know. Like I said, you know, it had been  
24 maybe a couple of weeks, maybe a couple -- I can't remember  
25 specifically.

1 Q. You can't?

2 A. You know, I don't want to tell you a time, you know,  
3 and, you know, I don't remember.

4 Q. Were you under the influence of drugs when you were  
5 going out there?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. You were pretty much a daily user if you could be?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Besides methamphetamine, what other -- what other  
10 drugs did you use?

11 A. Marijuana.

12 Q. That's it?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Did you use pills?

15 A. I did not.

16 Q. No? What about alcohol?

17 A. No, sir. I don't drink.

18 Q. Okay.

19 **MR. THUSS:** A moment, please.

20 **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

21 **BY MR. THUSS:**

22 Q. Just one -- a couple more questions. You -- and this  
23 has been put into testimony {sic}. You've given this  
24 information -- you gave the information to the police in  
25 the hopes of receiving favorable treatment with your

1 charges?

2 A. I wasn't -- like I said, you know, I haven't been  
3 aware that, you know, that my case could even be reviewed  
4 until after -- you know, over a year afterwards.

5 Q. Okay. You gave the statement to the police about this  
6 case on -- on December 10th?

7 A. Yes, sir. That's when I was arrested. You know, I  
8 gave the statement, you know, days afterwards.

9 Q. And then you were subsequently convicted on the escape  
10 charge and the drugs and more charges that you picked up?

11 A. Yes, sir. I pleaded out to them.

12 Q. Did -- did any of the investigators or anyone  
13 associated with law enforcement give you a belief that you  
14 would receive favorable treatment for your help?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. No?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Now when were you next contacted by law enforcement  
19 regarding this case?

20 A. It was a couple of weeks ago.

21 Q. Do you know -- do you know when?

22 A. Not the date, you know. It's been maybe in -- it was  
23 in December.

24 Q. In December. And what happened?

25 A. You know, I was, you know, brought down here to tell

1 -- you know, asked if I would testify, you know, and give  
2 them, you know -- and tell them, you know, more about, you  
3 know, the case and what happened, you know, in that period  
4 of time.

5 Q. Okay. And so sometime in December you spoke with --  
6 with whom?

7 A. Mr. Maye.

8 Q. Okay. Did any other law enforcement officers try and  
9 talk to you or just Mr. Maye?

10 A. They were in there, you know, when we talked, but that  
11 was it.

12 Q. Who else was there?

13 A. Him right here.

14 Q. Mr. Young?

15 A. Yes, sir. And there was another -- I guess another,  
16 you know, policeman that was with him.

17 Q. And at that time did you become aware that -- that  
18 there was a statute that could provide -- provide you with  
19 a -- a lighter sentence based on your cooperation in this  
20 trial?

21 A. You know, I was made aware that, you know, it could  
22 be.

23 Q. It could be?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 **MR. THUSS:** No further questions.

1       **THE COURT:** Redirect?

2       **MR. MAYE:** Just a couple.

3       **THE COURT:** All right.

4                               REDIRECT EXAMINATION.

5       BY MR. MAYE:

6       Q.   Now you testified Mr. Wheeler actually met you at the  
7       door the first time you saw him with a pistol in his hand,  
8       correct?

9       A.   Yes, sir.

10      Q.   Okay. Now did Mr. Coon have all these guns locked in  
11      some kind of safe or did anybody have access to them?

12      A.   They were laying around his whole house.

13      Q.   They were laying around the whole house?

14      A.   Yes, sir.

15      Q.   So anybody inside the house maybe to defend it could  
16      have certainly picked up any of those weapons at any time?

17      A.   Oh, absolutely. Absolutely.

18      Q.   Okay. And, in fact, you were informed that was the  
19      purpose of having all the weapons, security, correct?

20      A.   Yes, sir.

21      Q.   What other security measures were you informed were  
22      there in order to guard the place?

23      A.   C-4, you know, they had surveillance. They had, like  
24      I said, pistols in every, you know, room you went in.

25      Q.   There were pistols in every room you went in?



1 A. Absolutely.

2 Q. Okay. Were there weapons throughout the house?

3 A. Absolutely. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Okay. Come down here.

5 (Whereupon, the witness steps down from the witness  
6 stand.)

7 Q. Let's talk about State's 3 that's already in evidence.  
8 Is that a pretty fair diagram of the layout of inside that  
9 doublewide?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. Where was Mr. Coon's bedroom when you went in  
12 the front door?

13 A. Right here.

14 Q. Coon's bedroom was here?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. Where did Wheeler and Hall stay in the trailer?

17 A. This one.

18 Q. The center bedroom?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Well, did you ever go in the third bedroom there?

21 A. Yes. That was pretty much an empty room.

22 Q. That was kind of an empty room?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. What about all this in here? What does that show?

25 A. Well, they had, you know, weights that were right

1 here, like a Bowflex. That was pretty much a great room,  
2 you know, and the living room was right here when you  
3 walked in.

4 Q. Okay. And you say there were weapons throughout the  
5 house?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Okay. So all the residents had access to these  
8 weapons?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 (Whereupon, the witness returns to the witness stand.)

11 Q. Okay. Did Ms. Hall and Mr. Wheeler have security  
12 concerns that they discussed with you involving weapons and  
13 all during the visit that you were there?

14 **MR. THUSS:** Leading.

15 **THE COURT:** Sustained as to leading.

16 BY MR. MAYE:

17 Q. What, if any, discussions did you have with Hall  
18 and/or Mr. Wheeler?

19 A. That the night prior that, you know, they believed  
20 they had heard someone out there and they were walking  
21 around the perimeter, you know, on the outside with  
22 handguns.

23 Q. They believed they'd heard somebody on the perimeter  
24 and they walked around with handguns?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1           **MR. MAYE:** Nothing else. Thank you.

2           **THE COURT:** Anything else?

3                               RECROSS EXAMINATION

4   BY MR. THUSS:

5   Q.   When did that conversation occur?

6   A.   That was probably, you know, when we got there. When  
7   I got there with Mr. Coons, you know, they had come out --  
8   they had just woken up, Mr. Wheeler and Ms. Hall, and they  
9   come into the living room and was discussing it.

10   Q.   The weapons, the guns that are here, did -- did you  
11   ever see Mr. Wheeler shooting these?

12   A.   No, sir. Not them, no, sir.

13           **MR. THUSS:** Thank you.

14           **THE COURT:** Okay. You may step down or go to the  
15   back.

16           (Witness excused.)

17           **THE COURT:** Let's take a break. We've been going a  
18   little over an hour. You have about ten minutes to step  
19   in the jury room. You can't discuss the case. We'll be  
20   back in ten minutes.

21           (Whereupon, the jury retires to the jury room at  
22   2:41 PM.)

23           **THE COURT:** We'll stand at ease for a few minutes.

24           (Recess taken.)

25           **BAILIFF:** All rise.

1           **THE COURT:** Are you ready?

2           **MR. MAYE:** We're ready.

3           (Whereupon, the jury returns to the courtroom at  
4 3:01 PM.)

5           **THE COURT:** All right. Call your next witness.

6           **MR. MAYE:** The State would call Chris Harmon to the  
7 stand.

8           **THE CLERK:** Please raise your right hand and place  
9 your left hand on the Bible.

10          (Whereupon, Chris Harmon was duly sworn by the Clerk  
11 of Court.)

12          **THE CLERK:** Thank you, sir. Please be seated and  
13 scoot up to the mic. State your full name and spell your  
14 last name for the record.

15          **THE WITNESS:** Chris Harmon, H-A-R-M-O-N.

16                               CHRIS HARMON,

17          having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

18                               DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. MAYE:

20 Q. Mr. Harmon, could you tell the ladies and gentlemen of  
21 the jury what your association with [REDACTED] here  
22 in Edgefield County is.

23 A. Property owner of that residence.

24 Q. You own the property?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. What were you utilizing the property for? How  
2 did you come to own this property?

3 A. It was a rental -- rental property --

4 Q. A rental property?

5 A. -- I invested in.

6 Q. How much property do you own around there?

7 A. Two and a half acres.

8 Q. Two and a half acres?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Okay. Describe what the structure is. What is it  
11 like?

12 A. It's a doublewide mobile home.

13 Q. Okay. A doublewide. Let me show you what's already  
14 into evidence as State's 2. Does that kind of fairly and  
15 accurately show an aerial of the area there where the  
16 trailer is?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. Come down here, if you would.

19 (Whereupon, the witness steps down from the witness  
20 stand.)

21 Q. How do you come in off the road to this property?

22 A. Murrah Road will be here at the top and you come down  
23 and it's at the end of the dirt lane down there.

24 Q. Okay. It comes in like this?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Where on here is the actual trailer situated?

2 A. It would be this area here.

3 Q. Okay. This here?

4 A. That was a camper I had stored down there back when  
5 the photo was taken.

6 Q. So this is a old photo and you had a camper on it at  
7 that time?

8 A. Yes, at that time.

9 Q. But that's basically an aerial layout?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. If you could take -- you can stay right here,  
12 if you will. I'm gonna show you State's 12. If this is  
13 kind of a map of this section of the county in here and  
14 this is the courthouse, how do you get down there to where  
15 this property is from leaving the courthouse? How do you  
16 go, Mr. Harmon?

17 A. Travelling Sweetwater Road down to -- all the way down  
18 to Mealing and turn right on Mealing and go down and then  
19 turn right on Murrah and Rainforest would be down on the  
20 left.

21 Q. Okay. So you go down Sweetwater and turn where?

22 A. On Mealing --

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. -- here and then come down to Murrah and it would be  
25 down here in the corner.

1 Q. But it's definitely all Edgefield County?

2 A. Yes, it's all Edgefield County.

3 Q. Okay. Go back and retake the stand.

4 (Whereupon, the witness returns to the witness stand.)

5 Q. Who did you first start out with renting this place to  
6 for this crowd?

7 A. Heather Hall and a different individual.

8 Q. Not Mr. Wheeler, the Defendant in this case?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. She and a boy?

11 A. Yes, that's right.

12 Q. They rented it from you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. I guess it's in December when they did the  
15 search warrant there, but how much prior to that did they  
16 started renting the place from you in all?

17 A. It was almost practically a year before that and then  
18 her dad had moved in and he had joined the lease and then  
19 it was the three of them on there.

20 Q. Okay. So she and some other boy to start with?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And then how did it come that she and her daddy ended  
23 up both on it and the other boy was gone?

24 A. Well, I was going to evict the other boy and -- and  
25 Heather and then Mr. Coon come up and wanted to rent the

1 place, so I let him -- he go rent it and then he come up  
2 with the deposit and the money to rent it and then, of  
3 course, he wanted -- she wanted to move back in with him,  
4 which I was fine with that, I thought it was gonna be the  
5 daughter -- you know, daughter and father, and so then they  
6 joined the lease and stayed.

7 Q. Okay.

8 **MR. MAYE:** Thank you. Answer any questions the  
9 defense has for you.

10 CROSS-EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. THUSS:

12 Q. Good afternoon. I'm Rob Thuss, Mr. Wheeler's  
13 attorney.

14 A. How are you?

15 Q. I'm fine. Mr. Wheeler doesn't have any rental or  
16 lease agreement with you, does he?

17 A. No, he does not.

18 Q. Do you know him?

19 A. I don't know him.

20 Q. Don't know him?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So he does not to your knowledge reside at

23 [REDACTED]?

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. And does Mr. Coon -- was it primarily Mr. Coon's



1 residence after -- after Ms. Hall moved out?

2 A. Well, it was. It was -- showed on the paper it was.

3 Now the last two months before this all transpired, she had  
4 paid the rent.

5 Q. Was she -- she had given you the rent personally?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But you don't know whether or not she might have  
8 gotten the money from Mr. Coon or someone else?

9 A. It was stated that she would be paying me. Now as  
10 far as, you know, where the money come from, she was there  
11 and I didn't see Mr. Coon for the last two months.

12 Q. All right. Do you know whether or not she was  
13 actually residing there as her legal residence or  
14 full-time?

15 A. I had done a monthly inspection the first of that  
16 month and, of course, her belongings were there, yes.

17 **MR. THUSS:** Thank you. No further questions.

18 **MR. MAYE:** Just one.

19 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. MAYE:

21 Q. You don't know who was all in there day by day though,  
22 do you?

23 A. I don't.

24 Q. You didn't know this place was full of guns and  
25 explosives and drugs, did you?

1 A. No, sir.

2 **MR. MAYE:** Okay. Nothing else. Thank you.

3 **THE COURT:** All right. You can step down.

4 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

5 (Witness excused.)

6 **MR. MAYE:** The State calls Jimmy Smith.

7 **THE CLERK:** Raise your right hand and place your left  
8 on the Bible.

9 (Whereupon, Jimmy Smith was duly sworn by the Clerk of  
10 Court.)

11 **THE CLERK:** Please be seated, sir. State your full  
12 name and spell your last name for the record.

13 **THE WITNESS:** Investigator Jimmy Smith, S-M-I-T-H.

14 JIMMY SMITH,

15 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. MAYE:

18 Q. Investigator Smith, tell the ladies and gentlemen of  
19 the jury about your background in law enforcement and how  
20 you got involved in this case.

21 A. Well, my background in law enforcement is in 1998 I  
22 started at the Saluda County Detention Center. I stayed  
23 there about a year and become a police officer with the  
24 Johnston Police Department. In 19 -- in 2005, I left there  
25 to come to the Edgefield County Sheriff's Office and in

1 2006 I became a criminal investigator.

2 Q. Okay. Investigator Smith, y'all have got a narcotics  
3 unit at the sheriff's office, right?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Who's over the narcotics unit?

6 A. Lieutenant Young.

7 Q. Lieutenant Young. Who else works with him there in  
8 narcotics?

9 A. Investigator Warren Miller and Investigator Chase  
10 Harley.

11 Q. Okay. Investigator Smith, is it typical for you to  
12 work property crimes and burglaries and that kind of thing  
13 in your capacity as an investigator for the sheriff's  
14 office for Sheriff Dobey?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. Did you have an occasion  
17 to go over to the detention center over in Aiken County and  
18 speak with an inmate?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Who was that?

21 A. That was Walter Brian Wade.

22 Q. Okay. Once you went over and talked to him, did you  
23 gather information from him?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. In reference to what area of the county?

1 A. [REDACTED], which is on the southern end of  
2 Edgefield County.

3 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. When you went over and  
4 talked with him, what did you do with all of the  
5 information that he provided to you in regard to carrying  
6 out an investigation at [REDACTED] and specific to  
7 getting a search warrant? What all did you do?

8 A. When we went and spoke to him on the 14th of December,  
9 we took down information that he gave us in reference to  
10 [REDACTED], which he stated he had seen large  
11 quantities of guns, methamphetamines, heroin, C-4  
12 explosives all located in the residence at [REDACTED].  
13 He had told us at the residence there was a David Coon, a  
14 Heather Hall and a guy he described to us as Biker Tim.

15 Q. Okay. He said they were staying there?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. He gave us a detailed drawing of what the residence  
19 looked like. We took that information. Myself and  
20 Investigator Ireland came back to Edgefield County where  
21 we received information that Deputy Florida with the  
22 sheriff's office was familiar with that residence, had  
23 been looking at that residence and also had been in that  
24 residence on a prior call.

25 Q. Did he give you a diagram?

1 A. Yes, sir. He also give us a diagram of the residence  
2 that matched what was given to us by Mr. Wade.

3 Q. Okay. Who had -- what kind of vehicle traffic had  
4 been in and out of there?

5 A. The deputies had been watching two black in color  
6 motorcycles that had been coming in and out of there on a  
7 regular basis. That was the main vehicles coming in and  
8 out. Deputy Florida, Sergeant Florida now, he had been  
9 watching that and at one point in time he had saw one of  
10 them at the gas station nearby there and went and started  
11 up a conversation with the guy that was on the motorcycles  
12 -- the guy on the motorcycle.

13 Q. Okay. Don't go into what he said there at that time,  
14 but based on you talking to -- Mr. Wheeler talking with the  
15 deputy and gathering information, did you go down and  
16 attempt to obtain a search warrant in this case?

17 A. Yes, sir, on December 15th.

18 Q. Okay. Did you do a written affidavit for the  
19 magistrate at that point in time laying out the information  
20 that you had at that time?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. Did you supplement that with oral testimony?  
23 Were you sworn and under oath when you did that?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Okay. Did you provide supplemental oral testimony to

1 the magistrate basically telling everything that you knew  
2 about that residence and the suspected criminal activity  
3 there?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Okay. After you provided all of that information to  
6 the magistrate under oath, did the magistrate issue a  
7 search warrant for [REDACTED]?

8 A. Yes, sir, she did.

9 Q. Okay. Was that search warrant carried out within ten  
10 days? When did y'all carry out the search warrant?

11 A. It was carried out on December the 22nd.

12 Q. Okay. Did you continue to watch and observe -- the  
13 sheriff's department, y'all continued to watch and observe  
14 that property right up until the time that you got the  
15 search warrant. Now you talked with Wade in this case on  
16 December the 14th, I think; is that correct?

17 A. Yes, sir. That's the day we went to Aiken County and  
18 spoke with him.

19 Q. And the very next day you went to Judge Carpenter; is  
20 that correct?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. So you talked with him and did what you could  
23 to verify what he told you and then went to the magistrate,  
24 correct?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. She gave you the search warrant and y'all went  
2 out on December te 22nd of 2015 and executed it, correct?

3 A. I didn't personally go out, but officers did go out  
4 and execute it on the 22nd, yes, sir.

5 Q. Okay. Was a return generated and was the return given  
6 back to the magistrate within ten days?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Okay. What is a return? What do y'all do with that?

9 A. It lists the persons that were present when the search  
10 warrant was served, the person that served the search  
11 warrant and it lists items that were taken from the  
12 residence as a result of the search warrant.

13 Q. So y'all made an inventory of all the items that you  
14 took?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Who was the copy of the search warrant actually served  
17 with as a resident there?

18 A. It was left -- it says left at the house, but  
19 Mr. Wheeler was a resident of the house when the search  
20 warrant was served on that date.

21 Q. Okay. And so you gave -- it was given to Mr. Wheeler?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Okay.

24 **MR. MAYE:** Please answer any question that the defense  
25 has for you.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

1  
2 BY MR. THUSS:

3 Q. All right. Investigator Smith, we know each other --

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. -- and so you know who am and that I'm representing  
6 Mr. Wheeler?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Did -- on the search warrant you said Mr. Wheeler was  
9 a resident. He was -- based on what my understanding is,  
10 is that -- that you weren't present for the -- for the  
11 execution -- for the serving of that search warrant?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. And so do you have actual firsthand knowledge of --  
14 of if he was a resident or anything along those lines?

15 A. That was the information that was told to me by  
16 Investigator Ireland who actually served the warrant.

17 Q. Who served the warrant. And you said that the warrant  
18 was left with him?

19 A. The warrant said it was left at the house and  
20 Mr. Wheeler was at the house when the warrant was served.

21 Q. Mr. Wheeler was taken into custody, wasn't he?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. So really it just could have been left at the house  
24 and it wasn't actually given to him?

25 A. That's what it said. It says it was left with the



1 house.

2 Q. Okay. And at that time did -- did y'all know that  
3 this was Mr. Coon's principal residence?

4 A. Yes, sir, we had that information.

5 **MR. THUSS:** Thank you. No further questions.

6 **THE COURT:** You can step down.

7 (Witness excused.)

8 **MR. MAYE:** Curtis Morris.

9 **THE CLERK:** Raise your right hand and place your left  
10 on the Bible.

11 (Whereupon, Curtis Morris was duly sworn by the Clerk  
12 of Court.)

13 **THE CLERK:** Thank you, sir. You may be seated.  
14 Please state your full name and spell your last for the  
15 record.

16 **THE WITNESS:** Curtis Allen Morris. The spelling of my  
17 last name is M-O-R-R-I-S.

18 CURTIS ALLEN MORRIS,  
19 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. MAYE:

22 Q. Officer Morris, tell the ladies and gentlemen of the  
23 jury about your job responsibilities with the sheriff's  
24 office. What's your area of specialty?

25 A. At this current time I'm assigned to the forensic

1 section of the Edgefield County Sheriff's Office for  
2 approximately the last eight years. Crime scene.

3 Q. Let me ask you this. Did you go out and execute a  
4 search warrant or did you go with ATF, the SLED SWAT team  
5 and the sheriff's office to execute a search warrant on  
6 [REDACTED] December the 22nd of 2015?

7 A. Yes, sir, I did.

8 Q. Okay. What was your role in doing that?

9 A. Collection and preservation of evidence.

10 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen what you did to document  
11 what y'all found as a result of the search warrant that day  
12 as a crime scene officer.

13 A. Everything that was found in -- on the property  
14 designated to be evidence was photographed on its location  
15 and documented that way and then collected.

16 Q. Okay. Let me show you what's marked State's 22 for ID  
17 at this time. Did you take custody of that weapon as a  
18 result of the search warrant on that day?

19 A. Yes, sir, I did.

20 Q. Okay. So what type of shotgun is that? What  
21 information does it reflect?

22 A. This is a -- excuse me. It's a Mossberg 12 gauge  
23 shotgun, Serial number MV88839A.

24 Q. Okay. You seized that at the residence and took  
25 custody of it?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Correct?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And you're sure that that's the same shotgun you took  
5 as a result of the search warrant that day?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 **MR. MAYE:** Move to admit it in evidence subject to any  
8 objection by the defense.

9 **MR. THUSS:** No objection.

10 **MR. MAYE:** Thank you.

11 **THE COURT:** All right. Admitted without objection.

12 (State's Exhibit Number 22, a shotgun, was admitted  
13 into evidence.)

14 **THE COURT:** Just for the jury, that gun has a safety  
15 device where it can't be loaded. That chain is locked in  
16 there so it can't go off. You can see the lock on it.

17 BY MR. MAYE:

18 Q. Did you collect a number of firearms as a result of  
19 the search warrant?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. How many guns are we talking about?

22 A. I cannot give you the exact amount, sir.

23 Q. Let me show you State's Exhibit 4 in this case. Take  
24 a look at all the items there.

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Did you seize and take custody of all of those weapons  
2 there when you executed the search warrant on that day?

3 A. From the scene, yes, sir.

4 Q. Did you photograph them -- did you get them all  
5 together and put them together?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Okay. Where all in the trailer did you find firearms?

8 A. They were throughout the entire residence.

9 Q. You're positive about that? They weren't in just one  
10 room, but they were scattered throughout the residence?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. State's 13 and 14 already in evidence by  
13 stipulation, tell me what those are and what -- where you  
14 found those.

15 A. These are photographs of a blasting cap that was found  
16 in the common area of the residence.

17 Q. Explosives?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And you found those in the common area? Go down here  
20 on the diagram.

21 (Whereupon, the witness steps down from the witness  
22 stand.)

23 Q. Where are you talking about the common area of the  
24 house?

25 A. It would have been laying on this counter right here.

1 Q. Okay. I'm gonna show you State's 18 already in by  
2 stipulation, 63, 62 and 68. Okay. Take a look at those.

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. The items that are depicted and photographed there,  
5 what bedroom or where in the trailer were they located?

6 A. These were located in Bedroom Number 2.

7 Q. Show me and mark where Bedroom Number 2 is. Take a  
8 pen and mark where you're talking about Bedroom 2.

9 A. This would be Bedroom 2 here.

10 Q. Okay. And so all of these items that are in these  
11 photographs you found there, correct?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Come down here if you would.

14 A. (Witness complies.)

15 Q. 68.

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. What does that show that's already in evidence in this  
18 case? What is that?

19 A. It's a wallet of one Timothy Wayne Wheeler containing  
20 cash money.

21 Q. Okay. Do you know how much cash money was in that  
22 wallet in that bedroom?

23 A. I do not, sir.

24 Q. Okay. All right. But you're positive you took  
25 pictures of that in Bedroom 2?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Okay. Let me show you State's 62. What does that  
3 show?

4 A. That's the same wallet showing a close-up of the money  
5 being able to be visible more.

6 Q. Okay. And you can still see the corner of his  
7 driver's license in that picture, correct?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. State's 18.

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Where is that a photograph of?

12 A. This is up under the bed in Bedroom Number 2.

13 Q. What all items were there under the bed in Bedroom 2?

14 A. There was some cash money, some rolling papers, a  
15 green plant-like substance believed to be marijuana, and  
16 some other paraphernalia.

17 Q. Okay. Under the bed in Bedroom 2?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Okay. And State's 63, what does that show?

20 A. This is a close-up of the driver's license of one  
21 Timothy Wheeler as well.

22 Q. And that was in Bedroom 2?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Let me ask you this. Officer Morris, the photographs  
25 that I have, 9, 58, 57, 56, 53, 11, 61, did you take all of

1 these photographs out there at the scene?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Okay. Do these photographs fairly and accurately  
4 reflect what you saw there when you executed the search  
5 warrant?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And you inventoried those contents in your return to  
8 the magistrate?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. State's 21 here, what  
11 does that depict?

12 A. A ballistic vest that was found in the residence.

13 Q. Body armor?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. What type of body armor is that indicated?

16 A. U.S. Army is what it says.

17 Q. Military body armor?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. This where was this located?

20 A. Also located in the common area.

21 Q. In the common area of the residence?

22 A. Opposite wall of the bedroom, yes, sir.

23 Q. Let me show you State's Exhibit Number 72.

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. What does that depict?

1 A. Different miscellaneous paper documents containing the  
2 name Timothy Wheeler.

3 Q. Did you collect all of these documents from there in  
4 the residence?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. With the name of Mr. Wheeler on it?

7 A. Yes, sir, in Bedroom Number 2.

8 Q. What's 67?

9 A. A picture of the same documentation.

10 Q. A letter?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Who's it addressed to?

13 A. Timothy Wheeler, sir.

14 Q. Okay. What address does that say on there?

15 A. [REDACTED], North Augusta, South Carolina, 29841.

16 Q. Okay. 66.

17 A. Again, documents containing the name Timothy Wheeler.

18 Q. What address?

19 A. [REDACTED], Graniteville, South Carolina,

20 29829.

21 Q. So a different address that's in 67? 66 is a letter  
22 with a different address, correct?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Okay. How about 70, what does that show?

25 A. It's more miscellaneous documents containing the name



1 Timothy Wheeler.

2 Q. Okay. An envelope with his name on it, correct?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. How about 65, what does that show?

5 A. It appears to be insurance information containing the  
6 name Timothy Wheeler.

7 Q. To what -- to what type of vehicle does that purport  
8 to be for?

9 A. A 2004 Chevrolet C-1500, silver in color.

10 Q. Okay. That's an insurance bill with his name on it?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. How about 64, what's the name on that?

13 A. The name on this one is Timothy W. Wheeler.

14 Q. And that's correspondence of some type? Some sort of  
15 document?

16 A. From Aiken County, yes, sir.

17 Q. Okay. And you found that in the residence as well?

18 A. Yes, sir, in Bedroom Number 2.

19 Q. Okay. 69, what did you find there?

20 A. Another envelope containing the name Timothy Wheeler.

21 Q. Okay. Did you find -- you can go back and re-take the  
22 stand.

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 (Whereupon, the witness returns to the witness stand.)

25 Q. Did you see and observe in Bedroom 2 clothing

1 consistent with habitation or somebody living inside the  
2 residence?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Okay. Men's and women's clothing? What type of  
5 clothing was in the residence?

6 A. I can't tell you. All I -- I know I remember seeing  
7 clothing.

8 Q. You -- you saw clothing. It was evidence that  
9 somebody was living there --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- from the clothing being there?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. So you found his billfold and all this mail  
14 that was there that you photographed and documented?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. The weapons that were  
17 under twenty-six inches in overall length or the barrel  
18 length was less than eighteen, did you take those and seize  
19 those?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. You actually did take them?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Okay. I'll show you State's 52 for ID. Is that one  
24 of the weapons that you seized there on December the 22nd  
25 of 2015 as a result of the search warrant?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Okay.

3 **MR. MAYE:** I move to admit this into evidence subject  
4 to any objection.

5 **MR. THUSS:** No objection.

6 **THE COURT:** It will be 52.

7 **MR. MAYE:** Thank you.

8 (State's Exhibit Number 52, a shotgun, was admitted  
9 into evidence.)

10 BY MR. MAYE:

11 Q. Let's talk about 50 for ID at this point in time.  
12 What is that, Investigator Morris?

13 A. A 12 gauge shotgun, Topper Model 158. A sawed-off  
14 shotgun.

15 Q. Okay. Did you seize that as pursuant to the search  
16 warrant on December 22, 2015, at that residence?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 **MR. MAYE:** I move to admit this into evidence subject  
19 to any objection.

20 **MR. THUSS:** No objection.

21 **THE COURT:** Admitted without objection.

22 (State's Exhibit Number 50, a shotgun, was admitted  
23 into evidence.)

24 BY MR. MAYE:

25 Q. State's 51 for ID at this point in time. What is that

1 item and where did you seize it from?

2 A. It's a Harrington & Richardson Arms Company 12 gauge  
3 shotgun that was seized from the residence.

4 **MR. MAYE:** I move to admit this into evidence at this  
5 time.

6 **MR. THUSS:** No objection.

7 **THE COURT:** No objection. 51.

8 (State's Exhibit Number 51, a shotgun, was admitted  
9 into evidence.)

10 BY MR. MAYE:

11 Q. Did you keep and maintain all of the weapons that you  
12 seized in evidence in this case with the exemption of the  
13 three that are termed as sawed-offs?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. Who were the shortened or sawed-off shotguns  
16 turned over to?

17 A. To the ATF.

18 Q. To ATF? Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Do you remember the agent's name that worked that?

21 A. I believe it was Rico Prince, Ricardo Prince.  
22 Something of that nature.

23 Q. Okay. So all of the items of evidence that were taken  
24 in this case in the way of firearms you took and you kept  
25 with the exception of the short ones, correct?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Okay. Any drug evidence, did you seize the drug  
3 evidence yourself or did someone else in the department  
4 seize the drug evidence?

5 A. The drug evidence was seized by the narcotics  
6 division.

7 Q. Okay. Who was there with the narcotics division while  
8 you were executing the search warrant?

9 A. That would be Lieutenant Roosevelt Young and  
10 Investigator Warren Miller.

11 Q. Okay. Did you log all of these things on a return for  
12 the warrant?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Did y'all turn those back in to the magistrate within  
15 ten days?

16 A. To my knowledge, yes, sir.

17 **MR. MAYE:** Okay. Answer any questions that the  
18 defense has for you, Investigator Morris. Thank you.

19 **THE WITNESS:** Yes, sir.

20 CROSS-EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. THUSS:

22 Q. Thank you, Investigator. I'm Rob Thuss representing  
23 Mr. Wheeler.

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. When you began to take photographs of the -- of the

1 scene there, had the scene already been searched?

2 A. The SLED SWAT team had went in and cleared the  
3 residence. I don't know if they searched previous to me  
4 going in there.

5 Q. Okay. I've seen about three or four hundred  
6 photographs that you took --

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. -- that were turned over in discovery.

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Now it appeared from looking at those photographs  
11 that there was a lot of disarray, things were thrown and  
12 scattered all over the place..

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Was that as a result of the search for weapons and  
15 contraband?

16 A. The photographs themselves were taken over a period of  
17 time while the search was on-going.

18 Q. Okay. Who -- do you know whether or not the -- the --  
19 there was in -- in your return whether all of them -- all  
20 monies and all were counted?

21 A. I'm sorry, sir. Repeat that.

22 Q. Do you know if the monies that you said -- there was  
23 an accounting for the monies or the cash --

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. -- that was taken during the search?

1 A. As far as I know, all the monies were accounted for,  
2 yes, sir.

3 Q. Okay. Who -- who performed the count?

4 A. I believe that was the narcotics division and another  
5 investigator.

6 Q. So I could ask those officers about that?

7 A. I would believe so, sir.

8 Q. Okay. You didn't personally count any of the money?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. And apart from going there to inventory, you don't  
11 know who any of this belongs to?

12 A. I documented the items where they were located.

13 Q. Where they were located?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Isn't it true that you took pictures that depicted  
16 quite a few of these weapons in Mr. Coon's -- the majority  
17 of the weapons in Mr. Coon's room?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And did that include the -- the sawed-off shotguns?

20 A. I can't tell you exactly which one was in which  
21 location without going through each one and looking at it.

22 Q. But you did document -- you have photographs that you  
23 could review?

24 A. Those photographs there, yes, sir.

25 Q. Well, there were other photographs that have not been

1 admitted. I just -- you have a recollection of -- of --  
2 you don't have a recollection of these sawed-off weapons  
3 being in Mr. Coon's room?

4 A. Off the top of my head, I can't remember that, sir.

5 Q. Okay. You don't have any reason to believe they  
6 couldn't have been in his room?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. I'm gonna ask you whether you recognize a couple of  
9 photographs that haven't yet been admitted.

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 **MR. THUSS:** Your Honor, these are -- these are  
12 Defendant's 1, 2 and 3.

13 **THE COURT:** Those were agreed to, correct?

14 **MR. MAYE:** I did. I agree to all of the defense -- I  
15 think 1 through 11, I agreed to all of them by stipulation.  
16 They're in as defense exhibits.

17 **THE COURT:** Y'all want to -- let's take a minute and  
18 make sure. Because y'all agreed to virtually all the  
19 exhibits, both sides?

20 **MR. MAYE:** Yes.

21 **MR. THUSS:** Yes, sir.

22 **THE COURT:** I just want the jury to know. They --  
23 they talked about this; that basically all the pictures  
24 that either side wanted they agreed to let them come in.

25 **BY MR. THUSS:**



1 Q. And do you recognize these as pictures that -- that  
2 you would have taken at the time you were photographing the  
3 scene?

4 A. Yes, sir. These are my pictures.

5 Q. Thank you. I'm going to -- I'd like to show them to  
6 the -- to the jury.

7 Now is it true that Defendant's Exhibit 1, which  
8 depicts an undetermined amount of cash with a hundred  
9 dollar bill at least on top, along with some drugs and an  
10 ammo box, this -- is it true that this was found in bedroom  
11 -- in the bedroom where the puppies were, Bedroom Number 3?

12 A. I cannot answer that. I don't know where that was  
13 located at. It was brought out and I photographed it in  
14 the hallway.

15 Q. Okay. So this was brought out from -- this was  
16 brought out together and you photographed it in the  
17 hallway?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Okay. And this would be a larger -- an enlargement of  
20 one of the other photographs?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. Thank you.

23 **MR. THUSS:** I don't have any further questions.

24 **MR. MAYE:** Nothing else. Thank you.

25 **THE COURT:** You can step down.

1           **THE WITNESS:** Yes, sir.

2           (Witness excused.)

3           **MR. MAYE:** Your Honor, I would -- if I could take a  
4 brief moment and go into the back. We have some property  
5 owners here and I'll tell you which one we're gonna call  
6 next. I'd like to take a brief --

7           **THE COURT:** All right, Mr. Mayes. Let's take a short  
8 break. Let's let the jury step in the jury room.

9           (Whereupon, the jury retires to the jury room at  
10 3:38 PM.)

11          (Recess taken.)

12          **THE COURT:** Are you ready?

13          **MR. MAYE:** We're ready, Judge.

14          **THE COURT:** Bring them in.

15          (Whereupon, the jury return to the courtroom at  
16 3:47 PM.)

17          **THE COURT:** All right. Call your next witness.

18          **MR. FENDER:** The State calls Jearl Guy Fletcher.

19          **THE CLERK:** Raise your right hand and place your left  
20 hand on the Bible.)

21          (Whereupon, Jearl Guy Fletcher was duly sworn by the  
22 Clerk of Court.)

23          **THE CLERK:** Thank you, sir. Please be seated. State  
24 your full name and spell your last name for the record.

25          **THE WITNESS:** My first name is Jearl, J-E-A-R-L, Guy

1 Fletcher, F-L-E-T-C-H-E-R.

2 JEARL GUY FLETCHER,

3 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. FENDER:

6 Q. Mr. Fletcher, can you tell the jurors just a little  
7 bit about yourself, you know, what area you live in and  
8 that kind of thing.

9 A. I live in Jackson, South Carolina. I moved here from  
10 the Washington, D.C., area ten years ago to get away from  
11 the crime and to find a nice rural isolated area to buy an  
12 old home to renovate so I could have a nice peaceful home.  
13 I'm gonna be fifty-six years old in about two weeks, so.

14 Q. At one point did you also buy a Harley-Davidson  
15 motorcycle?

16 A. I bought a Harley-Davidson motorcycle brand new as  
17 I was leaving Washington at Patriot Harley-Davidson in  
18 Virginia. Memorial Day weekend 2006 I got a new bike for  
19 the first time.

20 Q. What kind of motorcycle did you buy?

21 A. A Harley-Davidson 883 XLC. The C stands for -- it's  
22 already customized by the manufacturer, then after having  
23 owned it and having it on my own I added a lot more chrome  
24 and detailing to make it exactly what I wanted.

25 Q. How much did you pay for the bike originally?

1 A. The bike cost about -- just about exactly ten thousand  
2 and I have maybe twelve to fifteen hundred more in parts,  
3 which I could do the work on it myself and add to it.

4 Q. Okay. So \$10,000 and then another couple of thousand  
5 dollars for custom parts, chrome and that kind of stuff?

6 A. Between 11 and \$12,000.

7 Q. Where did you keep this motorcycle at?

8 A. That was parked at my home in a drive-through shed  
9 which was made of railroad ties. It's been there for many  
10 years. It came with the home. I had it taken off the  
11 road. I was using some of the money that I was usually  
12 putting out for that on a monthly basis for insurances and  
13 things and trying to put that money towards fixing the  
14 house. So I was working so much there I didn't need a car  
15 and a motorcycle, so I had taken the motorcycle off the  
16 road assuming that it would be safe locked up on my own  
17 property for at least a temporary amount of time. The bike  
18 only had between five and six thousand miles on it, so  
19 that's how new it was.

20 Q. So you had it secure there on your property?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. When did it first go missing?

23 A. The last week of July in 2015 I came home from work,  
24 it was gone. I called the sheriff's office and put in a  
25 report.

1 Q. So when you noticed it was missing, you immediately  
2 reported it stolen?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you have the VIN number that you reported?

5 A. I have it.

6 Q. Could you please read that to the jurors?

7 A. 1HD463M1X6K405022.

8 Q. Was your motorcycle later recovered by law  
9 enforcement?

10 A. It was. I was notified by the sheriff's office that  
11 they had recovered my motorcycle and gave me an address to  
12 go claim it. I went to claim the motorcycle. It was  
13 unrecognizable. It had been cut apart and replaced with  
14 welded-on parts for something that didn't even look like a  
15 motorcycle part. Additionally, it cost me \$550 to get it  
16 out of the lot that it had been taken to and I did find  
17 someone who was willing to buy it for \$500 as salvage. So  
18 I not only lost the motorcycle, but I lost the money on  
19 getting the bike back because I had to pay somebody with a  
20 truck to tow it and all of the other things that went with  
21 getting it out of the lot that it was put in temporarily.

22 Q. Had the chrome parts been stripped from your  
23 motorcycle?

24 A. Entirely. Even the wheels.

25 Q. Had -- the vehicle identification number, had it been

1 painted over?

2 A. They tried to obscure the number. I had a  
3 professional guy at the tow lot who had to actually use  
4 several tools to get down to the number and read it where  
5 it had been minimized underneath several coats of what  
6 looked like paint and maybe some -- some drippings from  
7 welding.

8 Q. Okay. I'm showing you now what's been marked as  
9 State's 58, State's 56 and State's 9, and also State's 57.  
10 Can you tell the jurors what these pictures appear to be.

11 A. It looks like what was left of my motorcycle in  
12 someone else's -- at someone else's property. This is how  
13 it looked when I -- when I retrieved it from the lot.

14 Q. In fact, is that your signature there where you  
15 identified this motorcycle?

16 A. It is my signature.

17 Q. There's also a number there. Can you read that number  
18 to the jurors?

19 A. The minimum amount that I valued of the bike was  
20 \$4,500.

21 Q. So that was the approximate value in December of 2015?

22 A. July of 2015 that would have been a fair trade-in  
23 value at a dealer.

24 Q. So sometime in this late summer, fall, winter of 2015  
25 this is the approximation essentially of the -- of your

1 motorcycle that was stolen from you?

2 A. It is.

3 Q. Okay.

4 **MR. FENDER:** Please answer the defense attorney's  
5 questions.

6 **MR. THUSS:** No questions.

7 **THE COURT:** No questions. You can step down.

8 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 **MR. FENDER:** The State calls Fred Teeter.

11 (Whereupon, Fred W. Teeter was duly sworn by the Clerk  
12 of Court.)

13 **THE CLERK:** State your full name and spell your last  
14 for the record.

15 **THE WITNESS:** My name is Fred W. Teeter, T-E-E-T-E-R.

16 FRED W. TEETER,

17 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. FENDER:

20 Q. Mr. Teeter, are you from the Greenwood area of South  
21 Carolina?

22 A. Yes, uh-huh.

23 Q. Do you also have a home in the Columbia area?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. At one point did you buy a red pick-up truck?

1 A. Yes, I did. Approximately four or five years ago.

2 Q. Can you tell the jurors a little bit about that truck?

3 A. Well, the truck was red. It had sort of a custom  
4 body on the back, it had custom wheels on it, and it had  
5 approximately 100,000 miles on it, but it was in excellent  
6 condition.

7 Q. When did you buy it?

8 A. Oh, I think I've had it about five years. Four and a  
9 half, five years.

10 Q. And what brand of truck was it?

11 A. It was a Chevrolet.

12 Q. Was it a two-door truck? Did it have two doors?

13 A. I'm sorry? I can't --

14 Q. How many doors did the truck have?

15 A. Two doors.

16 Q. Two doors. Okay. Now did this truck go missing?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you tell the jurors a little bit about that?

19 A. The truck was parked in front of a modular home in  
20 Columbia and the doors were locked and the key was not  
21 in it and it was stole sometime after dark and it had a  
22 telephone and a camera in the pocket.

23 Q. Okay. Did you report this to police?

24 A. Yes, reported it the next morning after that, yes,  
25 sir.



1 Q. And what was the VIN number? The VIN number?

2 A. VIN number, okay. IGCEC14X35Z197758.

3 Q. I want to show you now some pictures; State's

4 Exhibit 73, 61, 11. Can you tell us -- what do you see in  
5 those pictures?

6 A. I see a red truck that I owned.. It looks like a wheel  
7 off of it down there on the ground. I'm not sure that was  
8 it, but that was the truck.

9 Q. This was the truck that was stolen from you?

10 A. (Nods head.)

11 Q. Are those the custom wheels you were telling us about,  
12 sir?

13 A. Yes. Uh-huh.

14 Q. Does that appear to be your signature there where you  
15 identified that truck?

16 A. Yes, that is the truck and that's my signature, yes.  
17 Uh-huh.

18 Q. Can you tell us -- what's that number right there?

19 A. The value of it is \$7,500 to \$8,000.

20 Q. And that's the fair market value in December of 2015?

21 A. Yes. And he said it was worth more, but I didn't have  
22 the bills to back it up, so.

23 Q. Okay. And how much did you pay for this truck?

24 A. I think it was about ninety-five -- \$9,500.

25 **MR. FENDER:** All right. Please answer the defense

1 attorney's questions.

2 **MR. THUSS:** No questions.

3 **THE COURT:** No questions. You may step down,  
4 Mr. Teeter. Thank you very much.

5 (Witness excused.)

6 **MR. MAYE:** The State calls Roosevelt Young to the  
7 stand.

8 (Whereupon, Roosevelt Young was duly sworn by the  
9 Clerk of Court.)

10 **THE CLERK:** Please be seated. State your full name  
11 and spell your last for the record.

12 **THE WITNESS:** Roosevelt Young, Y-O-U-N-G.

13 Roosevelt Young,

14 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. MAYE:

17 Q. Investigator Young, tell the ladies and gentlemen of  
18 the jury where you're employed and where you were employed  
19 back in December of 2015, a little bit about your  
20 experience.

21 A. I work at the sheriff's office, the Edgefield County  
22 Sheriff's Office. I've been there approximately twenty-one  
23 years and I was one of the officers at Rainforest Lane on  
24 December 22nd, 2015.

25 Q. What's your area of specialty for Sheriff Dobey? What

1 do you do for him that's different than what some of the  
2 road officers who go out and answer calls do?

3 A. I'm a supervisor of narcotics for him.

4 Q. How long have you worked narcotics?

5 A. Since January of 2000. Seventeen years.

6 Q. Seventeen years?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Let me ask you this. When you went out on the search  
9 warrant, were you -- just tell them what your particular  
10 focus was when you went out to help them on the search  
11 warrant December the 22nd of 2015 there at Rainforest Lane.

12 A. To collect any controlled substances, illegal  
13 narcotics, suspected narcotics.

14 Q. Let me show you what's been marked for ID at this  
15 point in time 24 for ID. Let me ask you if you recognize  
16 the items that are inside there.

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. What are -- what are those items? Identify  
19 them and tell what you did to secure them on the day that  
20 you seized them on the search warrant.

21 A. You've got several packages of a crystal-type  
22 substance, suspected methamphetamine. You've got three  
23 different types of pills.

24 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. What did you do to secure  
25 those items for later testing? What's your procedure and

1 what did you do on December the 22nd of 2015 to secure  
2 them?

3 A. The procedure at the sheriff's department is to simply  
4 put them in a BEST kit, get it sealed and get it ready for  
5 SLED to test it.

6 Q. What is a BEST kit and sealing it? What does that  
7 mean?

8 A. It's an evidence -- it's basically a plastic bag  
9 that's got a control number on it that is from SLED. We  
10 seal it, we've got to fill out a chain, it goes from person  
11 to person, and I take it to SLED and they analyze it.

12 Q. Did you document the serial number of the BEST kit  
13 when you seized that?

14 A. Yes, sir, I did.

15 Q. And that is the BEST kit number which you sealed up  
16 all those items on that day in December of 2015?

17 A. Yes, sir, it is.

18 Q. Okay. During the time that you had the items after  
19 you sealed them or before, did you change or alter them in  
20 any way?

21 A. No, sir, I didn't.

22 Q. Okay. Where did you take those items once you seized  
23 them there at the scene December 22nd of 2015? Where did  
24 you take them and what did you do with them?

25 A. I took them to the Edgefield County drug safe on the

1 22nd.

2 Q. All right. What was the next thing that you did with  
3 them?

4 A. On the 23rd, I got them out of the drug safe and we  
5 took them to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division,  
6 SLED.

7 Q. What was your purpose of taking them to SLED?

8 A. To have a certified chemist perform an analysis on it.

9 Q. Okay. Who did you drop those items off with and when  
10 did you drop them off?

11 A. To Jennifer Aycock and I dropped them off on  
12 December 23, 2015.

13 Q. At any point in time during the time that you had  
14 them, did you break the seal on the BEST kit or change or  
15 alter them in any way?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. Okay. I'm gonna show you what's been marked  
18 State's 25 for ID at this point in time. What is that  
19 item?

20 A. It's a quantity of suspected marijuana.

21 Q. Okay. Where did you seize that from and what steps  
22 did you take to preserve that evidence?

23 A. I seized it out of the green ammo can which is seated  
24 on the table right there. I sealed it inside of an  
25 evidence bag, filled it out and put it inside the evidence

1 vault at the sheriff's office.

2 Q. Okay. Did you -- while you mentioned this, I'm gonna  
3 show you State's 23. You talked about getting -- the items  
4 of suspected drug evidence, where did they come from?

5 A. They came out of this green ammo can found inside the  
6 residence in Bedroom Number 3 --

7 Q. You found it in Bedroom 3?

8 A. -- at [REDACTED].

9 Q. [REDACTED]?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. So this is the box -- the ammo box you seized,  
12 correct?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Okay.

15 **MR. MAYE:** I'm gonna move to admit this into evidence  
16 at this time if there's no objection.

17 **MR. THUSS:** No objection.

18 **THE COURT:** State's 33?

19 **MR. MAYE:** Excuse me, 23.

20 **THE COURT:** State's 23 in evidence.

21 **MR. MAYE:** Right. State's 23.

22 (State's Exhibit Number 23, an ammo box, was admitted  
23 into evidence.)

24 BY MR. MAYE:

25 Q. Come down please and show them where you found the

1 ammo box.

2 (Whereupon, the witness steps down from the witness  
3 stand.)

4 A. It was found in Bedroom Number 3 inside the closet  
5 area.

6 Q. Okay. What else was in Bedroom 3?

7 A. Bedroom 3 was empty. That's where they kept the  
8 puppies at.

9 (Whereupon, the witness returns to the witness stand.)

10 Q. Okay. Just for purposes of reference, it's already  
11 into evidence, but let me show you what's been marked as  
12 Defendant's 1 there. Does that show and depict the items  
13 that were removed out of the box there?

14 A. Yes, sir, it does.

15 Q. Okay. Are the items of suspected drug evidence, were  
16 they in the green box there?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. What steps did you take to secure State's 25,  
19 the suspected green plant-like material? What steps did  
20 you take to secure 25? How did you do it and where did you  
21 take it to?

22 A. Of course, we photographed it in place and we put it  
23 inside this evidence bag, filled out the chain, which is  
24 all the self-explanatory information. I took it and put it  
25 in the vault on December the 22nd.

1 Q. Okay. What did you do with that item? Was it  
2 subsequently transferred to someone else?

3 A. Yes, sir. December -- I'm sorry. On January the 28th  
4 of 2016, Investigator Miller got it out --

5 Q. Who's Investigator Miller?

6 A. He's another officer that works in narcotics with me.

7 Q. Okay. Where was it subsequently transferred to?

8 A. It was transferred to Deputy Densmore, who works with  
9 the sheriff's office who is also a certified SLED chemist  
10 for marijuana analysis, and it was transferred to him on  
11 the 28th of January.

12 Q. On the 28th of January it was transferred to him?

13 A. Yes, sir, it was.

14 Q. Okay. Let me show you State's 62 and State's 68.  
15 What are those items right there?

16 A. It's a wallet containing money with a South Carolina  
17 driver's license with Mr. Timothy Wayne Wheeler's name on  
18 it. The items was found in Bedroom Number 2.

19 Q. How much U.S. currency did you count and document that  
20 was seized there?

21 A. \$7,337.

22 Q. Out of his billfold in Bedroom 2?

23 A. Yes, sir. Now in the ammo can, which you just took  
24 back, was an additional \$358, bringing the total \$7,731.

25 Q. That money in his billfold and money in the ammo can



1 as well?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 **MR. MAYE:** Okay. Thank you, Investigator. Answer any  
4 questions the defense has for you.

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. THUSS:

7 Q. Good afternoon, Investigator.

8 A. Good afternoon, Mr. Thuss.

9 Q. I'm just gonna -- I wanted to ask you about the --  
10 about, you know, the money that you just testified to.

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Now according to the return, a total of \$7,373 was --  
13 was taken in in U.S. currency.

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And on the return -- this is the search warrant return  
16 after everything was inventoried. There is something about  
17 some money in a jar.

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Do you know how much money was in that jar?

20 A. It's a brown colored antique jar, glass jar. No,  
21 sir, because you would have to break it to actually get  
22 into it to count the denominations of money and coins and  
23 we haven't done that yet.

24 Q. Okay. Oh, so it was a sealed --

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. -- a sealed jar?

2 A. Yes, sir.. Yes, sir, it was.

3 Q. Now the -- what was it you just testified to about the  
4 amount of money that was -- that was --

5 A. The \$7,300 that was in the wallet?

6 Q. Is that what you said?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. And then there was --

9 A. \$358 that was inside of the ammo can itself.

10 Q. Okay. Is that -- I'm just not seeing where that was  
11 accounted for on the return. I see a total of 7,373.

12 A. It should be in there somewhere. I didn't fill out  
13 the return. The only thing I was doing was documenting it  
14 and passing it down the line for what should be on there  
15 from our section of it. It should be on there somewhere.

16 Q. Well, I'm -- I am at a loss. I was just trying to  
17 confirm about -- you know, confirm how much money was where  
18 based on the information that was documented the actual day  
19 that the money was seized --

20 A. Right.

21 Q. -- and it looks to me like either something's missing  
22 or the count isn't right.

23 A. Well, the 7,337 is in the wallet and as you can see --  
24 the pictures should depict the other loose money in the  
25 ammo can. I don't have the picture up here with me.

1 Q. Right. And I did have a -- a photograph showing the  
2 stack of bills -- a stack of bills here.

3 A. Yes, sir. You can see a couple hundreds right there.  
4 It should be the 358.

5 Q. Okay. But from this picture you can't tell, can you?

6 A. No, sir. No, sir..

7 Q. So based on the information in the return, there was  
8 money found in here with the ammo can?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And then there was certain amount of money in the  
11 wallet?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. But do you know with a degree of certainty that this  
14 is all correct or could there have been some mistake in how  
15 much money was where?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. Can you explain then?

18 A. \$7,337 was in the wallet unless he just forgot to put  
19 it on there. We had so many people and so much stuff going  
20 on, but I'm pretty sure he's got it on there somewhere.

21 Q. So -- so somebody could have made a mistake then?

22 A. I mean, it's possible, we are human, but it's in the  
23 pictures and everything.

24 **MR. THUSS:** Thank you. No further questions.

25 **THE COURT:** Redirect?

1           **MR. FENDER:** No more questions.

2           **THE COURT:** You can step down.

3           (Witness excused.)

4           **MR. MAYE:** The State calls Shana Sorrells of the State  
5 Law Enforcement Division.

6           **THE CLERK:** Raise your right hand and place your left  
7 hand on the Bible.

8           (Whereupon, Shana Sorrells was duly sworn by the Clerk  
9 of Court.)

10          **THE CLERK:** Thank you, ma'am. Please be seated.  
11 State your full name and spell your last for the record.

12          **THE WITNESS:** Shana Sorrells, S-O-R-R-E-L-L-S.

13                               SHANA SORRELLS,

14               having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

15                               DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. MAYE:

17 Q. Ms. Sorrells, if you would, tell the ladies and  
18 gentlemen of the jury where you're employed and in what  
19 capacity.

20 A. I'm employed at the South Carolina Law Enforcement  
21 Division, more commonly known as SLED, as a forensic  
22 chemist.

23 Q. Let me ask you this. What is it that you typically do  
24 for SLED day by day? What is it -- what is your primary  
25 job responsibility at SLED?

1 A. I analyze any powdered -- unknown powdered substance,  
2 rock substance, plant material for the presence or absence  
3 of illegal substances.

4 Q. Let me ask you this. What specialized training in the  
5 area of forensic chemistry and drug identification do you  
6 have?

7 A. I have a bachelor's degree from the University of  
8 South Carolina in chemistry. I also have a master's degree  
9 in analytical chemistry also from the University of South  
10 Carolina. I have -- well, I started out in the forensic  
11 toxicology department and I went through an intensive drug  
12 training with the tox department on how to analyze drugs,  
13 alcohol and poisons in body fluids; blood, urine, brain  
14 matter. I then switched to the drug chemistry department  
15 where I studied under a senior drug chemist and had to do  
16 multiple competency tests, proficiency tests, and several  
17 mock courts, plus written tests before I was actually able  
18 to analyze drugs on my own.

19 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. Is the work that you do  
20 analyzing drugs and all that subject to peer review? Are  
21 you periodically tested to make sure that you're competent  
22 to do that?

23 A. Yes, we get four proficiency tests per year that we  
24 have to -- to complete and it's submitted by an outside  
25 agency, so it's not -- it's not an interior test, it's a

1 nationwide test given to all labs, and every case that we  
2 have -- or that we perform has to be technically reviewed  
3 and administratively reviewed by our peers.

4 **MR. MAYE:** Subject to any voir dire on the part of the  
5 defense in this case, I'm gonna offer Ms. Sorrells as an  
6 expert in the area of forensic chemistry, specifically drug  
7 identification. Care to cross-examine her in that -- as to  
8 her qualifications as an expert witness to the defense?

9 **MR. THUSS:** I have no questions and no objection to  
10 qualifying her.

11 **THE COURT:** All right. For the jury, Ms. Sorrells is  
12 being qualified or offered as an expert in the field of  
13 forensic chemical analysis and drug identification, so she  
14 can offer opinions in that field in addition to her direct  
15 testimony.

16 Go ahead, Mr. Maye.

17 BY MR. MAYE:

18 Q. Let me ask you this. I'm gonna show you what's been  
19 marked here as State's 24 for ID at this point in time and  
20 I'll ask you if those items were submitted to the South  
21 Carolina Law Enforcement Division for analysis and how you  
22 can identify them?

23 A. Yes, they were. These items were submitted and I can  
24 tell -- well, there's our SLED lab number that is assigned  
25 to every case that is brought into our department and also

1 you see my initials and date, which is the date that I  
2 opened the evidence bag or what's known as the BEST kit  
3 bag, and on every piece of evidence in the bag my initials  
4 and the lab number up here, on every piece of evidence.

5 Q. Okay. Were the items -- who were the items dropped  
6 off to at SLED? Who received them as the -- I guess the  
7 intake person at SLED?

8 A. They were received by a Jennifer Aycock.

9 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. Once you get the items,  
10 how do you ensure that they haven't been tampered with or  
11 altered in any way? What's the first step that you do in  
12 carrying out a chemical analysis or your scientific  
13 examination of items?

14 A. The first thing I do once I pick up the evidence from  
15 Jennifer Aycock, who is our log-in technician -- she never  
16 physically opens the BEST kit. That's my job. This is  
17 what's considered a BEST kit. Best Evidence Sample Testing  
18 is what it stands for. You can kind of see -- I have some  
19 stuff in here. You can kind of see the blue on the top and  
20 there's blue along here. What that shows is if it has been  
21 cut into and resealed, those lines will not line up. So  
22 this is considered a tamper evident bag. It can be cut in  
23 two, but if it is we will notice it. That's why it's  
24 tamper evident.

25 The first thing I do when I get this bag is make sure

1 that it is sealed and that it has not been tampered with.

2 Q. Okay. When you received those items on the date that  
3 you prepared to test them, was it sealed? Did it appear to  
4 have been tampered with or altered in any way?

5 A. It was sealed. It was not tampered with. If it had  
6 been tampered with, analysis would have been stopped and we  
7 would have called the agency.

8 Q. What did you do to carry out your scientific testing  
9 based on the substances that were submitted to you?

10 A. The first thing we do is -- I guess the easiest thing  
11 is with the crystal substance, that's what I would look at  
12 first. The crystal substance is taken out of all of its  
13 packaging and weighed separately, so none of the outer  
14 packaging is taken into account when you weigh the crystal  
15 substance. After I take a weight, I then do a color spot  
16 test, which is different acids and different chemicals when  
17 combined with certain structures change colors. In this  
18 case, when I added a small amount of this to our acid test  
19 it turned an orange. That orange is indicative of an  
20 amine, most likely methamphetamine but it can be other  
21 amines, but I know I'm looking at the amine class with that  
22 orange color. So now I take it to the gas chromatography  
23 mass spectrometer where I can then identify which amine it  
24 is based off of the retention time that comes off on the  
25 column and its fingerprint. And when we say every drug has



1 a fingerprint, it's pretty much like every human, each one  
2 is different. Every drug has a different ion breakdown at  
3 certain temperatures. So based off of -- with the crystal  
4 substance, based off of the ion fingerprint that I received  
5 and the retention time that it came off, it was confirmed  
6 that this crystal substance is methamphetamine.

7 Also in this case I had --

8 Q. Let me just stop you here. I'm gonna ask you one  
9 thing.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. To a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, do you  
12 have an expert opinion as to whether the items that you --  
13 let's talk about the crystal substance in the big bags. Do  
14 you have to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty an  
15 expert opinion as to what they were?

16 A. It was methamphetamine.

17 Q. Okay. Did you weigh it absent the packaging and do  
18 you have a weight for that?

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 Q. What is the combined weight or the total weight of the  
21 methamphetamine?

22 A. There were three separate bags of the methamphetamine  
23 and the total weight was 713.57 grams.

24 Q. Okay. How about the other substances that were in the  
25 bag? What analysis did you carry out with them?

1 A. The other substance -- I don't know if y'all can see  
2 it from there, but there were several different tablets or  
3 pills in the bag. The only one -- two of them were C-IV  
4 drugs, they're a lower controlled substance, those were  
5 both identified just by the markings alone which meant no  
6 analysis was actually performed on them, we just checked  
7 the markings, and -- I'm sorry, I'm trying to see which  
8 ones. Okay. Sorry. These are -- these white ones here  
9 that you see, those are phentermine in the bag.

10 Q. What's the name -- what are the generic names of  
11 phentermine?

12 A. Phentermine, I am not sure of the generic name, but it  
13 is commonly used as a diet drug.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. The yellow bars that you see here, those were  
16 identified as alprazolam based off the markings, which is  
17 more commonly known as Xanax. I have another bag in here.  
18 You can't really see it. It's behind this one. That had  
19 some smaller green tablets in it. Those were indicated as  
20 alprazolam. These that I identified here, those -- based  
21 off the markings these were considered a Schedule II, so  
22 it's the highest schedule possible for the prescription  
23 drugs, and it was identified based off of the markings and  
24 the gas chromatography mass spectrometry that these are  
25 hydrocodone.

1 Q. Okay. It's your expert opinion that you identified  
2 in the bags were Xanax, hydrocodone, and you'll have to  
3 pronounce that last one for me.

4 A. Phentermine.

5 Q. Phentermine?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. Did you prepare a written report of the results  
8 of your examination?

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q. Did you bring it with you here today?

11 A. Yes, I did.

12 Q. Can I see that, please?

13 A. (Handing.)

14 Q. Thank you.

15 **MR. THUSS:** I have seen this.

16 **MR. MAYE:** I'll ask you to mark this for ID at this  
17 point in time.

18 (State's Exhibit Number 74 was marked for  
19 identification.)

20 BY MR. MAYE:

21 Q. I'm gonna show you State's 74 for ID at this time and  
22 I'll ask you is that your written report indicating your  
23 expert opinion on the identification of the suspected items  
24 of narcotics?

25 A. Yes, it is.

1       **MR. MAYE:** Okay. I move to admit that into evidence  
2 at this time.

3       **MR. THUSS:** No objection.

4       **THE COURT:** No objection. What number was that?

5       **THE COURT REPORTER:** Number 74.

6       **MR. MAYE:** I'd also move at this point in time, 74,  
7 the written report.

8       **THE COURT:** Without objection.

9       (State's Exhibit Number 74, a SLED drug analysis  
10 report, was admitted into evidence.)

11       **MR. MAYE:** I'm gonna show you State's Exhibit 24 at  
12 this time. I'm going to move to admit this into evidence  
13 having established the chain of custody under Brockmeyer  
14 and the identification of the items and I'm gonna move to  
15 admit 24 in its entirety into evidence at this time.

16       **THE COURT:** Any objection to 24?

17       **MR. THUSS:** No, Your Honor.

18       **THE COURT:** Without objection State's 24 is admitted.  
19 And that's inclusive of the entire plastic bag contents?

20       **MR. MAYE:** (Nods head.)

21       (State's Exhibit Number 24, bag of drugs, was admitted  
22 into evidence.)

23       **MR. MAYE:** Answer any questions the defense has for  
24 you. Thank you, ma'am.

25       **MR. THUSS:** Thank you. I don't have any questions for

1 you.

2 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Ms. Sorrells.

5 **MR. FENDER:** May it please the Court, Your Honor?

6 **THE COURT:** Uh-huh.

7 **MR. FENDER:** The State calls William Allen to the  
8 stand.

9 **THE CLERK:** Raise your right hand and place your left  
10 hand on the Bible.

11 (Whereupon, William C. Allen was duly sworn by the  
12 Clerk of Court.)

13 **THE CLERK:** Please be seated. State your full name  
14 and spell your last name for the record.

15 **THE WITNESS:** William C. Allen, A-L-L-E-N.

16 WILLIAM C. ALLEN,

17 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. FENDER:

20 Q. Mr. Allen, can you tell the jurors just a little bit  
21 about who you are and kind of, you know, what general area  
22 you live in and that kind of thing.

23 A. My name's William Allen. I live in Windsor, South  
24 Carolina.

25 Q. At one point did you purchase a camper?

1 A. Did I purchase it?

2 Q. Yes, sir.

3 A. It was in '06. Late '06.

4 Q. Can you tell the jurors just a little bit about that  
5 camper; what it looked, like that kind of stuff.

6 A. It was a white, 30-foot Zeppelin, '07. Fiberglas  
7 sides.

8 Q. Is this the kind of camper that you pull behind a  
9 pick-up truck?

10 A. It is a tagalong.

11 Q. Did you buy it brand new?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. About how much did you pay for it?

14 A. I'm thinking it was around twenty-five.

15 Q. Twenty-five thousand?

16 A. Twenty-five thousand.

17 Q. So after you bought this camper, where did you keep it  
18 at?

19 A. In my yard under a camper shed that I built.

20 Q. And that was on your property?

21 A. Yes, in my yard.

22 Q. Now this camper, did it go missing?

23 A. October -- at the end of October '15.

24 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about kind of what  
25 happened when you first noticed it was gone and that kind

1 of stuff?

2 A. I was at work and my son got home from school and he  
3 called me up and he said dad, what did you do with the  
4 camper and I said what are you talking about? He said it's  
5 not here. I said don't be messing with me and I told him  
6 to go out there and look and he found where they busted the  
7 lock off it, so I come home and on the way home I called  
8 Aiken County and they met me out there and did a report.

9 Q. So you had your camper secured on your property with a  
10 lock under a shed and somebody took it?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you immediately report it to the police?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you please read for us the VIN number that you  
15 reported?

16 A. 4YDT291277Z400913.

17 Q. I'm showing you now what's been marked as State's  
18 Exhibit 73. Can you tell me does that appear to be your  
19 camper?

20 A. It appears to be, yes.

21 Q. Could you please sign this photograph for me?

22 A. (Witness complies.)

23 Q. In December of 2015, how much do you estimate this  
24 camper was worth?

25 A. All I can tell you is what the insurance gave me for

1 it and that was \$17,000.

2 Q. \$17,000?

3 A. (Nods head.)

4 **MR. FENDER:** Please answer the defense attorney's  
5 questions.

6 **MR. THUSS:** No questions.

7 **THE COURT:** You may step down.

8 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 **MR. MAYE:** The State would call James Densmore to the  
11 stand.

12 **THE CLERK:** Raise your right hand and place your left  
13 on the Bible.

14 (Whereupon, James Russell Densmore was duly sworn by  
15 the Clerk of Court.)

16 **THE CLERK:** Thank you, sir. Please be seated. State  
17 your full name and spell your last name for the record.

18 **THE WITNESS:** James Russell Densmore, D-E-N-S-M-O-R-E.

19 JAMES RUSSELL DENSMORE,

20 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

21 DIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. MAYE:

23 Q. Officer Densmore, tell the ladies and gentlemen of the  
24 jury about your background in law enforcement. What do you  
25 do for Sheriff Dobey?



1 A. I started my law enforcement career in 2005 with the  
2 Edgefield Police Department until I came to the sheriff's  
3 office in September of 2013. I'm a -- I'm on road patrol.  
4 I was just promoted to corporal about a week ago. I test  
5 -- I'm a marijuana analyst for the sheriff's office.

6 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. What specialized training  
7 do you have in the area of analysis and identification of  
8 items of plant material that are suspected to be marijuana?

9 A. Back in 2009 when I was with the police department, I  
10 went to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and did  
11 a 16-hour course, a two-day course, for marijuana analysis  
12 where the first day was classroom procedure, the next day  
13 we came in, we finished up in the classroom, took a test  
14 where we had to score an 80 percent on the written test and  
15 then we moved to the lab where we had to test a hundred  
16 unknown samples and you had to be a hundred percent  
17 accurate on the samples, and then I'm recertified every  
18 three years after that; 2012, 2015. My certification right  
19 now expires in 2018.

20 Q. Let me ask you this. Did you successfully complete  
21 all of the examinations and were you certified as an  
22 analyst for marijuana for the sheriff's office?

23 A. Yes, I did. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And as to each subsequent recertification you've had,  
25 have you passed those and been subsequently certified as an

1 analyst again?

2 A. Yes, I have.

3 Q. At the time that you performed an analysis on  
4 State's 25 that's been marked for identification at this  
5 point in time, were you certified as an analyst?

6 A. Yes, I have been.

7 **MR. MAYE:** At this point in time, Your Honor, subject  
8 to anything from the defense in the area of voir dire,  
9 I'm gonna offer Officer Densmore as an expert in the area  
10 of marijuana identification. Of course, subject to any  
11 cross-examination on the part of the defense.

12 **MR. THUSS:** I have no questions or objection.

13 **THE COURT:** He's so qualified as an expert in the  
14 subject matter of marijuana identification.

15 BY MR. MAYE:

16 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. Who transferred this  
17 substance to you that's been marked as State's 25? Who  
18 transferred that to you for analysis?

19 A. Investigator Miller.

20 Q. What's his full name?

21 A. Investigator Warren Miller.

22 Q. From the sheriff's department?

23 A. Yes, sir. From the Edgefield County Sheriff's Office  
24 narcotics division.

25 Q. At the time that you received it, had it been changed

1 or altered or was it sealed in one of your evidence bags?

2 What condition was it in?

3 A. It was sealed in this evidence bag. It was not  
4 altered or cut open or anything. I cut it open to test the  
5 samples.

6 Q. Okay. Once you got it and determined that it had not  
7 been tampered with, tell the ladies and gentlemen of the  
8 jury what scientific tests that you carried out and  
9 conducted in order to determine whether or not it was, in  
10 fact, marijuana.

11 A. There's two separate tests that marijuana analysts  
12 have to run. We first take the sample and whatever it's  
13 placed in, whether it be -- I mean, this is a Ziploc  
14 vacuum-sealed bag. You have to take it out of that, you  
15 weigh it and then look at it through a microscopic -- or  
16 microscope, excuse me, and that's one of the tests, the  
17 microscope test. And when you look through it, the  
18 microscope, you're looking for three hairs; cytolytic  
19 hairs, unicellular hairs and multicellular hairs.  
20 Marijuana is very distinctive. It's the only plant species  
21 that has those three hairs.

22 Q. Is there any other plant known to man that has those  
23 characteristics?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Then once you look through it through a microscope and  
2 you do see that you have all three of those hairs, you move  
3 to a chemical test, which is known as the Duquenois-Levine  
4 reagent. You take that and you take just a little bit of  
5 the sample. We use a glass tube. It's a small glass tube  
6 vile, put a little bit of the sample in it, you dampen the  
7 sample with the Duquenois-Levine reagent, then you take  
8 hydrochloric acid and add it to that, just a little bit, it  
9 doesn't take much, and if it changes to purple you have a  
10 positive test for marijuana. Then you take chloroform and  
11 you add it to that and it gives a little pink eyelet and  
12 you just -- when you look down in it, it looks look a  
13 little pink dot, and that shows that you have a positive  
14 test for marijuana and then along with your microscopic  
15 test, you have a positive test as well. But if one or the  
16 other was negative, you would have to say that the results  
17 were not positive, but in this case both were positive.

18 Q. Okay. So you carried out the visual of the  
19 microscopic test and it tested to be marijuana; is that  
20 correct?

21 A. Yes, sir, on both samples.

22 Q. And then you did the chemical test on the samples and  
23 it tested to be marijuana?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Okay. To a reasonable degree of scientific certainty

1 then, do you have an expert opinion as to what the green  
2 leafy, plant-like material that was submitted to you for  
3 analysis is?

4 A. Yes, sir, it's marijuana.

5 Q. Okay. Did you weigh it and what was the weight?

6 A. Yes, you do weigh it on each one, and if you let me  
7 refer to my notes, this here in the Ziploc vacuum-sealed  
8 bag was 13.9 grams and you also have to transfer that to  
9 ounces and that was 0.49 ounces.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And the other in the clear plastic bag was 15.6 grams,  
12 which is 0.55 ounces.

13 Q. So each of those two bags was about half an ounce; is  
14 that correct?

15 A. No, it was about one ounce because 28 grams is one  
16 ounce.

17 Q. Total?

18 A. Total weight I think was 29. -- I think 29.3 maybe.

19 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. Did you -- have you  
20 marked on that bag there and signed it with the total  
21 weight there? Is that your signature on the bag and the  
22 total weight?

23 A. Yes, it is.

24 Q. What's the total weight?

25 A. 29.5 grams.

1 Q. 29.5 grams of marijuana?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. And there were two bags and they were roughly equally  
4 distributed between the two bags?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Okay. Answer -- well, let me ask you this. You  
7 didn't change or alter this other than carrying out the  
8 testing and weighing it, right?

9 A. No, when I got -- when I got the bag, it was  
10 completely sealed, there wasn't anything wrong with it. I  
11 simply wrote down at the bottom of it the lab number that  
12 we use. We have a lab number for every test that we use.  
13 Then I just cut open the bag and I put -- I re-sealed it  
14 with the red evidence tape and I initialled it and dated  
15 it, put the date that I opened it, and sealed it back.

16 Q. Okay.

17 **MR. MAYE:** Having identified everyone in the chain  
18 that -- that transferred it in any way and having  
19 identified the subject in this case, I'm gonna move to  
20 admit the contents of State's 25 into evidence subject to  
21 any objection on the part of the defense.

22 **MR. THUSS:** No objection, Your Honor.

23 **THE COURT:** State's 25 without objection.

24 (State's Exhibit Number 25, drugs, was admitted into  
25 evidence.)

1       **MR. MAYE:** Please answer any questions the defense  
2 has for you.

3       **MR. THUSS:** No questions.

4       **THE COURT:** No cross-examination. You may step down.  
5 (Witness excused.)

6       **MR. MAYE:** Ricardo Prince.

7       **THE COURT:** Do y'all want to take a break?

8       **BAILIFF:** Yes, sir, they do.

9       **THE COURT:** All right. Y'all step into the jury room.  
10 You can't begin to discuss the case. We'll have you back  
11 out in a little bit and see where we're going from there.

12 (Whereupon, the jury retires to the jury room at  
13 4:39 PM.)

14 (Recess taken.)

15       **BAILIFF:** All rise.

16       **THE COURT:** Bring in the jury.

17 (Whereupon, the jury returns to the courtroom at  
18 4:54 PM.)

19       **THE COURT:** All right, Solicitor. Go ahead.

20       **MR. MAYE:** The State calls Ricardo Prince from  
21 Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

22 (Whereupon, Ricardo Prince was duly sworn by the Clerk  
23 of Court.)

24       **THE CLERK:** Thank you, sir. Please be seated. State  
25 your full name and spell your last name for the record.

1           **THE WITNESS:** Ricardo Prince. My last name is  
2 P-R-I-N-C-E.

3                               RICARDO PRINCE,  
4           having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

5                               DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. MAYE:

7 Q. Agent Prince, what area of law enforcement are you  
8 involved in and who is your employer?

9 A. I'm a special agent with the Bureau of Tobacco,  
10 Alcohol and Firearms.

11 Q. Because of -- in this case where a search warrant was  
12 carried out here in Edgefield County because they suspected  
13 they were going to find unlawful weapons and/or explosives,  
14 were you summoned to act as a cooperating law enforcement  
15 agency with Edgefield County and the SLED SWAT team?

16 A. Yes, I was with them on the search warrant.

17 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. What did you do with them  
18 in order to carry out your role as an ATF agent when you  
19 did the search warrant on December the 22nd of 2015?

20 A. I helped out with the search. Once the residence was  
21 cleared, I went through the residence. We picked out  
22 illegal firearms, we documented them, and I also advised  
23 the investigators from Edgefield which ones to pretty much  
24 collect.

25 Q. Okay. Any suspected unlawful weapons that were there,



1 did you seize or did you take into your custody or control?

2 A. Yes, sir. Once the sawed-offs was brought back to the  
3 sheriff's department, I came and seized three weapons.

4 Q. Let me ask you this. I'm gonna start with this. I'll  
5 show you State's 13 in this case. Did you -- did y'all  
6 find and seize blasting caps in the house?

7 A. Actually during the clearing of the house it was done  
8 by the SLED bomb squad and they seized this blasting cap  
9 right there.

10 Q. But you saw that --

11 A. I seen that, yes, sir.

12 Q. -- when you were doing the search warrant?

13 A. Yes, sir. That's a form of explosive.

14 Q. It's a form of explosive. All right. Let's talk  
15 about State's 52 that's already in evidence. Tell us about  
16 that and tell us where you found that item located inside  
17 of the residence.

18 A. This item right here is a Winchester 20 gauge Model  
19 37A. The serial number is C, as in Charlie, 520219. This  
20 item was found in Bedroom Number 1, which is listed as the  
21 master bedroom, and this bedroom belonged to Mr. Coon.

22 Q. Okay. Tell me about that weapon in regard to the  
23 overall length of it, the barrel length of it, and tell me  
24 what that would have been, you know, originally, that  
25 weapon.

1 A. The barrel of this weapon right here is five and  
2 one-fourth inches. Overall it's twelve inches and  
3 seven-eighth's inches. The barrel should be eighteen  
4 inches and overall this gun should be twenty-six inches.

5 Q. Okay. And so the overall length of that gun is under  
6 twenty-six inches?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Okay. And the barrel length is under eighteen?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And that's what you were looking for in this case?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. All right. I'm gonna show you what's been  
13 marked as State's 51, it's in evidence in this case, and  
14 ask you where that was located and what steps did you in  
15 order to carry out any testing on that.

16 A. Okay. Okay. This item right here is a Harrington &  
17 Richardson 12 gauge firearm. It's Model Number M48. The  
18 serial number is H, as in Harrington, 23330. This firearm  
19 was found in Bedroom Number 2 and Bedroom Number 2 is where  
20 Mr. Wheeler and his girlfriend, Heather Hall, were staying  
21 on the day of the search warrant.

22 Q. Okay. And so that came out of -- could you mark that  
23 on the chart, which is State's 3? If you'd just take this  
24 pen and mark approximately where that weapon was seized at.

25 A. (Witness complies.) Bedroom Number 2.

1 Q. Okay. Tell us about your examination of that in  
2 regard to the length of the weapon.

3 A. Okay. On this firearm, the barrel is actually  
4 eighteen and five-eighths inch, but the overall of this  
5 gun is twenty-four and one-fourth inch, which is up under  
6 twenty-six inches.

7 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. I'm gonna show you  
8 State's 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 49, 48, 47, 46, 45, 44, 43,  
9 42, 41, 40, 39, 38, 37, 26, 28, 27, 29, 31, and 30. I'll  
10 ask you if those photographs are photographs that you  
11 prepared in order to show those weapons and to demonstrate  
12 the length of the weapons that you seized there as a result  
13 of that search warrant on that date?

14 A. Yes, sir. Some of these weapons was prepared by me  
15 -- some these photos and the rest of these photos were  
16 prepared by the ATF lab.

17 Q. Okay. All of those photos, do they fairly and  
18 accurately reflect the measurement tests that y'all  
19 conducted and the analysis that you did?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Do some of those photos where there's sawed-off  
22 weapons that are shown with what look like weapons that are  
23 intact, do they show what the weapons originally would have  
24 looked like prior to being modified?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay.

2 **MR. MAYE:** Agent Prince, please answer any questions  
3 the defense has for you.

4 **THE WITNESS:** Okay.

5 **MR. MAYE:** Thank you.

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. THUSS:

8 Q. Good afternoon, Agent.

9 A. Hey. How you doing?

10 Q. Fine. Were you present for any interviews with --  
11 with David Coon?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. And how many of them were you present for?

14 A. Three.

15 Q. Do you recall whether or not Mr. Coon discussed  
16 these --

17 **MR. MAYE:** I'm gonna object to hearsay at this point  
18 in time, Your Honor. He's attempting to introduce evidence  
19 of a witness who is not here.

20 **THE COURT:** I'll sustain as to hearsay.

21 BY MR. THUSS:

22 Q. Did Mr. -- did Mr. Coon make any statements against  
23 interest?

24 A. Could you be more specific?

25 Q. Did he make any statements against his own interest

1 since he was already charged with these weapons?

2 A. He told me two of those firearms belonged to him.

3 Q. Two of them?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And which two did he identify?

6 A. It was the Harrington & Richardson 12 gauge Model 158  
7 and also the Winchester 20 gauge Model 37A, which is this  
8 firearm, the sawed-off over there.

9 Q. The sawed-off over here?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Did he make any such admissions regarding this  
12 Mossberg?

13 A. I believe he did say -- he did he say he had a  
14 Mossberg pump shotgun, but, you know, that gun right there  
15 was not one of the guns I was interested in because I'm  
16 pretty sure that firearm is over the legal limit.

17 Q. Okay. Concerning this last one --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- did he ever discuss -- did you ever show him this  
20 weapon?

21 A. I showed him this firearm and he said he'd never seen  
22 it before.

23 **MR. THUSS:** Thank you. No further questions.

24 **THE COURT:** Thank you. All right. Anything else?

25 **MR. MAYE:** No further questions.

1       **THE COURT:** You may step down.

2       **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

3       (Witness excused.)

4       **THE COURT:** All right. All the rest of our  
5 witnesses are gonna be here around in this area because  
6 the travelling witnesses are done, so it will be time for  
7 us to stop.

8       All right, folks. We're done for the day. We're  
9 gonna start back -- y'all be in the jury room at 9:30.  
10 I'm gonna do my best to be here then. I have a  
11 periodontist appointment at 7:30. I'm not looking forward  
12 to it, but I'm gonna go to it and when I'm done with it  
13 I'm gonna come straight here and we'll resume then. So if  
14 I'm a few minutes late, then I apologize ahead of time.  
15 It's not because I want to go to this appointment, I'm  
16 dreading it, but it shouldn't take long. They're not doing  
17 any of the big stuff.

18       So, anyway, you can't discuss the case. Go home and  
19 enjoy your evening. If anybody says anything to you about  
20 the case, remember my instructions. Just don't talk about  
21 the case. Blame it on me. See y'all in the morning.

22       (Whereupon, the jury was excused for the evening at  
23 5:05 PM.).

24       **THE COURT:** We'll be at ease until 9:30 in the  
25 morning.

1 (Recess taken.)

2 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded for  
3 January 17, 2017, at 5:08 PM.)

4 **BAILIFF:** All rise.

5 **THE COURT:** Y'all be seated.

6 Everybody good? Ready to go?

7 **MR. MAYE:** Yes, sir, Your Honor.

8 **THE COURT:** Mr. Thuss, y'all ready?

9 **MR. THUSS:** Yes, Your Honor.

10 **THE COURT:** All right. Bring in the jury.

11 (Whereupon, the jury enters the courtroom at 9:44 AM.)

12 **THE COURT:** Folks, good morning. I hope y'all had a  
13 nice evening. My teeth are clean. We're ready to go to  
14 work. Call your next witness.

15 **MR. FENDER:** The State calls Jose Negron.

16 (Whereupon, Jose Negron was duly sworn by the Clerk of  
17 Court.)

18 **THE CLERK:** Please be seated. State your full name  
19 and spell your last name for the record.

20 **THE WITNESS:** Jose Negron, N-E-G-R-O-N.

21 JOSE NEGRON,

22 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. FENDER:

25 Q. Mr. Negron, could you tell the jurors just a little

1 bit about who you are and where you're from.

2 A. I'm retired military and I live in Aiken.

3 Q. So you're retired from the military?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. At one point did you work at a bar as a bouncer?

6 A. It was part-time and it was about four years ago.

7 Q. Part-time at the bar?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Now during your work, did you also know the Defendant  
10 in this case, Mr. Timothy Wheeler?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. All right. Can you tell us just briefly about that?

13 A. We rode bikes together. His old lady worked as a  
14 bartender and that was it. I stayed in his house a couple  
15 of times, you know.

16 Q. So he knew you and he saw you riding your motorcycle?

17 A. Yeah, we rode together.

18 Q. Can you tell us about your motorcycle?

19 A. I bought it back in 2008 in Daytona, paid \$18,000  
20 cash, and it was stolen two years later.

21 Q. So you paid \$18,000 cash for this motorcycle?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Where did you keep it at?

24 A. In a shed in my house.

25 Q. Did you have a lock on that shed or something like



1 that?

2 A. Oh, yes, sir.

3 Q. Can you tell us about when you first noticed it was  
4 missing? You know, what did you see? What happened?

5 A. It was -- I want to say it was a Wednesday that I  
6 parked it in there. It was raining very bad and I went to  
7 North Augusta to pick up Wheeler, his bike broke down, took  
8 it to his house, I went to my house and the next day it was  
9 nice, so I say I'm gonna ride my bike, got my helmet, went  
10 to the shed and I noticed my bike was gone. I said I put  
11 it somewhere else, so I went around the house, no bike, so  
12 I called Aiken County.

13 Q. What did you say had been done to the lock?

14 A. The lock was put on, but it was cut.

15 Q. Someone had cut the lock?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Okay. And did you immediately report this to the  
18 police?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And what was the VIN number that you reported?

21 A. It was 1HD1FCW126Y673417.

22 Q. I'm gonna show you some pictures now, what's  
23 previously bend entered into evidence by agreement State's  
24 Exhibit 10, State's Exhibit 55, 54 and 53. Does that  
25 appear to be your signature where you identified this as

1 being your bike?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Okay. There's a number right there also, isn't there?

4 A. Yes, sir. Fifteen thousand.

5 Q. Is that how much you estimate this bike was worth in  
6 December of 2015?

7 A. Yes, that was what the insurance gave me.

8 Q. All right.

9 **MR. FENDER:** Please answer the defense attorney's  
10 questions.

11 **MR. THUSS:** I don't have any questions, Your Honor.

12 **THE COURT:** All right, sir. You may step down,  
13 Mr. Negron. Thank you.

14 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you, sir.

15 (Witness excused.)

16 **MR. FENDER:** James Minor.

17 **THE CLERK:** Raise your right hand and place your left  
18 hand on the Bible.

19 (Whereupon, James Minor was duly sworn by the Clerk of  
20 Court.)

21 **THE CLERK:** Thank you, sir. Please be seated. State  
22 your full name and spell your last name for the record.

23 **THE DEFENDANT:** James T. Minor, M-I-N-O-R.

24 JAMES T. MINOR,

25 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. FENDER:

3 Q. Mr. Minor, can you tell the jurors just a little bit  
4 about who you are, what kind of work you do and that kind  
5 of stuff?

6 A. I used to live in Vaucluse, South Carolina where the  
7 burglary happened at. I'm an on-the-road pipefitter. I'm  
8 gone weeks at a time, sometimes a week and a half. I now  
9 reside in Ninety-Six, South Carolina.

10 Q. You mentioned a burglary.. What was taken from you?

11 A. I had about fifty guns, about five thousand rounds of  
12 ammunition and a hundred and fifty or so knives, among  
13 other things, jewelry and a few other things.

14 Q. And that was taken from your home?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. I'll show you now what's previously been entered into  
17 evidence as State's Exhibit 22. Does this appear to be  
18 your gun?

19 A. Yes, sir; it's my gun.

20 Q. Can you tell the jurors a little bit about this gun?

21 A. I brought that particular shotgun from a friend of  
22 mine that lives in Aiken. I gave him \$300 for it. I had  
23 a pair just like that; a 12 and a 20. That's called a  
24 Defender Mossberg shotgun.

25 Q. And this is the gun that was taken from you?

1 A. Yes, sir, that's one of them.

2 Q. I'm gonna show you this exhibit, State's Exhibit 22.  
3 Does that appear to be where you've written your name there  
4 identifying this weapon?

5 A. Yes, sir, it is.

6 Q. You've also written a number there. Can you please  
7 read that to the jurors?

8 A. \$400.

9 Q. Is that an approximate value of what this might be  
10 worth in December of 2015?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 **MR. FENDER:** Okay. Please answer the defense  
13 attorneys questions.

14 **MR. THUSS:** No questions.

15 **THE COURT:** Thank you, Mr. Minor.

16 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 **MR. MAYE:** The State calls Jennifer Dewitt to the  
19 stand.

20 **THE CLERK:** Please raise your right hand and place  
21 your left hand on the Bible.

22 (Whereupon, Jennifer Dewitt was duly sworn by the  
23 Clerk of Court.)

24 **THE CLERK:** Thank you, ma'am. Please be seated.  
25 State your full name and spell your last name for the

1 record.

2 **THE WITNESS:** Jennifer Nicole Dewitt, D-E-W-I-T-T.

3 JENNIFER NICOLE DEWITT,

4 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. MAYE:

7 Q. Ms. Dewitt, let me ask you this. Tell the ladies and  
8 gentlemen of the jury where you're originally from.

9 A. Graniteville.

10 Q. From Graniteville?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Have you lived around Aiken County, that area, your  
13 whole life?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Let me ask you this. Let's talk about back in the  
16 months before December of 2015. How did you come to be  
17 staying out at Rainforest Lane here in Edgefield County,  
18 the place where they went for this search warrant? How did  
19 you gravitate there and tell the ladies and gentlemen of  
20 the jury how you first made contact there and ended up  
21 staying there.

22 A. Yes, sir. A guy I was dating at the time he had asked  
23 me to ride out there with him.

24 Q. What were y'all going out there for?

25 A. He was going to buy drugs.

1 Q. Going to buy drugs. What kind of drugs were y'all  
2 going to buy?

3 A. Meth, ice.

4 Q. Meth, ice. Okay.

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Okay. What happened next? How did you end up staying  
7 there then?

8 A. Well, I ended up sitting out there, you know, and  
9 talking to them and whatnot and then Heather come from the  
10 back room. I had -- I met Heather prior to this. Me and  
11 her were friends.

12 Q. Okay. Who are you talking about?

13 A. Heather Hall.

14 Q. Heather Hall?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. And who was her dad or step-dad?

17 A. Pops was her -- David Coon was her dad.

18 Q. Coon. Okay. And who else was there?

19 A. Tim Wheeler, her boyfriend.

20 Q. Wheeler was there as well?

21 A. Yes, sir, her boyfriend.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And me and Heather --

24 Q. And so what happened next?

25 A. Me and Heather got to talking and catching up. She

1 asked me if I wanted to spend the night the following night  
2 and she came and picked me up and I ended up going out  
3 there and staying out there a few nights off and on for a  
4 couple of months.

5 Q. Okay. For a couple of months?

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. What percentage of your time were you staying there  
8 versus staying other places?

9 A. Probably a little more. I was probably there a little  
10 more than other places.

11 Q. Okay. But up until the search warrant got done,  
12 December of 2015, you were spending most of your nights  
13 there?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. Tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury about  
16 what was going on there.

17 A. There were people were coming over, a lot of people,  
18 every day coming to speak to either Mr. Wheeler or  
19 Mr. Coon.

20 Q. They would come to speak to Wheeler or Coon?

21 A. Yes, sir. I would answer the door. There were  
22 cameras in the household. I would answer the door if  
23 somebody came to the door and then they would ask to speak  
24 to one of the two.

25 Q. One of the two?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Now let me step you here. What are you talking about  
3 with the cameras? What was your role? What were you  
4 supposed to be doing there?

5 A. Well, I watched the cameras to see who was pulling up  
6 and then I would go to the door if people knocked on the  
7 door.

8 Q. Okay. What would typically happen when people came to  
9 the door?

10 A. They would ask for Mr. Wheeler or Mr. Coon and then  
11 they would go to one of the bedrooms, wherever they were  
12 at, and bring them to the kitchen table and speak with  
13 them.

14 Q. Okay. Once they made their purchases, would they  
15 leave immediately or what would happen sometimes?

16 A. No, sir, some people would come out and hang out in  
17 the living room or whatnot. I'm a drug addict. I've  
18 gotten high with people who have been over there before.

19 Q. Okay. Would you do drugs with them sometimes when  
20 they were there from what they purchased?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. Come down here.

23 (Whereupon, the witness steps down from the witness  
24 stand.)

25 Q. I want you to show me who lived in which bedroom in



1 this house.

2 A. This being the front door?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. When you come in, the bedroom off to the right here  
5 was Pops', Mr. Coon's.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And as you go through, this is the living room, the  
8 kitchen, a dining room. You come down this hallway right  
9 here and that was where Tim and Heather stayed.

10 Q. Tim Wheeler and Heather Hall stayed, too?

11 A. Yes, sir. And then that room, I had slept in it  
12 before, but their dog had puppies and the puppies stayed in  
13 this room right there.

14 Q. Okay. All right. Where did -- go back and take the  
15 stand.

16 (Whereupon, the witness returns to the witness stand.)

17 Q. Where did you usually sleep, you know, when you were  
18 there? Once the third bedroom got occupied with the  
19 puppies and all, where did you usually stay?

20 A. On the couch.

21 Q. You slept on the couch in the main area?

22 A. Yes, sir, in the living room.

23 Q. Let me ask you this. This green box right here marked  
24 "tools". It's in evidence as State's 23. Have you seen  
25 this before?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Who have you seen with this box?

3 A. Mr. Wheeler.

4 Q. Tim Wheeler had this?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. What did you see him take in and out of this box?

7 A. He would carry it around when people came to the  
8 house.

9 Q. Okay. Did you ever go into his room and look around  
10 in the room there?

11 A. I've been in his room before, yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. How would he have the methamphetamine that they  
13 were selling packaged?

14 A. It was in plastic bags. I saw some in a Ziploc  
15 container one time.

16 Q. I'm gonna show you State's 24 and I'd like for you to  
17 look at the Ziploc bags in there.

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Is that consistent with what you had seen there?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. What kind of things did you and Heather do in  
22 order to assist what was going on there?

23 A. I mean, me and Heather hung out the majority of the  
24 time. I mean, we would go to the door. When we'd go  
25 grocery shopping, we would buy the Ziploc bags and things.

1 Q. You would buy the Ziploc bags?

2 A. (Nods head.)

3 Q. Okay. How were they utilizing the smaller Ziploc  
4 bags? Did you always buy the same size or did you buy  
5 different sizes?

6 A. We bought different sizes, but they were both  
7 primarily used for that.

8 Q. They were -- okay. What conversations have you  
9 overheard between the Defendant, Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. Coon  
10 in regard to their drug trafficking?

11 A. I've heard prices of how much a kilo was or whatnot  
12 and I heard him saying that the batch of drugs they got  
13 before was bad and they wanted a new batch.

14 Q. They got a bad batch and they wanted another batch?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. How much were they talking about paying for a kilo?

17 A. \$16,000.

18 Q. Okay. Was that -- the batch that they were talking  
19 about was bad, was that the disputed batch?

20 A. There were two different occasions. It may have been,  
21 I'm not certain, but they -- there were two different  
22 conversations I heard about that.

23 Q. Okay. I'm gonna ask you this. I'm gonna show you  
24 State's 10 that's in evidence in this case. Have you seen  
25 that motorcycle before?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Who rode this bike?

3 A. Mr. Wheeler.

4 Q. Okay. Let me show you State's 11 in this case. Have  
5 you seen the vehicle in State's 11?

6 A. Yes, sir. The red truck.

7 Q. The red pick-up truck?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Who drove the red pick-up?

10 A. Mr. Wheeler.

11 Q. Mr. Wheeler drove the red pick-up?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Have you been places with him in the truck?

14 A. Yes, sir, I have before. He's picked me up in it  
15 before.

16 Q. Okay. Among all of the vehicles that were there at  
17 the residence, which ones did he operate on a consistent  
18 basis?

19 A. The motorcycle that you showed me the picture of and  
20 the red pick-up.

21 Q. Okay.. What, if anything, did you ever see them  
22 doing in working on the motorcycles or doing anything?  
23 What did you observe there while you were there during  
24 your stay?

25 A. They worked on them a lot out back. I seen them

1 painting them, putting touchup paint on them or fixing  
2 things that were wrong.

3 Q. They would work on the bikes?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. And you saw them painting those motorcycles?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Okay. Now, Ms. Dewitt, the day the search warrant  
8 took place you were actually there, weren't you?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. You got arrested and charged along with everybody  
11 else, didn't you?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. You initially got charged with PWID, correct?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Your charges later got upgraded to trafficking the  
16 same as everybody else, correct?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And you got charged with all the stolen guns and  
19 everything else in the -- the vehicles and everything,  
20 didn't you?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Has anybody made any direct promises to you at this  
23 point in time as to what's gonna happen with your charges  
24 at this point in time?

25 A. No, sir.

1 Q. You've got an orange jumpsuit on here today.

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. You didn't show up for court last week and you got a  
4 bench warrant and you got put in jail, didn't you?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And you've been in the custody of the sheriff since  
7 that time, haven't you?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Ms. Dewitt, back early, like in July of 2015, you  
10 actually got a conviction for possession of meth over in  
11 Aiken County, didn't you?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. You got put on probation for that, didn't you?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Ms. Dewitt, is it fair to say you've been addicted to  
16 meth for a good while, haven't you?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Is that basically what led you to being down there at  
19 that house, your addiction?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 **MR. MAYE:** Please answer any questions the defense has  
22 for you.

23 **THE WITNESS:** Yes, sir.

24 **MR. THUSS:** May it please the Court?

25 **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. THUSS:

Q. Good morning, Ms. Dewitt, my name is Rob Thuss and I'm representing Mr. Wheeler here.

A. (Nods head.)

Q. You were arrested -- were you arrested on -- pardon me. Were you taken into custody on December 22, 2015?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And that was the day that of the -- of the warrant being served?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Later that day, did you speak with law enforcement officers?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And do you remember who the law enforcement officers were with whom you spoke?

A. The name or what division I spoke with?

Q. The name or the division.

A. I spoke with ATF.

Q. ATF?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And Edgefield County -- someone from Edgefield County also was present?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you give them an oral statement that was recorded?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Did they ask you several times, if you were truthful  
3 about the statements that you were giving?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. At that time had you been charged with anything?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Okay. In that statement, did you say truthfully that  
8 nothing was done in front of you?

9 A. Yes, sir, I did say that. I was scared at the time  
10 and so I didn't tell the whole truth. Yes, sir.

11 Q. All right. And did you say that Pops had shown -- had  
12 showed you guns and they were Pops' guns?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Did you say that you had never bought meth from Tim  
15 and that Tim had never given you meth?

16 A. Yes, sir, because I never purchased meth from  
17 Mr. Wheeler.

18 Q. Did you say that Tim was trying to help you get  
19 straightened out?

20 A. Yes, sir, I did.

21 Q. What was -- do you know what Pops' medical condition  
22 was?

23 A. I was told he had cancer.

24 Q. Were you told that he was dying from cancer?

25 A. Yes, sir.



1 Q. On the morning of the -- did you tell law enforcement  
2 that they -- that day that on the morning of the arrest  
3 that you were the first one to notice that there were  
4 police outside?

5 A. Yes, sir, I did.

6 Q. Did you tell law enforcement in your statement on  
7 December 22nd that you went and you woke up Tim and  
8 Heather?

9 A. Yes, sir, I did.

10 Q. Did you tell them that they got their clothes on and  
11 waited a while?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. And did you tell them that you didn't observe  
14 Mr. Wheeler take any actions to dispose of, flush or do  
15 anything --

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. -- to destroy any -- any of this?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. When were you charged with trafficking meth?

20 A. With the trafficking charge, I just recently received  
21 that.

22 Q. Pardon me?

23 A. I just recently received the trafficking charge.

24 Q. Recently?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. So -- and I'm gonna back up a little bit. After you  
2 gave the oral -- truthful oral statement to the police on  
3 December 22nd, after that you were -- you were charged with  
4 all the same charges as the other defendants except for the  
5 trafficking?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And so now you're -- you're changing your -- your  
8 testimony from what testimony you gave -- pardon me, the  
9 statement, the truthful statement, that you gave?

10 **MR. MAYE:** Your Honor, I'm gonna object because that's  
11 an opinion statement about the truthful statement. It  
12 doesn't --

13 **THE COURT:** I sustain the objection.

14 **MR. MAYE:** Thank you.

15 **THE COURT:** She's given conflicting statements. The  
16 jury can hear the testimony, but don't characterize it for  
17 them.

18 BY MR. THUSS:

19 Q. Let me ask you about your prior record. The  
20 conviction for possession of meth, that was a felony  
21 conviction?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Okay. So -- but you were convicted for possession of  
24 methamphetamine?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. And you were on probation?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. When you gave your oral testimony, did you express at  
4 that time, on December 22nd, that you were fearful of  
5 losing your children?

6 A. Yes, sir, I did.

7 Q. And were you fearful of a parole -- pardon me, a  
8 probation violation?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And you've admitted that -- that you are a drug  
11 addict?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 **MR. THUSS:** I don't have any more questions.

14 **THE COURT:** Any redirect?

15 **MR. MAYE:** Just a couple.

16 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. MAYE:

18 Q. And, Ms. Dewitt, when you talked to them initially,  
19 you told them exactly who lived at the residence, didn't  
20 you?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. You told them that Mr. Wheeler rode the motorcycle,  
23 the black motorcycle, and the red pick-up truck just like  
24 you testified to?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. You told them at that time that the person that had  
2 and carried around the green box in this case was  
3 Mr. Wheeler, didn't you --

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. -- during that same interview, the initial one?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 **MR. MAYE:** That's all. Thank you.

8 **THE COURT:** Okay. You may step down. Yes, sir.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 **THE COURT:** All right. Call your next witness.

11 **MR. MAYE.** I beg the Court's indulgence.

12 Your Honor, with that witness the State of South  
13 Carolina rests.

14 **THE COURT:** All right. Very well.

15 All right, ladies and gentlemen. I've got a few  
16 things that I need to do as far as legal matters go. I'm  
17 gonna let y'all step in the jury room for a few minutes  
18 and I'll have y'all out here in a little while. You can't  
19 begin discussing the case.

20 (Whereupon, the jury retires to the jury room at  
21 10:10 AM.)

22 **THE COURT:** All right. Do we have any motions?

23 **MR. THUSS:** Your Honor, I'd make a motion for  
24 directed verdict on the -- on -- especially on the -- the  
25 sawed-off shotguns; that there was testimony that those

1 were Mr. Coon's. There's testimony that those were  
2 Mr. Con's weapons and I don't believe that there's any  
3 testimony that Mr. Wheeler exercised any sort of control  
4 or dominion over the weapons; that Mr. Coon has admitted  
5 -- or that there's testimony that these were Mr. Coon's  
6 weapons.

7 **THE COURT:** Who put that up? Which witness? Where  
8 are the indictments? I want to see them. I don't have  
9 them committed to memory since there's a dozen. I usually  
10 can memorize them.

11 **THE CLERK:** (Handing.)

12 **MR. THUSS:** There was evidence from Agent Prince as  
13 to two of the -- two of the sawed-off shotguns that --  
14 that looking at them now, Number -- it would be Exhibit  
15 Number 52 and Number 50. I think he was charged with all  
16 three of -- all these weapons; that Mr. Coon through Agent  
17 Prince's testimony said that these were -- Mr. Coon had  
18 admitted these were his. There was also testimony from  
19 Brian Wade that he had never seen Mr. Wheeler have or have  
20 control of these weapons.

21 **THE COURT:** I think he testified he'd never seen him  
22 shoot one.

23 **MR. THUSS:** Never seen him shoot. Okay. Never seen  
24 him shoot one the day that he was there and there was  
25 testimony from Ms. Dewitt just now that -- that Mr. Coon

1 claimed those -- those weapons were his. And I also  
2 believe as to this stolen -- I think this Mossberg shotgun,  
3 that Agent Prince stated that Mr. Coon had said that that  
4 Mossberg shotgun was his also. And there's no testimony  
5 concerning Mr. Wheeler and that Mossberg shotgun or the --  
6 it will be Number -- State's Exhibit Number 22.

7 **THE COURT:** Is there twelve indictments or just ten?  
8 Are there twelve indictments or ten? I've got three drugs;  
9 possession of drugs, possession of marijuana, trafficking  
10 meth. Three drug charges. I've got four indictments for  
11 receiving stolen goods; a camper, a truck, two Harleys.  
12 And then I've got three indictments for firearms. Is that  
13 all?

14 **MR. MAYE:** I think there are three sawed-off shotguns.  
15 I think there's --

16 **THE COURT:** I'm just looking at what's in my hand.

17 **MR. MAYE:** Do what now?

18 **THE COURT:** The Mossberg, I don't have an indictment  
19 regarding any Mossberg. I've got a Winchester and two  
20 choppers. So if there's not one here, I'm not gonna grant  
21 your motion because it's not before me.

22 **MR. THUSS:** We were getting changing indictments, so  
23 I'm just -- there were a lot of stuff. There were changing  
24 indictments.

25 **MR. MAYE:** And, Your Honor, the only response that I

1 have is certainly he was present the day that the search  
2 warrant was issued, the weapons were not locked up. Taking  
3 the evidence as presented to the jury in the light most  
4 favorable to the jury {sic}, he certainly could have  
5 exercised actual or constructive possession. When they're  
6 talking about ownership of any of these items, most of the  
7 items in the household were stolen. As to who claimed them  
8 or claimed ownership, Your Honor, we think at this point in  
9 time there's some evidence that the jury can find in this  
10 case as to all of the items that were seized at the house  
11 given the fact that he was present in the house on the day  
12 of the search warrant and the weapons were available for  
13 anybody in the house to pick up. There's been nothing  
14 testified that any were locked or anybody was prohibited  
15 from accessing any of the weapons. The testimony is that  
16 weapons were scattered throughout the house. I think  
17 there's sufficient direct and circumstantial evidence.

18 **THE COURT:** You're talking too fast and that wasn't  
19 answering my question. I want to know about the  
20 indictments.

21 **MR. MAYE:** Yes, sir. I'm gonna have to go back and  
22 look at the indictment numbers that were called, Your  
23 Honor.

24 **THE COURT:** Alright. I found one. It would be  
25 Indictment 255 that involves the Mossberg.

1           **MR. MAYE:** And I can't recall if we presented that or  
2 not.

3           **THE COURT:** It was in my stack of stuff.

4           **MR. MAYE:** Okay. Thank you. And, Your Honor, I can  
5 only say as to the Mossberg shotguns, there were actually  
6 two Mossberg pump shotguns. It's not clear as to which he  
7 took -- or he's stating that Mr. Coon took ownership of.  
8 In the photograph, there's another Mossberg shotgun that's  
9 a stocked shotgun with a wooden stock. That's a polymer  
10 stocked sawed-off -- I mean, or a shortened Defender-style  
11 Mossberg.

12           Again, Your Honor, we just respectfully maintain that  
13 he could have exercised either actual or constructive  
14 possession of any of the items that were in the house, he  
15 was present on the day of the search warrant. We think  
16 that creates a jury issue very respectfully, Your Honor.

17           **THE COURT:** Alright. I want to clear up how many  
18 indictments I'm supposed to have because I thought y'all  
19 said twelve and I wanted to make certain there's twelve  
20 or ten or eleven. I appear to have eleven right now. So  
21 what am I looking for? I'm gonna talk with the clerk  
22 because he and I are in charge of that. So what y'all  
23 handed up let's see if we've got that. I'm showing five  
24 counts of receiving stolen goods.

25           **MR. MAYE:** And, Your Honor, I have that I called



1 eleven indictments in this case.

2 **THE COURT:** Okay. Well, there's eleven right there.  
3 That's making me feel better.

4 **MR. DRYLIE:** One was nol-prosed.

5 **MR. MAYE:** That's correct. We withdrew one.

6 **THE COURT:** I have eleven.

7 **THE CLERK:** Yes, sir.

8 **THE COURT:** It appears to be three drug charges,  
9 three counts of sawed-off shotgun or improper gun, and  
10 five counts of receiving stolen goods, one of which is  
11 the Mossberg. That makes better sense to me. And that  
12 indictment, the Mossberg indictment, is 255.

13 I think it's a factual question. The guns were part  
14 and parcel. They were in the house scattered everywhere.  
15 Nobody said there was any organization in the house  
16 whatsoever other than Bedroom 3 was used for dogs. Other  
17 than that it was a mess. I think it's a factual question  
18 for the jury to determine who was in possession of the  
19 guns, the drugs and the unlawful sawed-off shotguns, so I  
20 think that a -- it's a factual question. There's enough  
21 to get by directed verdict at this stage, so respectfully  
22 I'll deny that on the guns, Mr. Thuss.

23 What else have you got, Mr. Thuss?

24 **MR. THUSS:** Thank you. I understand the Court's  
25 reasoning on that, but I have to make the motion.

1           **THE COURT:** Make your motion.

2           **MR. THUSS:** Yes, sir. I'll just make a general motion  
3 for directed verdict on the rest of it based on lack of  
4 evidence that he had control over the premises or control  
5 over the drugs.

6           **THE COURT:** All right. I think there was testimony  
7 even just from that last witness that said people came to  
8 do some sort of trading, the box was in the possession and  
9 control of Mr. Wheeler according to that last witness, and  
10 that's enough to give it to the jury. Respectfully, I'll  
11 deny that also.

12           All right. What are you gonna do?

13           **MR. THUSS:** I'm going to call --

14           **THE COURT:** Do you want some time?

15           **MR. THUSS:** Mr. Wheeler's already decided to testify  
16 and I spoke briefly with Mr. Coon, open door; just told him  
17 that I had been relieved as counsel for his daughter and  
18 that Mr. Coon -- I mean, Mr. Wheeler was on trial today and  
19 that I was gonna ask him about his plea and the statement  
20 that he gave, so I'm gonna -- I'm gonna call Mr. Coon and  
21 I'm gonna put him up first.

22           **THE COURT:** Okay. All right. Do we need a short  
23 break before we bring the jury back in?

24           **MR. MAYE:** Yes, sir.

25           **THE COURT:** All right. I'll get a cup of coffee and

1     come back in in a few minutes.

2           **MR. MAYE:** Thank you, Your Honor.

3           (Recess taken.)

4           **BAILIFF:** All rise.

5           **THE COURT:** Be seated. Bring in the jury.

6           (Whereupon, the jury returns to the courtroom at  
7 10:34 AM.)

8           **THE COURT:** All right. Mr. Barnes is the foreman.

9           Mr. Barnes, are you okay with doing that for me?

10          **THE FOREPERSON:** Yes, sir.

11          **THE COURT:** You don't get paid extra, but you can have  
12 an extra piece of candy.

13           I got y'all's note to speak a little louder.. I've got  
14 the microphone cut off right next to me. It echos on me  
15 while I'm sitting up here. I'll cut it on when I've got to  
16 talk to y'all with my instructions. I'll make certain  
17 y'all hear those, but me talking to the lawyers and  
18 refereeing, it's okay. I want y'all to hear the testimony  
19 of the witnesses rather than my talking with Jacob, so I'm  
20 aware of that. When I've got to give my instructions, I'll  
21 make certain y'all can hear. I'll probably give you a copy  
22 of them also.

23           So, anyway, we're ready to continue. The State has  
24 put up all its evidence in its case in chief. We've taken  
25 care of some legal issues. It's now the opportunity for

1 Mr. Wheeler through his attorney to present evidence for  
2 you to consider also.

3 Mr. Thuss.

4 **MR. THUSS:** May it please the Court, I'd like to call  
5 David Coon.

6 **THE COURT:** All right.

7 **THE CLERK:** If you'd raise your right hand and place  
8 your left hand on the Bible.

9 (Whereupon, David Coon was duly sworn by the Clerk of  
10 Court.)

11 **THE CLERK:** Thank you, sir. You may be seated. State  
12 your full name and spell your last name for the record.

13 **THE WITNESS:** David Coon, C-O-O-N.

14 DAVID COON,

15 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. THUSS:

18 Q. Good morning, Mr. Coon.

19 A. Good morning.

20 Q. I spoke with you briefly for five minutes or so this  
21 morning.

22 A. (Nods head.) Yeah.

23 Q. And I advised you I'm here representing Mr. Wheeler --

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. -- in this trial today.

- 1 A. (Nods head.)
- 2 Q. Mr. Coon, you were -- were you tried last week?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 Q. And were you tried for trafficking methamphetamines?
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- 6 Q. 400 grams or more?
- 7 A. Yes. 715 I think it was.
- 8 Q. And were you tried for possession of the sawed-off
- 9 shotguns? Can you see them here on the table?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And were you tried for receipt of stolen goods?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And did that include a camper?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And did it include two Harley-Davidson motorcycles?
- 16 A. Uh-huh..
- 17 Q. And a Mossberg shotgun?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. And a red Chevy pick-up truck?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. Basically all the same charges that Mr. Wheeler is
- 22 charged with?
- 23 A. Yes, sir. I pled guilty to all of them. It was all
- 24 mine.
- 25 Q. That it was all yours?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And did you give a -- when you said it was all mine,  
3 after pleading guilty to each of these -- each of the same  
4 charges, did you give a statement to the Court?

5 A. Yes, sir, I did.

6 Q. All right. And what was the substance of that  
7 statement?

8 A. It stated to the Honorable Judge Hayes I, David Coon,  
9 take full responsibility, accept all the charges for the  
10 drugs, the guns and all the stolen vehicles; everything  
11 that was there in the house, inside and outside was mine.

12 Q. It was mine?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Did you give any statement concerning -- about  
15 Mr. Wheeler's responsibility?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Did you say that the co-defendants --

18 A. Oh, yeah, yeah. The co-defendants, yeah, they didn't  
19 have nothing to do with it; that everything there was mine.

20 **MR. THUSS:** I don't have any further questions.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. MAYE:

23 Q. Mr. Coon, who lived at Rainforest Lane?

24 A. I lived there and my daughter, she had a room there.  
25 She frequented there on occasions.

1 Q. Mr. Coon, you previously told law enforcement when  
2 they interviewed you -- let's see. They actually talked  
3 to you three times, didn't they?

4 A. Yeah, they did.

5 Q. Uh-huh. And you told them when they interviewed you  
6 the first go around that you didn't hang out there at all;  
7 that other people lived at the house and that you spent  
8 most of your time other places; isn't that right?

9 A. No, I told -- I told them that I spent time away with  
10 my girlfriend that just had a baby and that my daughter  
11 frequents there on occasion.

12 Q. Now you understand that everything that you told them  
13 was recorded and we've got a tape of it?

14 A. Yeah, I understand that.

15 Q. Uh-huh. And you told them -- when they interviewed  
16 you, you said you had never seen any of these items before  
17 when they interviewed you, didn't you? When you first  
18 started talking to them you, you said you'd never seen any  
19 of those, didn't you?

20 A. Yeah, yeah, I sure did. I told them that they weren't  
21 mine.. Yes, I did.

22 Q. No, sir, you didn't. In fact, you told them --

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. Excuse me, let me talk and then you can talk.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. When they interviewed you initially, you said you had  
2 never seen any of these items before and you didn't accept  
3 ownership or responsibility for anything; isn't that right?

4 A. Right. Yes, sir. You're right.

5 Q. You lied, didn't you?

6 A. Yeah, I did.

7 Q. Okay. And, in fact, you told them that you had  
8 cancer --

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. -- and so if it came down to it and somebody was gonna  
11 take the rap for this you were gonna take the rap for it  
12 because you had cancer and you didn't care.

13 A. No, I -- yeah, I do got cancer and that is my stuff.  
14 I'm not gonna tell a lie. I can't -- I can't put it on  
15 nobody else when it belongs to me.

16 Q. Belonged to you and Mr. Wheeler in this case, didn't  
17 it?

18 A. No, no. There you go. See, you're putting things in  
19 my mouth. No, I said that it belongs to me. Mr. Wheeler  
20 didn't have nothing to do with it period.

21 Q. Well, Mr. Coon, it's tough to know when to believe  
22 you because when you were trying to get out of this on the  
23 front end, you said you didn't have anything to do with it,  
24 you didn't know anything about any of this; isn't that  
25 true?



1 A. Yeah, that is true.

2 Q. Okay. And so now that you've been convicted of this  
3 and gotten your time, you're gonna try to get your daughter  
4 and Mr. Wheeler out of this, aren't you?

5 A. No, I'm gonna tell the truth. It's mine.

6 Q. In fact, you consistently said this was not yours  
7 right up until trial because you pleaded not guilty to all  
8 of the charges, correct?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. And you tried to suppress the evidence in the case and  
11 when you weren't successful and we put all our evidence up  
12 and got it all in, then you changed your plea before the  
13 jury went out.

14 A. You're absolutely -- you're absolutely right. I  
15 wanted to see who had me locked me up. Every bit of that  
16 stuff belongs to me. I think I had the right to the  
17 confidential informants and all that. I wanted to see  
18 personally who had me set up. That stuff belongs to me.

19 Q. Well, if they had you set up and it belonged to you,  
20 what you're saying is that they were telling the truth.  
21 Why would you be mad if they came up here and told the  
22 truth? I mean, you're saying they set you up?

23 A. Yeah, I wanted to see -- I wanted to see who -- who  
24 turned State's evidence on me, who turned me in. I'll say  
25 that -- I'm not denying that the stuff is mine. It's mine.

1 I sold the dope. The motorcycles are mine, everything's  
2 mine, but I wanted to see who had -- who -- who turned me  
3 in, you know what I'm saying?

4 Q. Why? If it was yours --

5 A. Just like when you're in school, if you take a test,  
6 you know, and somebody accuses you of cheating, you want to  
7 see who accuses you. I wanted to see who my accusers were.  
8 That's what I wanted to do.

9 Q. Now you said it was all yours, right?

10 A. It's mine.

11 Q. Well, why would you be mad then if they got up here  
12 and told the truth?

13 A. I -- I'm not mad. I just wanted to see who it was.  
14 You look back -- you know what, I got -- I got tried last  
15 week. I got twenty-five years. My -- my max-out date is  
16 2040, okay? Every bit of it is mine. I wanted to find out  
17 who -- who put me in jail. You -- you know, you get a  
18 speeding ticket, you want to know who the cop was, you want  
19 to know what's going on. I wanted to know who put me in  
20 jail.

21 Q. But you just told the jury up here you weren't mad  
22 about it, with any of them?

23 A. I'm not mad. I not mad at all. I wanted to see who  
24 put me in jail. That's what I wanted to do. I've got that  
25 right. I've got that right to it. Just like you've got

1 the right to write down there some anonymous person. You  
2 didn't want me to know. I -- I found out who it was.

3 Q. And you were so mad at Ms. Dewitt when you went down  
4 to the jail you screamed out that you were gonna have that  
5 bitch's tongue gut cut out, didn't you?

6 A. You're exactly right. Yeah, I did. I told her that.  
7 I told her I've got a hundred dollars in the canteen for  
8 the first woman that whipped her ass. I did.

9 Q. Because you were mad at her for telling the truth?

10 A. Yeah. Yeah, I was mad. I was upset. She stayed at  
11 my house, eat my groceries. I took her in off the street  
12 when she was out there shooting dope. Yeah, I took her in,  
13 and then turn around and get treated like that? Yeah, I  
14 was a little upset, but not over -- not over -- you know  
15 what I'm saying? Yeah, I was a little upset.

16 Q. What vehicles did you drive? Did you drive --

17 A. I drove all of them.

18 Q. Now you drove the -- the Sportster?

19 A. I drove both of the -- I drove both of the  
20 motorcycles.

21 Q. Now State's 53 --

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. I mean, you're a biker. You ride motorcycles,  
24 correct?

25 A. Yeah. Yes, sir.

1 Q. And that's -- that's an FL Harley. That's an Electra  
2 Glide. That's a big Harley, right?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. The Sportsters are kind of --

5 A. Yeah, a little smaller.

6 Q. -- the little one? Girls usually ride Sportsters,  
7 don't they?

8 A. Yeah, yeah. You're right. You can say that.

9 Q. Yeah. But you don't really care -- if you're stealing  
10 them and riding them, you don't care if you're riding a  
11 girl's bike or not, do you?

12 A. Like I say, they're mine. I rode both of them.  
13 Whether they stolen or I bought them, they're mine. I rode  
14 them. Yeah, I rode that bike.

15 Q. Whose license tag is that on the back of this FL?

16 A. I couldn't -- I couldn't tell you.

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 A. I couldn't tell you.

19 Q. This license tag of Mr. Wheeler's, it's off another  
20 bike, isn't it?

21 A. No, unh-unh. I don't know whose -- I don't know whose  
22 tag it is. It's probably stolen, too. The bike's stolen.  
23 Just stole the tag and put it on there and ride it.

24 Q. It would be somewhat a coincidence if that was a tag  
25 that came back to Mr. Wheeler, wouldn't that, on this one?

1 A. It would be. It would be very coincidental.

2 Q. It would be a marvelous coincidence, wouldn't it?

3 A. But it would be -- it would be a more coincidence if  
4 it was somebody else's; along with a stolen bike, a stolen  
5 tag. You can pull up to any grocery store and get a tag.

6 Q. Well, y'all were chopping these bikes up and painting  
7 them out there at the house to try to hide that they were  
8 stolen.

9 A. There you go again trying to put words in my mouth.  
10 I did that. I did every customized -- I did all the  
11 customizing. Wheeler didn't have nothing to do with it.

12 Q. You took these beautiful motorcycles and did this low  
13 rent sorry paint job on them.

14 A. See, I don't -- I don't like flashy. I like to be  
15 just kind of low -- low -- low key, you know. I don't like  
16 all that flashy chrome and all that; a black, flat black  
17 ride.

18 Q. You especially like to paint real heavy over the VIN  
19 numbers on them, don't you?

20 A. Yeah. Yeah, I do. I mean, you know what? Look,  
21 yeah, I do. I really do.

22 Q. Because when they're stolen, that's convenient, isn't  
23 it?

24 A. If they're stolen -- you're absolutely right. If  
25 they're stolen, I want to spray over it and I'm gonna cover

1    them up so nobody can see them.  You're right.  You're  
2    absolutely right.  I did it.

3    Q.    How about the red pick-up truck then?  Who's driving  
4    it?

5    A.    I was.  You got to have -- hey, rainy days you've got  
6    to have something to ride.  The truck was mine, too.

7    Q.    Well, you weren't even there when they got raided,  
8    were you?

9    A.    No, I wasn't.

10   Q.    But Ms. Hall was there, wasn't she?

11   A.    Yes, sir, she was.  Like I say, she frequents there.  
12   Do you have a daughter?  Does she got a bedroom at your  
13   house?  Even if she's thirty or forty years old, your baby  
14   is your baby.  You're always gonna have a home or a place  
15   for her to rest her head.  Am I right or wrong?

16   Q.    And you're always gonna try to take the rap for her no  
17   matter what trouble she's in, aren't you?

18   A.    No.  No.  No.

19   Q.    That's what you told the cops.

20   A.    No.

21   Q.    You told them that you were -- if it came down to it,  
22   you were gonna take the heat for everybody, right?

23   A.    It's mine.  It's mine.  I've gotta take the heat for  
24   it.  Why would I let somebody else go to jail when the  
25   stuff belongs to me, you know what I'm saying?  I ain't --

1 I ain't got no reason to tell you no lie. It belongs to  
2 me.

3 Q. Well, in the same conversation you were continually  
4 telling them that you didn't have anything to do with them,  
5 it wasn't any of yours, but if it came down to it because  
6 you had cancer you were gonna take it to try to get them  
7 out of it?

8 A. No, I told her I got cancer. I said do you know what  
9 it feels like to be dying? I've got cancer. That's  
10 exactly what I said.

11 Q. In this trailer here --

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. -- all of Mr. Wheeler's mail was there, his billfold  
14 was there. They found all of his personal items scattered  
15 throughout Bedroom 2 and scattered throughout the house.  
16 How do you explain that if he wasn't staying there?

17 A. How do I explain that? I explain it just like this.  
18 He was dating my daughter. Like I said, my daughter  
19 frequents there on occasions. They don't live there. They  
20 come to see me and sometimes they spend the night. He did  
21 not live there. My daughter didn't actually, quote, live  
22 there. She had a place to stay because I'm daddy and I'm  
23 always gonna have a place for my daughter to rest her head.

24 Q. The room's just full of drugs and paraphernalia where  
25 they stayed there, Bedroom 2, wasn't it?

1 A. I couldn't tell you. I know there was drugs in -- in  
2 Bedroom Number 3. That's where I kept them.

3 Q. You told the police you'd never seen that box, didn't  
4 you?

5 A. Yeah, that's my box.

6 Q. But that's not what you told them originally, was it?

7 A. Yeah, I know -- I know what I told them originally. I  
8 mean, come on, man. You know, you break in my house, you  
9 come kicking in my door. 750 grams. Anybody in their  
10 right mind is gonna tell them whatever they think they want  
11 to hear, but the stuff belongs to me. Yeah, that's mine.

12 Q. Here's Defendant's 3 and this is the middle bedroom  
13 there. Look at all the drugs and money and all that stuff  
14 in the bedroom where Ms. Hall and Mr. Wheeler stayed.

15 A. Like I say, you didn't find none in my room. I had it  
16 in other rooms. I put it in the other room.

17 **MR. MAYE:** I beg the Court's indulgence.

18 BY MR. MAYE:

19 Q. You told law enforcement that Mr. Wheeler was your  
20 brother. Is he -- do y'all have the same mother and father  
21 or anything like that?

22 A. No, we don't.

23 Q. How is he's your brother?

24 A. He's a friend of mine. He's like a brother.

25 Q. And you'd do anything for him, wouldn't you?



1 A. Well, I wouldn't say I'd do anything. No, I wouldn't.

2 Q. Well, you'd get up here in front of twelve people and  
3 lie about all this.

4 A. Well, I ain't telling a lie in front of twelve people.  
5 They can -- you know, I'm telling the truth. I've got no  
6 reason to lie.

7 Q. Now because you've already gotten your time.

8 A. No, no, no, no. See, there you go trying to put  
9 words in my mouth again. I have no reason to lie. Every  
10 bit of that stuff belonged to me. I'm the one that went  
11 out and stole it. I'm the one who went and got the dope,  
12 I'm the one who sold the dope. I'm the one who rode both  
13 motorcycles, you know. I sold dope out of that red  
14 Chevrolet truck, I sold dope off the Sportster, I sold dope  
15 off the Electra Glide with that tool box strapped to the  
16 back. It's mine.

17 Q. With Mr. Wheeler's tag on the back of it. Did you put  
18 that on there?

19 A. I -- I don't know whose tag it is to be honest with  
20 you. How do you know it's Mr. Wheeler's tag?

21 Q. You know they've got records for that, don't you?

22 A. Well, I -- I guess they do, but I -- like I said, I  
23 couldn't tell you whose tag is on the back of the  
24 motorcycle. The one didn't have a tag.

25 **MR. MAYE:** I beg the Court's indulgence.

1 BY MR. MAYE:

2 Q. Now when the agents interviewed you, they asked you  
3 if you owned any firearms and you replied I do not own any  
4 firearms.

5 A. Yeah, I don't own them.

6 Q. You lied to them?

7 A. No, I ain't lied to them. They're stolen. They ain't  
8 mine. I don't -- I don't own nothing. I don't own no  
9 firearms. They're stolen. I didn't tell you a lie. There  
10 you go trying to tell me -- yeah. Okay. They're stolen.  
11 They do not belong to me.

12 Q. How old's your daughter?

13 A. My daughter's twenty-three.

14 Q. How old is Mr. Wheeler?

15 A. I don't know. What's that -- what's that -- that's  
16 irrelevant. I don't think I need to answer that question.

17 Q. Do you know how old he is?

18 A. Yeah, I know exactly how old he is, dude. You don't  
19 need to know. You know. You've got the paperwork. I  
20 mean, what's that -- what's does that got to do with it?  
21 Age is a number. That's all.

22 Q. They were boyfriend and girlfriend, weren't they?

23 A. Yeah, they was. What are you getting at?

24 Q. Well, where did they get together as boyfriend and  
25 girlfriend?

1 A. Where are you going with this?

2 Q. Where did they get together as boyfriend and  
3 girlfriend?

4 A. I don't know. They met. They met. Why? What's that  
5 got to do with it?

6 **THE COURT:** All right.

7 BY MR. MAYE:

8 Q. Boyfriends and girlfriends usually get together.

9 **THE COURT:** Hang on.

10 **MR. MAYE:** Excuse me.

11 **THE COURT:** You've got to answer his questions. You  
12 can't ask him questions.

13 **THE WITNESS:** Well, he -- okay. Okay. Go ahead.

14 **THE COURT:** This is a courtroom. We're gonna have  
15 some order.

16 **THE WITNESS:** Okay.

17 **THE COURT:** Answer his question and you can explain  
18 your answer.

19 BY MR. MAYE:

20 Q. If they were boyfriend and girlfriend, where were they  
21 getting together as boyfriend and girlfriend?

22 A. I guess they'd go out in the evenings or something or  
23 go out for dinner or whatever, have a mixed drink. I don't  
24 know.

25 Q. Well, where did Mr. Wheeler live then?

- 1 A. He lived in Aiken.
- 2 Q. Where?
- 3 A. I'm not really sure of the address where he lived.
- 4 Q. How long had you known Mr. Wheeler?
- 5 A. I've known Mr. Wheeler for maybe a year or so.
- 6 Q. And he was like a brother to you and you didn't even
- 7 know where he lived?
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. It never occurred to you to ask him, your brother that
- 10 you see all the time, you know, where do you live, man?
- 11 A. Yeah. Yeah, like I say, he --
- 12 Q. You never asked him?
- 13 A. -- he stayed with me a little bit, he stayed with a
- 14 friend of his a little bit.
- 15 Q. Where did your daughter stay when she wasn't staying
- 16 there?
- 17 A. With a friend of hers.
- 18 Q. Well, she was paying money on the lease though on
- 19 the property. The man was getting the rent from her.
- 20 Mr. Harmon was getting the rent from her in December.
- 21 A. That's right. Yes, sir.
- 22 Q. She was just paying it and wasn't staying there?
- 23 A. I was paying the rent. I was -- yeah, I'd go by there
- 24 and give her the rent money to pay it because like I told
- 25 you I was spending time away with my girlfriend that just

1 had a baby.

2 Q. Two of the sawed-off shotguns -- you eventually said  
3 that none of the sawed-offs were yours, right?

4 A. No.

5 Q. That's what you first said.

6 A. No.

7 Q. Are you as sure about that as everything else you've  
8 told the jury under oath?

9 A. I told Mr. Prince that the sawed-off shotguns belonged  
10 to me. I made canes out of them. I've got a walking cane.  
11 I make walking canes out of them. We'll saw them off,  
12 we'll weld a stub on the end of it, solder all the parts  
13 to where the gun does not work properly, it was  
14 non-functionable, and put a rubber stopper on it and take  
15 a stock and make a handle out of it and make a walking  
16 cane. Y'all took -- y'all took one from the house.

17 Q. You'd also take these walking sticks and blast holes  
18 in that van in the front yard, too, wouldn't you?

19 A. That van did not run.

20 Q. Did y'all shoot these with sawed-offs?

21 A. Yeah. No, not a sawed-off. I shot it with a shotgun.  
22 I sure did. Yeah, I shot it with a shotgun. Yeah, I did.

23 Q. Well, you initially denied any ownership of those, but  
24 you came back on a subsequent interview when you requested  
25 they come back and talk to you again and you took ownership

1 of two of them. You said two of them were yours, but the  
2 third one you said you'd never seen before. Isn't that  
3 what you told them?

4 A. Yeah. Yeah, I had to claim it. They was -- they're  
5 mine. They're somebody's. They're mine. They was stolen  
6 evidently. A man wanted me to make a cane out of one and I  
7 said okay. So, you know, like I say, yeah, I guess they  
8 would be mine, considered mine, if -- the way y'all look at  
9 it, it would be mine, I guess.

10 Q. Well, you came back a second time and said only two of  
11 them were yours, the third one you'd never seen.

12 A. I don't recall that.

13 Q. Well, it's all on tape.

14 A. Well, that's fine it's on tape. I'm telling you every  
15 -- everything that was in that house belongs to me; the  
16 shotguns, everything.

17 Q. They found one of the sawed-offs in Bedroom 2 there in  
18 the middle bedroom of the house.

19 A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

20 Q. Is that right?

21 A. I guess. Like I say, I wasn't there. I couldn't tell  
22 you. I couldn't tell you where -- you know what I'm  
23 saying, where they found what or where they said they found  
24 what.

25 Q. You told them that the meth in the green box did not

1 belong to you and you didn't know who be it belonged to,  
2 didn't you?

3 A. That's exactly what I said at first. Like I say,  
4 anybody in their right mind would try to -- try to say  
5 something to get out of it, but you know what, whenever I  
6 -- all the evidence, I mean, at least -- I mean, it's mine,  
7 there's no denying it. You found it in my home. It's  
8 mine. I mean, how can I deny it?

9 Q. You tried to deny it over and over again --

10 A. Yes, you're absolutely right.

11 Q. -- up until all of the evidence came in against you;  
12 isn't that right?

13 A. You're absolutely right. Like I say -- hey, I didn't  
14 want to go to jail for twenty-five years. I didn't want to  
15 go to prison for twenty-five years. I'd tell you anything  
16 you'd want to hear. Did they tell you I told them I'd give  
17 them a kilo of meth, too?

18 Q. You tried every way you could to get out from under it  
19 yourself, but it didn't work, did it?

20 A. No, there's no way it's gonna work. It's mine. I  
21 mean, you found it in my home. You know --

22 Q. And so now you're gonna get up here and try to help  
23 Mr. Wheeler out of this by lying now?

24 A. No, I'm not telling no lie. Just like when I was here  
25 last week I told the truth. That's all I can do is tell

1 the truth. No matter how bad you don't want to hear the  
2 truth, the truth is the truth. It belongs to me. Every  
3 bit of it belongs to me. There's no other way around it.

4 Q. It's kind of hard to tell when you're telling the  
5 truth because you change it day by day, don't you?

6 A. Well, you know, it's just like you do; you're sitting  
7 there telling me things I've said, things I didn't say, you  
8 know.

9 **MR. THUSS:** May it please the Court? I think this is  
10 repetitive. It's been asked and answered and we're going  
11 over the same things.

12 **THE COURT:** I tend to agree with you, Mr. Thuss.

13 **MR. MAYE:** I don't have anything else, Your Honor.  
14 I'm done. Thank you.

15 **THE COURT:** Mr. Thuss, any redirect?

16 **MR. THUSS:** Just a couple of questions, please.

17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. THUSS:

19 Q. In your statements that you gave to law enforcement,  
20 you were asked about how you felt about the relationship  
21 between Mr. Wheeler and your daughter --

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. -- and whether you --

24 A. How I approved of it?

25 Q. -- whether you approved.



1 A. Well, you know, I mean, some things -- it's like this,  
2 you know. Mr. Wheeler is a brother of mine, he's a friend  
3 of mine, I love him to death. My daughter, I love her to  
4 death, but, you know, there's an age difference there. So  
5 sometimes with your kids the more you stress something,  
6 don't do, don't do, they want to have a tendency to do it.  
7 So, you know, I kind of -- I kind of didn't push the issue,  
8 you know. I just kind of let it -- let it just go at what  
9 it was.

10 Q. And -- and did you -- in that -- in the statement did  
11 you say yes, you'd prefer her to be with a doctor or a  
12 lawyer?

13 A. Yeah, I did. That's exactly what I told them, you  
14 know.

15 **MR. THUSS:** No further questions.

16 **THE COURT:** All right. You may step down.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 **MR. THUSS:** May it please the Court, could I have a  
19 recess to discuss before going on?

20 **THE COURT:** Sure. Y'all step in the jury room. I'll  
21 have you back out in a couple minutes. You can't discuss  
22 the case quite yet.

23 (Whereupon, the jury retires to the jury room at  
24 11:01 AM.)

25 **THE COURT:** Okay.

1           (Recess taken.)

2           **MR. MAYE:** May it please the Court, Your Honor, I  
3 don't have any -- if you're gonna make any inquiry of  
4 Mr. Wheeler. I don't know if he's testifying. I don't  
5 have any problem -- I'm not gonna offer anything on his  
6 record if he testifies. I don't know if you want to go  
7 through that with him or not, but I don't have any  
8 impeachment information if he testifies that I would intend  
9 to impeach with him, Your Honor. I don't think anything on  
10 his prior record under the rules --

11           **THE COURT:** That helps.

12           **MR. MAYE:** -- would have impeachment value.

13           **MR. THUSS:** Okay. That's what we're -- we're trying  
14 to --

15           **THE COURT:** He just tipped his hand. He said he's not  
16 gonna challenge credibility on his prior record. He can  
17 challenge credibility, but --

18           **MR. THUSS:** Right.

19           **THE COURT:** Okay.

20           (Recess taken.)

21           **THE COURT:** Are we ready?

22           **MR. THUSS:** I've discussed this with Mr. Wheeler and  
23 -- and he's now decided that he's not going to testify.

24           **THE COURT:** Okay. Is that -- is that all the evidence  
25 you're gonna put up?

1           **MR. THUSS:** That's all that I'm going to have, yeah.

2           **THE COURT:** Are you gonna respond to anything,  
3 Mr. Maye?

4           **MR. MAYE:** I may have one reply witness. I'll find  
5 out how quickly I can get them here.

6           **THE COURT:** That doesn't leave you much time.

7           (Pause in proceedings.)

8           **MR. MAYE:** Judge, I was gonna have somebody from DMV  
9 on the tag that comes back to him that was on one of those  
10 bikes and they're going over to get somebody from DMV. I  
11 can obviously bring the dispatcher that ran it. I don't  
12 know that they're gonna -- whether or not they'll dispute  
13 that's a regularly recorded business record. I can  
14 certainly have the dispatcher come and testify that it's a,  
15 you know, a regularly recorded business record they access  
16 through NCIC, but if not I'm gonna get the --

17           **THE COURT:** They may stipulate to it.

18           **MR. MAYE:** I'm gonna show it to them.

19           **THE COURT:** Yeah, if it's just a -- just a DMV record,  
20 that wouldn't be a huge deal.

21           **MR. MAYE:** Mr. Thuss, that's the record.

22           **THE COURT:** I think he was discussing it.

23           **MR. MAYE:** I'm gonna either bring somebody from the  
24 DMV or in the alternative I'll have the dispatcher come.  
25 They ran the tag this morning that's on the car and I'll

1 show you the photograph of it.

2 **THE COURT:** What's that?

3 **MR. MAYE:** It comes back to his name, a 1998  
4 Harley-Davidson, [REDACTED], North Augusta, South  
5 Carolina. I mean, that's all I'm waiting on. I'm gonna  
6 have them come -- bring somebody from DMV as the custodian  
7 of the records or I can call the dispatcher and put them  
8 up as the custodian of the record. I don't know if y'all  
9 are gonna try to dispute the authenticity. It may delay it  
10 for a little while, but I'll get somebody from the DMV.  
11 Whatever you want to do on that.

12 **MR. THUSS:** How long will that take?

13 **MR. MAYE:** I can have the dispatcher up here right  
14 now.

15 **MR. THUSS:** I mean, I'm fine if it's a competent  
16 witness just for --

17 **MR. MAYE:** That's fine. I'll have them bring --

18 **THE COURT:** All right. Here's what I'm gonna do with  
19 the jury. I've spoken to Mr. Reel and since we've only got  
20 potentially just one more witness, I've got the charges  
21 ready. Y'all should know about what they look like because  
22 they're essentially Judge Hayes' from last week. You've  
23 seen those and you maybe heard about them last week.  
24 They're very, very similar. So they should be ready to go  
25 and the verdict form, so I don't think there's gonna be --

1 there's no lesser includeds?

2 **MR. THUSS:** Right.

3 **THE COURT:** So the only thing that -- it shouldn't be  
4 a whole lot more to modify with Judge Hayes' charge.

5 **MR. THUSS:** That's fine. Thank you, Your Honor.

6 (Recess taken.)

7 **BAILIFF:** Court come to order, please.

8 **MR. MAYE:** We're ready, Your Honor.

9 **THE COURT:** Good deal. We have our witness here and  
10 she's already sitting down. Good deal.

11 (Whereupon, the jury returns to the courtroom at  
12 11:27 AM.)

13 **THE COURT:** All right, folks. We put a couple of  
14 things on the record and spoke with the attorneys and  
15 Mr. Thuss and Mr. Wheeler have now rested on the record  
16 and the State intends to call one reply witness and we had  
17 to send for that witness and she's already here and sitting  
18 down.

19 So, Mr. Mayes, call her name so we know it.

20 **MR. MAYE:** The State would call Brittany Rouse of the  
21 Edgefield County Sheriff's Department.

22 **THE CLERK:** Please stand. Raise your right hand and  
23 place your left hand on the Bible.

24 (Whereupon, Brittany Rouse was duly sworn by the Clerk  
25 of Court.)

1           **THE CLERK:** Thank you, ma'am. Please be seated.  
2 State your full name and spell your last name for the  
3 record.

4           **THE WITNESS:** My name is Officer Brittany Rouse,  
5 R-O-U-S-E.

6                               BRITTANY ROUSE,  
7           having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

8                               DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. MAYE:

10 Q. Ms. Rouse, in what capacity are you employed with the  
11 Edgefield County Sheriff's Office?

12 A. I'm an Edgefield County dispatcher.

13 Q. You're a dispatcher. As a dispatcher for the county  
14 of Edgefield, do you have access to the regularly recorded  
15 business records of the South Carolina Department of Motor  
16 Vehicles as it relates to vehicle registration in the form  
17 of licenses, tags and VIN numbers?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. You have the ability to access that database of  
20 regularly recorded business records?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. How do you query and -- if you want to run a tag, for  
23 example, for a deputy that's out on the road that stops a  
24 vehicle, how do you query that database?

25 A. We use an NCIC database and we just run it by

1   whichever state and we put it in and submit it and it comes  
2   back to whoever it's registered to.

3   Q.   Okay. Let me ask you this. Were you asked in your  
4   capacity as a dispatcher this morning to run a South  
5   Carolina motorcycle tag and I'm gonna ask you -- I'm gonna  
6   show you --

7           **MR. MAYE:** We'll mark this State's ID at this point in  
8   time.

9           (State's Exhibit Number 75 was marked for  
10   identification.)

11   BY MR. MAYE:

12   Q.   I'm gonna ask you if you queried the database of those  
13   regularly recorded business records for a South Carolina  
14   motorcycle tag Zulu Delta 25293, and I'm gonna show you  
15   State's 75 for ID at this point in time. Did you run that  
16   query this morning?

17   A.   Yes, sir, I did.

18   Q.   Okay. What was the return from that query from the  
19   regularly recorded business records of the South Carolina  
20   Department of Motor Vehicles?

21   A.   It came back to a 1998 Harley-Davidson motorcycle  
22   registered to a Timothy Wayne Wheeler at [REDACTED],  
23   North Augusta, Aiken County; expires 12 2015.

24   Q.   Okay. Let me show you what's been marked State's 53  
25   that's in evidence in this case. Can you tell me what the

1 tag number is on the back of that motorcycle?

2 A. Yes, sir. It's ZD25293.

3 Q. Okay. Is that the same tag that you ran that came  
4 back to Timothy Wheeler?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Okay. I'm gonna show you State's Exhibit Number 9 in  
7 this case. Can you tell me what that shows?

8 A. Timothy Wheeler, [REDACTED], North Augusta, South  
9 Carolina.

10 Q. Okay. Does it appear to be on an envelope?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. That tag did not come back to a 2006  
13 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, did it?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. The VIN number that you have is not 1 Hotel Delta 1  
16 Foxtrot Charlie Whiskey 126 Yankee 673417, is it?

17 A. No, sir.

18 **MR. MAYE:** At this point in time, Your Honor, I'm  
19 gonna move to admit State's 75 into evidence in this case.

20 **THE COURT:** Any objection?

21 **MR. THUSS:** No, Your Honor.

22 **THE COURT:** All right. It will be admitted as  
23 State's 75 without objection.

24 (State's Exhibit Number 75, a DMV tag query, was  
25 admitted into evidence.)



1           **MR. MAYE:** Your Honor, that would conclude the reply  
2 evidence that we have. Thank you.

3           **THE COURT:** Any questions, Mr. Thuss?

4           **MR. THUSS:** Thank you, Your Honor.

5                           CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. THUSS:

7 Q. Ma'am, I'm Rob Thuss. I'm representing Mr. Wheeler.  
8 Just one question. Do you know anything about how the tag  
9 would have gotten on this other motorcycle?

10 A. No, sir, I do not.

11           **MR. THUSS:** No further questions.

12           **THE COURT:** All right. You may step down.

13 (Witness excused.)

14           **MR. MAYE:** Your Honor, that concludes the State's  
15 reply evidence.

16           **THE COURT:** All right.

17 All right, folks. That's all the testimony your gonna  
18 hear. All of the evidence was more or less agreed to, all  
19 the pictures and photographs were stipulated, and there  
20 were a number of them. Y'all go back to the back -- are  
21 the lawyers ready?

22           **MR. MAYE:** The State's ready, Your Honor.

23           **THE COURT:** Mr. Thuss, are you ready?

24           **MR. THUSS:** Yes, Your Honor.

25           **THE COURT:** All right. Because of taking a break I'm

1 gonna go ahead and let the lawyers offer their closing  
2 summaries to you in this case. The State will go first.

3 **MR. MAYE:** Your Honor, I think under the new rule or  
4 that new case, I think I'm required in this case -- I'm  
5 gonna do it out of an abundance of caution; that I open on  
6 the law and the facts and they're to give their evidence  
7 and then if I have anything in reply, but no new matter.

8 **THE COURT:** That's what I understand the new rule to  
9 be. We just had a rule change January 5th. It used to be  
10 a little different and we've kind of gone back to pick up  
11 the old rule and what Mr. Mayes has expressed was he has to  
12 open in full, he closes and he can reply to anything that  
13 was brought up under State versus Beaty.

14 **MR. THUSS:** Thank you.

15 **THE COURT:** All right. Wait a minute. He goes first.  
16 That's -- that's the new rule.

17 **MR. MAYE:** May it please the Court? Ladies and  
18 gentlemen, it seems like it's been a long time ago. It's  
19 been kind of tedious here. You've seen a mountain of  
20 evidence and a mountain of exhibits in this case and we've  
21 talked about what an inconvenience this is, but it's  
22 vitally important that the twelve of you go back in that  
23 jury room and deliberate. As I said at the outset, y'all  
24 all live here in Edgefield County and y'all are sitting in  
25 a historic courthouse. It's an unusual building. It's

1 unusual in that anything would stick around this long, this  
2 first section of it. And, you know, it's interesting the  
3 things that sometimes happen in a place like this. I mean,  
4 it's so historic.

5 It hasn't been long ago that there was a very elderly  
6 lady and she came up here and she was being guided around  
7 by two other folks, a woman maybe in her forties and  
8 another maybe in her twenties, and they walked all around  
9 the building and they looked and folks had no idea what  
10 they were doing. They walked around and looked at the  
11 building from every angle and finally somebody wanted to  
12 find out what in the world they were doing here.

13 This lady actually grew up here in this courthouse  
14 because at one time off the back of the courthouse there  
15 was a jail and the jailer stayed here and the jailer was  
16 her daddy and she grew up here in this building, in the  
17 courthouse, she grew up in the jail. She said inmates  
18 would come in and out through their living room where they  
19 lived, they actually resided here, and it's just hard to  
20 believe that that kind of change, you know, has taken place  
21 where somebody would actually live up in a jail and a  
22 little girl would actually grow up here. She said that she  
23 and a disabled man planted a lot of the trees that are here  
24 around the courthouse that have now grown up to their full  
25 size. It's just interesting how much things have changed.

1       At that time on one tragic day there was a sheriff  
2 here and on the same day the sheriff got killed and his  
3 deputy got killed and that was it. They had to go raise a  
4 posse to deal with what had -- they had to go over to get  
5 Saluda and get people, two folks, a sheriff and a deputy.  
6 Look around in this courtroom right now here of how many  
7 people there are with uniforms. Crane your head down here  
8 and look down the hill and look at how many folks there  
9 are.

10       Well, were there more people back then? You know,  
11 were there fewer people? Is there more of us now, is that  
12 how they've got all these folks here? Probably not. We've  
13 lost population here. There used to be a lot of folks that  
14 lived here in Edgefield County. We've lost population. So  
15 it's not that there weren't more people here. Is it that  
16 we're any meaner than we once were? Are folks any meaner?  
17 That's probably doubtful. Edgefield has got history of  
18 where people would get into disputes with one another and  
19 they'd take up pistols and duel and shoot each other dead.  
20 It hasn't been long ago that men stood on battlefields and  
21 hacked each other to death with swords, eyeball to eyeball,  
22 so I doubt we're any meaner than we once were, but back  
23 then a sheriff and a chief deputy and that was it for  
24 everybody that lived here.

25       You know what's the difference? It's not more people

1 and I doubt people are ever even meaner than they once  
2 were. Heavy narcotics; methamphetamines, crack, heroin,  
3 hard narcotics. Right there, a bag of human misery. The  
4 kind of substance that will have people go out and scour  
5 the countryside. Y'all saw here folks coming up here and  
6 testifying. Where were they all from? In case you can't  
7 recall, some of them came from Aiken, some came from houses  
8 in Columbia. These are people throughout this whole area  
9 who were hardworking people, who -- one guy came here and  
10 wanted to move to South Carolina to get away from crime so  
11 he could restore a house. A mechanic who thought that his  
12 son was teasing him when he said your camper's gone. These  
13 are hardworking folks that lost their property. Why?  
14 Because folks are so addicted to what's in that bag of  
15 human misery that they forgo everything that they have,  
16 they lose everything they have and they would roam the  
17 countryside cutting locks, breaking in buildings, going up  
18 under people's sheds and taking their camper, stealing  
19 their truck, stealing motorcycles from their friends.  
20 Anything they could get their hands on to steal and what  
21 were they doing with it?

22 Well, there's one thing for sure. On December  
23 the 22nd of 2015 all of those stolen goods had accumulated  
24 out there at the residence of Mr. Coon, Mr. Wheeler and  
25 Ms. Hall, and I guess on a sometimes basis Ms. Dewitt, who

1 was a hanger-on there. All because somebody or several  
2 somebodies were so selfish and so mean and had such black  
3 hearts that they would dispense this human misery at the  
4 expense of other people, and that's what this case is all  
5 about. Because seated over there at the defense table in  
6 this case, Mr. Wheeler, who was happy and healthy over  
7 there, is a person who would dispense human misery that  
8 cost so many people so much. They had all these stolen  
9 goods there that day. And we're not saying who stole  
10 anything because who knows, but we know all of those stolen  
11 goods ended up here in Edgefield County out at that  
12 residence and we know from Brian Wade how they got there  
13 because we know what was going on. It wasn't a secret.  
14 Everybody knew; Ms. Dewitt, Mr. Wade.

15 You know, I'm sure that you're gonna hear them get  
16 tossed under the bus and oh, they lied this time, they lied  
17 that time, they're bad people. But look at them. Here's  
18 Mr. Wade who got up and told you in this case -- you know,  
19 he told you basically his life story. He said well, you  
20 know, I grew up over there in the Valley and things were  
21 all right until I started using drugs and started using  
22 methamphetamines, and I got out from under it. But, you  
23 know what, I asked him in this case, the State asked him,  
24 once you start losing meth, do you care about anything  
25 else? No. It has got to be some more powerful drug to

1 make people drop every other drug that they're using to  
2 start using this and they go out and start roaming the  
3 countryside and stealing anything that's not nailed down to  
4 trade for it.

5 Look at Mr. Wade. There he went off to the military  
6 and got his life together and then ordered food for  
7 somebody and gets court marshalled and tossed out of the  
8 military. Here's a guy that went from the Valley in Aiken  
9 that's gone all over in the world in the military. How  
10 stupid. How human, I guess, but he comes back and falls in  
11 with his old faces and places, he's already been using meth  
12 over there in the Valley in Aiken, and he comes back and  
13 gets right into it. And what happens by then? He's living  
14 pillar to post stealing what he can steal, living in cars  
15 and trading any stolen vehicle that he can get his hands on  
16 to Mr. Coon and Mr. Wheeler over here, and he finds out  
17 that he can get a better deal rather than over in Aiken  
18 County. I guess so because they've got quite an enterprise  
19 going here. They've got stolen goods of every type,  
20 they've got surveillance cameras, they've got explosives,  
21 they've got guns, they've got it going on out there. Criminal  
22 enterprise central. You can come out there and trade.  
23 It's like a pawn shop. You can trade anything you can  
24 steal or get your hands on or you can bring cash in there  
25 and you leave with meth, you can leave with pills, you can

1 trade stolen guns. Basically it's a pawn shop. One stop  
2 shopping.

3 He's gone from being a veteran of our military  
4 descended into just going out and being an absolute thief.  
5 It's a good thing he got caught because you can tell in  
6 this case going to prison was a good thing for him. He got  
7 up here and he said it. I'm an addict, it got ahold of me.  
8 Nothing I could do. I got caught and I certainly wanted to  
9 minimize the negative consequences to myself in this case,  
10 and he had meth on him, he had the stolen vehicle, and at  
11 that point in time there wasn't much he could do but start  
12 telling what he knew, so he told law enforcement over in  
13 Aiken, you know, about the stolen vehicles. You heard him.  
14 He helped them get some of them back. And he said hey, the  
15 drugs I got, I can tell you where they came from and I can  
16 tell you where a major operation is going on.

17 And what's he tell them on the front end? He names  
18 Biker Tim. Tim Wheeler over here. He names Mr. Coon. He  
19 talks about Ms. Hall. He says I've been in there. Of  
20 course, they find out and corroborate that he has been in  
21 there. They go get a search warrant. He lays it all out  
22 to them. Think about the specificity and the information  
23 that he gave them there. I was there, we shot guns, we  
24 blasted this van.

25 See, that's the thing about the truth. It all fits



1 together. It's been said that no man has a good enough  
2 memory to be a successful liar because you can't remember  
3 what you've told. If it's not the truth, you can't  
4 remember your lies. You listened to Mr. Coon. He has no  
5 idea what he said at what time because the truth's not in  
6 it and he'll back up and go forwards and backwards and  
7 sideways because he can't remember what he said because he  
8 lies.

9 He told them they were gonna find explosives. Look  
10 at the blasting cap. He told them there was gonna be  
11 sawed-off shotguns where they shot up the van. There they  
12 are. He said that there was gonna be surveillance  
13 equipment. Everybody talked about the surveillance  
14 measures that they had. He named the people that were  
15 gonna be there. They knew all of that on the front end  
16 because he was the confidential informant. And, yes, he  
17 was listed on the affidavit as the confidential informant  
18 to try to protect him in this case because here are  
19 dangerous people with guns, explosives, surveillance  
20 equipment who you can see from Mr. Coon who will tell you  
21 if you snitch on me or if you tell on me, you're gonna get  
22 your tongue cut out. That's the people that they are  
23 dealing with.

24 And Mr. Wheeler is right in there in the midst of  
25 this. He's staying there. Never mind what they're gonna

1 tell you. Oh, he wasn't living there, you know, he just  
2 stayed there from time to time. Look at the amount of dope  
3 that's in this case. There's a billfold with \$7,300 and  
4 his driver's license. There's mail from all over the  
5 place; coincidentally, from the same address that's gonna  
6 come back on the tag of the Harley-Davidson that they'd  
7 have you believe oh, he didn't have anything to do with  
8 that, that's just a magnificent coincidence in this case.  
9 Letters that have come from all over the place there, his  
10 personal effects.

11 He was living there just exactly like Ms. Dewitt said.  
12 She was living there. Another tragic figure if there ever  
13 was one. I guess for lack of a better term, not to  
14 disparage her because she got up here and did testify for  
15 the State, but a meth head. She was over there hanging  
16 with these men, these fifty-something year old men because  
17 she wanted drugs and it was a place that she could get  
18 drugs and one could only imagine the cost that she had to  
19 pay in human dignity and self-respect to get drugs out  
20 there and hang around. They were running up and down the  
21 road. He's got his twenty-something year old daughter  
22 living with this fifty-something year old man there in this  
23 house. They're all there roped up together using meth,  
24 selling meth, trading for stolen goods, a yard full of  
25 stolen vehicles. Lord, they can't roll down the road

1 unless they get on something that's stolen from somebody  
2 else and it's just all out there. The wrong tags on  
3 vehicles, stuff from all over the place.

4 And you heard what Ms. Dewitt said. She said I was  
5 took up there. Once I went there to get drugs from  
6 Mr. Wheeler and she said my role was once I fell in there  
7 was to watch the camera so I could see five, six people a  
8 day coming up and down the road there to buy drugs and  
9 trade stolen goods for drugs and what I would do is I'd go  
10 to the door and that was my role and I'd answer my door and  
11 then they'd either ask for Mr. Wheeler or Mr. Coon and  
12 they'd go deal with them. Sometimes the customers would  
13 come out and, you know, I'd do some with them and that was  
14 the tale that she told in this case and she laid out.

15 All the witnesses were consistent. Mr. Coon in this  
16 case, he stayed over in the left bedroom. Mr. Wheeler,  
17 Ms. Hall. And you can look at the photographs and all  
18 of the personal effects and items that he had that  
19 corroborated that. All the evidence fits together. They  
20 lived in the middle bedroom and then they had some puppies  
21 in the third bedroom and they found this big old green box  
22 with all those items. And you can look. There's a  
23 mountain of evidence here. They've got the green box laid  
24 out in these photographs here that show all the contents of  
25 it. It's just full of pills; it's just full of 717 grams

1 of finished product of methamphetamine, Xanax tablets. All  
2 of that kind of stuff was in that box. And from the outset  
3 in this case when Ms. Dewitt started talking she told them  
4 about the green box. She told them that Mr. Wheeler in  
5 this case was the one that she usually saw with the green  
6 box dealing out of it. Over and over again it keeps coming  
7 back to him.

8 Now you've seen Mr. Coon in this case get up and tell  
9 you, you know, that oh, you know, I'm gonna take this, you  
10 know, I'm gonna take it. He told officers that from the  
11 start. He said well, you know, if I just can't get out  
12 from under this and it comes down to it I'm gonna take it  
13 for my daughter, I'm gonna take it for my brother in this  
14 case. Well, him getting up and just raising his hand and  
15 saying after he contests it and lies and lies and says I  
16 didn't have anything to do with this, you know, I don't  
17 know anything about this, none of these guns are mine, all  
18 of the things that he told the officers on the front end,  
19 he goes through that over and over again, I'm not guilty.

20 We start the trial and fight the search warrant. When  
21 all of that evidence, a mountain of evidence, comes in  
22 against him, this guy with cancer ultimately says okay,  
23 you've got me, you finally proved it on me, you know, I'm  
24 gonna take it. I'm gonna hold up my hand and take it. But  
25 somebody holding up their hand and saying I'm taking this

1 doesn't change the facts. It doesn't erase the fact that  
2 all of these individuals were involved in pedaling this  
3 human misery at the expense of everybody else here in  
4 Edgefield County. It's not like he gets to raise his hand  
5 and say I'm taking it, let them free, you know, through  
6 some whatever sense of loyalty to his daughter and this man  
7 that he calls his brother in this case. He's trying to  
8 pull them out from under it and say I'm gonna take it. But  
9 you can't be deny history and he can't get up here and lie  
10 his way out of it.

11 Why keep secret what he was doing? He wanted to see  
12 the people that had snitched on him and find out who they  
13 were and that's why he took it to trial and he told you  
14 that. And you can see the character and the demeanor of  
15 him once he gets caught. He's gonna cut her tongue out.  
16 He's gonna get up here and he's gonna take it, hold up his  
17 hand. You can't convict Mr. Wheeler of a thing because I'm  
18 gonna hold up my hand and I'm gonna erase everything that  
19 they've done up until this point of time. It's just not  
20 that simple. You don't get to be that indifferent of your  
21 fellow man and then just have somebody else wipe the slate  
22 clean for you because they're gonna take it.

23 He doesn't have much time left. He's a person with  
24 cancer. He doesn't care much about it. He doesn't care at  
25 all. Because anybody that can get up here and say that

1 they were threatening witnesses and that sort of thing on  
2 the back end and brag about it up here in an open courtroom  
3 doesn't much care. He's got twenty-five years, he's got  
4 cancer, he's gonna hold up his hand and he's gonna erase  
5 everything that they've done in this case. That's what he  
6 hopes to do.

7 The judge is gonna go through all of the charges in  
8 this case and I'll tell you upfront in this case that they  
9 may get up and argue, oh, well, he took or claimed two of  
10 these guns here, Mr. Coon says they were his, so don't find  
11 him guilty of these. Agent Prince said that he found one  
12 of these in the bedroom, a sawed-off shotgun, in this case.  
13 You know, do whatever you want with those charges. What  
14 we're up here about is the trafficking charge. If you  
15 think he deserves any consideration that he wasn't using  
16 all these vehicles or he didn't own every one of these,  
17 then find him not guilty on those. I don't care. It  
18 doesn't make any difference.

19 What we're up here about is trafficking over 400 grams  
20 of methamphetamine and you can make sure that you know in  
21 this case that Mr. Wheeler was dealing the methamphetamine  
22 out of this green box. It keeps coming back to him time  
23 and time again. A man with \$7,300 in his billfold. Who  
24 other than a meth dealer living in squaller like this is  
25 gonna have \$7,300 in cash money in his billfold? So find

1 him guilty of whatever you want to in this case.

2       There's a thing called actual possession and  
3 constructive possession. And just because somebody stands  
4 up and says oh, this is mine and I'm gonna take it doesn't  
5 erase away the fact that they've got this house just full  
6 of guns, explosives and everything else. Because when  
7 you're a drug dealer and you're a drug trafficker you need  
8 to defend your turf. It might be against somebody coming  
9 in and trying to rip you off because they know you've got  
10 nearly a kilo of methamphetamine here, seven hundred and  
11 something grams, I guess three-quarters of it, all of this  
12 money on the premises and all, you need guns, you need  
13 surveillance equipment because people that are so desperate  
14 that they'll go out and roam the countryside might come in  
15 there and steal it from you.

16       And old Mr. Coon in this case, you know, they've got  
17 explosives set up, everything they can to counter that, and  
18 that's why when law enforcement went down there they got  
19 ATF, they got the SLED SWAT team, they got all the  
20 resources of the sheriff's department. It wasn't just two  
21 people here, a deputy and a sheriff here. They gathered  
22 people from all over the state to deal with this so that  
23 they could descend on them with all of this criminal  
24 activity going on and no one get hurt and they did it.  
25 They got in there and nobody was able to set off any

1 explosives or jerk up any sawed-off shotguns and shoot  
2 anybody, they just got taken into custody.

3 That's what I'm circling back to. There's actual  
4 possession of something and constructive possession it.  
5 This shotgun is laying right here. Do I own it? Do I  
6 possess it? Well, I can sure reach and pick it up.  
7 Somebody else within arm's reach of it could sure reach and  
8 pick it up. At any point in time that person or whoever's  
9 around it exercises any intent to pick it up, they can  
10 exercise dominion and control over it. That's constructive  
11 possession of an item. And there were weapons throughout  
12 this trailer and there's no doubt that they were there in  
13 order to defend it either from law enforcement or from  
14 somebody coming in to rip them off or from whoever showed  
15 up. So anything that's in that trailer that's available  
16 to anybody there, they certainly had either actual or  
17 constructive possession of it no matter where they were in  
18 the house.

19 But, again, if there's any problem with that, a lot  
20 of people testified in this case that Pops rode the  
21 Sportster in this case and Mr. Wheeler only rode the  
22 Electra Glide there, the FL, 54, that Mr. Negron had stolen  
23 from him with his tag number on it with his address on it  
24 out of the paperwork that he's got there in the house, if  
25 he's just guilty of having that stolen vehicle, that's



1 fine. Now he could have driven anything else there on  
2 the property or used anything or exercised dominion and  
3 control over any of those stolen items, so there's  
4 certainly sufficient evidence to convict him of any and  
5 all of the things that he's charge with in this case.

6 The sawed-off shotguns, he certainly could exercise  
7 dominion and control over them, but if you only get to --  
8 if you find that he was only able to exercise dominion and  
9 control over the one that was in his bedroom, find him  
10 guilty of that one and find him not guilty of the other  
11 two. Find him guilty of the one Harley-Davidson and not  
12 the other. It doesn't make any difference because, again,  
13 it all comes back down to trafficking over 400 grams of  
14 methamphetamine. That's what's generated \$7,300 that he  
15 had in his billfold that he garnered at the expense of  
16 everyone else in this case that was an addict, the people  
17 that were there with him, the people that are roaming  
18 around through the countryside and trying to steal all of  
19 these items in order to bring them in there and trade for  
20 that right there, that bag of human misery.

21 Ladies and gentlemen, there's a mountain of evidence  
22 in this case. The judge is gonna go through and talk to  
23 you about the elements that we've got to prove. You've  
24 heard all these tedious questions. The State's got the  
25 burden of proof in this case. We've got to show you that

1 it all happened in Edgefield County. That's why we talked  
2 over and over about that. We asked witness after witness  
3 did all of these events take place in Edgefield County.

4 On the trafficking, the judge is gonna charge you,  
5 trafficking is so expansive; aids, abets, conspires. You  
6 don't have to actually be the one holding it, but if you're  
7 assisting, aiding, abetting or conspiring with somebody.  
8 Just like Ms. Dewitt. She was going and getting plastic  
9 bags and furthering this enterprise, she was standing at  
10 the door. She's guilty of trafficking because when you're  
11 talking about that level of drugs, the people that are  
12 aiding, abetting, assisting, providing a place for it,  
13 being helpers in it, they're just as guilty of trafficking  
14 as the principals, the main people, like Timothy Wheeler,  
15 the man with the green box. That's the trafficking charge.

16 The other one, the drug charge he has, is the Xanax  
17 and you just have to look at the quantity he had and the  
18 fact that there were all these other drugs there, there was  
19 all this testimony about how this is just grand central  
20 station because he's charged with the Schedule IV drug  
21 Xanax, possession with intent to distribute, and that's  
22 one of the things the judge is gonna talk to you about.  
23 There's possession, just merely having something, and  
24 possession with intent to distribute. There are certain  
25 factors that go into it and the judge will talk to you

1 about that. If you've got over a certain quantity or  
2 weight of different substances, you know, if there's other  
3 evidence like somebody's got scales or there are multiple  
4 baggies of some kind, there's all kinds of evidence that  
5 can make a difference in between merely possessing  
6 something and possessing it with intent to distribute.

7 In this case, there's a lot of evidence certainly of  
8 possession with intent to distribute. There's the direct  
9 testimony from Ms. Dewitt and Mr. Wade in this case that  
10 they had these items because you could go in and you could  
11 trade whatever stolen goods or money that you brought in  
12 there and you could get pills, you could get meth. They  
13 had pills, they had marijuana. That's the difference the  
14 State's talking about in mere possession of it and  
15 possession with intent to distribute. You look at all of  
16 the evidence that's come in in this case. The testimony  
17 of people that were directly telling you yeah, they were  
18 distributing these items. That's evidence that these items  
19 were possessed with the intent to distribute.

20 Because one of the other charges is the marijuana and  
21 they found some marijuana in this case and you heard the  
22 chemist get up here and tell you yeah, you know, two bags  
23 weighed out about the same weight and, you know, it's up to  
24 you decide whether he possessed it or possessed it with  
25 intent to distribute in this case. The State submits to

1 you the only evidence in this case was they were possessing  
2 all of these things with the intent to distribute. Now  
3 they were using some of it themselves, but they would  
4 certainly swap or trade or sell anything that they had on  
5 them and there's ample testimony in the record.

6 We come back down to the three sawed-off shotguns in  
7 this case. Could Mr. Wheeler have exercised dominion and  
8 control over those shotguns if somebody showed up there to  
9 rip them off or law enforcement came? You decide. There's  
10 three of them. Mr. Coon's trying to tell and they'll argue  
11 to you oh, Coon said two of them were his. Now one time he  
12 did. Sometimes he said none of them are mine, but it just  
13 depends on what serves his purposes, so you decide. On the  
14 possession or having these sawed-off shotguns, the judge is  
15 gonna tell you, you know, if they're under twenty-six  
16 inches in overall length or the barrel length is less than  
17 eighteen. Well, you know, we've proven it to you and  
18 that's why you've got all these pictures from ATF and the  
19 scale in these and the measurements. This basically shows  
20 you somebody took these guns, and you can look at these  
21 photos that ATF made where there are big, nice, full-size  
22 hunting weapons and what they would have looked like  
23 originally, and then they've got them how they were sawed  
24 off so they could be concealed and throw out a wide pattern  
25 of shot being cut down like this and hidden. That's why

1 those weapons are illegal, why they're against the law, if  
2 you take a hunting weapon and cut it down to something  
3 that's deadly and could be concealed. You decide which of  
4 those two he's guilty of on the sawed-off or the possession  
5 of an unlawful weapon.

6 All of the stolen goods in this case. Well, this  
7 camper sitting out there, we don't know if he was using the  
8 camper or not. It really doesn't make any difference. You  
9 make up your mind whether or not he was guilty of that.

10 The Mossberg pump shotgun that the fella said that all  
11 of his stuff got stolen and one of them was stolen, you  
12 decide whether or not he's guilty of possessing that. The  
13 weapons were scattered throughout the house. If he could  
14 exercise dominion or control or had active or constructive  
15 possession of that weapon at any time, find him guilty or  
16 not guilty on that. Just use your judgment.

17 All of the items, the vehicles. The red pick-up  
18 truck. Now there's certainly evidence in this case.  
19 There's testimony directly in here that he was the one that  
20 was driving the red stolen Chevrolet pick-up truck that the  
21 old gentleman from Columbia had stolen from him, the one  
22 with the custom wheels on it, and y'all will have the  
23 photos of that in there. You know, there's certainly  
24 testimony in there that he had this. And they may argue  
25 to you oh, we can't prove that he knew it was stolen.

1 Everything on the property was stolen there.

2 They got these Harley-Davidson motorcycles that were  
3 -- you heard the testimony of what -- the condition that  
4 they were in to start with and they're trying to paint them  
5 out there and cut them up and chop them up so nobody will  
6 recognize them, that the original owners won't recognize  
7 them, and so they're out there spray painting them like  
8 Ms. Dewitt said and covering up the VIN numbers and working  
9 on them and trying to change them around so nobody -- but  
10 there's ample evidence in this case. Finally, on the  
11 little Harley-Davidson, you find that he was in possession  
12 of those stolen goods, that little one, or not. The one  
13 that he was riding and he's got his tag on there, he  
14 certainly had possession of that.

15 Just consider all of the evidence in this case. Think  
16 about what people's motives are here. Come back with a  
17 verdict that speaks the truth. If you do that, the twelve  
18 of you have done all that anybody could ask for. I  
19 appreciate your close attention.

20 **THE COURT:** Mr. Thuss.

21 **MR. THUSS:** May it please the Court?

22 **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

23 **MR. THUSS:** Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Wheeler at the  
24 start of this trial has pled not guilty and he's pled not  
25 guilty to all of these charges. He has pled not guilty to

1 these drugs, he's pled not guilty to these sawed-off  
2 weapons, and he's pled not guilty to any of the stolen  
3 property that you've heard about in the last day or so of  
4 testimony.

5       You've heard -- well, let me go back. There was a  
6 search warrant executed on December 22nd and Mr. Wheeler  
7 was present along with two other people. Why didn't he  
8 flush the meth -- if he knew that police were outside, as  
9 Ms. Dewitt testified she told him, and he woke up and he  
10 had time to put on his clothes and wait before the police  
11 to come in, if he knew these drugs were there in Bedroom  
12 Number 3, why didn't he dispose of them? Wouldn't anybody  
13 in that position have tried to dispose of that? It's a  
14 crystal substance they can flush right down the toilet. It  
15 wouldn't take quite a minute.

16       You heard the testimony about the -- about the  
17 sawed-off shotguns and -- and the Mossberg and from more  
18 than Mr. Coon. You've heard others talk about whether  
19 they'd seen Mr. Wheeler having them, using these, holding  
20 them, doing anything with them. And you've heard the  
21 testimony -- you've heard it, Mr. Wheeler does not receive  
22 mail -- there's no mail, there's nothing that showed that  
23 Mr. Wheeler was -- was a resident. He was dating the  
24 daughter of Mr. Coon and you'll have to decide whether or  
25 not that he had the -- if he was a guest there, if he was

1 staying there in and out, or whether or not he was there  
2 and in a position to -- to have access to everything in  
3 the house there. Use your common sense, use your practical  
4 experience about it, about these sorts of things. We  
5 don't know because we've seen a broad picture of a lot of  
6 testimony, but we don't know with certainty how long  
7 Mr. Wheeler had been staying there, if he had been in and  
8 out, if he -- I mean, there are holes in this and I can  
9 paint a broad picture of it, but I -- I just try to stick  
10 to arguing the facts that I heard and whether they were  
11 refuted, whether they were inconsistent or whether the  
12 testimony is clear to the legal standard that the judge is  
13 gonna instruct you that you have to apply.

14 There are two witnesses who testified, Brian Wade and  
15 Ms. Jennifer Dewitt. You've heard about their backgrounds,  
16 you've heard about -- in Brian's -- Brian Wade's case, you  
17 heard about his history and his giving false information in  
18 the past. In Ms. Dewitt's case, you've heard about her  
19 giving an oral statement on December 22nd when everything  
20 happened, when the bust happened that day, and you've --  
21 you've heard what she said at that time before she was  
22 charged with any crimes and now you've heard about what  
23 she's decided to say last Thursday when she gave a  
24 statement and testimony Mr. Coon's trial after she had been  
25 charged with trafficking methamphetamine.



1       You'll have to decide what to believe. There's  
2       uncertainty about how -- how much time Mr. Wheeler spent  
3       there apart from -- well, Ms. Dewitt testified that she saw  
4       Mr. Wheeler carrying a toolbox, this box, this ammo box  
5       with "tools" written on it, and -- but I don't believe that  
6       we heard any testimony that she or Mr. Wade saw him taking  
7       drugs out of this box and we don't know what was in this  
8       toolbox when she saw him carrying it around because we  
9       didn't have specific testimony about when she saw him  
10      carrying this around. If you believe her. If you believe  
11      her testimony.

12      Mr. Wade's testimony concerning Mr. Wheeler's  
13      involvement with the drugs was that after having  
14      established a relationship with Mr. Coon and coming there  
15      over a period of time making dealings with Mr. Coon that  
16      he came there on December 6th, fifteen, sixteen days  
17      before drugs were found in this box when the -- when the --  
18      the day of the search, and his statement, if you believe  
19      Mr. Wade, was that after the end of the conversation  
20      between him and Mr. Coon about fronting drugs and all that  
21      Mr. Wheeler came with a quarter ounce of methamphetamine  
22      and handed it to Mr. Coon.

23      That, I think, was -- was Mr. Wade's testimony. So  
24      if you can get past the fact that Mr. Wade has -- he's a  
25      drug addict and he's gotten in trouble and turned over

1 information to try to help himself out on his charges and  
2 the sentence that he's received and that he's given  
3 evidence -- given false information in the past, if you  
4 believe that, then what it shows is that Mr. Wheeler might  
5 have -- Mr. Wade might have seen him with seven grams in  
6 his hand, but not -- and that was back on December 6th and  
7 not this quantity of methamphetamine because the drugs  
8 were not found in Mr. Wheeler's actual possession on the  
9 day that the bust occurred.. The drugs were in Bedroom  
10 Number 3 where the puppies were being kept and where Ms.  
11 -- Ms. Heather Hall's belongings were, not a bedroom that  
12 there's been any testimony that Mr. Wheeler used or went  
13 into.

14 Now I can -- I just can't help but thinking that if  
15 he knew those drugs were in that room and he had time the  
16 morning of the bust, why didn't he get up before the police  
17 came in and dispose of it? Ms. Dewitt, who was a State's  
18 witness, admitted that, admitted that he didn't take any  
19 action. It wasn't like the police came with a no-knock  
20 warrant and knocked down the door and came in. They pulled  
21 up, Ms. Dewitt noticed them, she woke Mr. Wheeler up, he  
22 took his time putting on clothes and then -- and then the  
23 police came into the house.

24 Mr. Harmon who owns the property didn't know who  
25 Mr. Wheeler was. Even though he comes out there to collect

1     rent and do inspections, he didn't know who Mr. Wheeler  
2     was. And you heard -- you heard the testimony, you heard  
3     it, Mr. Wheeler had money in his wallet, but I questioned  
4     Investigator Young because I've got money laying -- or  
5     money that was found in this box, an indeterminant amount  
6     of money, showing hundred dollar bills on top and then  
7     there's money laying around on the floor and then there's  
8     an amount of money in Mr. Wheeler's wallet, and it looks  
9     like it's a thick wad of money, but because the money -- I  
10    have questions about the -- how the total amount of money  
11    that they're trying to attribute to Mr. Wheeler was come  
12    up with because it's clear that there -- it appears that  
13    they're saying that all the money was Mr. Wheeler's, but  
14    it's clear that there were sums of money that were found  
15    with these drugs.

16         Mr. Wheeler -- it's admitted into evidence,  
17    Mr. Wheeler's documents, none of them that -- none of them  
18    that have addresses here, but there's one in particular, a  
19    green receipt, that showed that Mr. Wheeler was making  
20    child support payments. Well, if Mr. Wheeler couldn't keep  
21    large sums of money in the bank because he was afraid it  
22    was gonna --

23         **MR. MAYE:** Your Honor, that's arguing facts not in  
24    evidence. I object to that.

25         **THE COURT:** You're arguing facts outside of the

1 evidence.

2       **MR. THUSS:** But there are other reasons why a person  
3 could have large sums of money on -- on their person. So  
4 I'm -- I'm not going to belabor my argument. I would like  
5 for you to listen to the law that -- that the judge charges  
6 you now and take care about considering what was actually  
7 put into evidence, weigh the credibility of the witnesses,  
8 and render a decision on this case. Mr. Wheeler is  
9 asserting that he is not guilty and that -- that these  
10 drugs found on December 22nd were not his and that he was  
11 -- in fact, he was merely present at that location because  
12 of his relationship with Mr. Coon's daughter, Heather Hall.  
13 Thank you.

14       **THE COURT:** All right, Mr. Mayes. Reply?

15       **MR. MAYE:** Very briefly, Your Honor.

16       Ladies and gentlemen, y'all use your common sense. If  
17 one would expect that the SLED SWAT team and ATF and the  
18 sheriff's office when they had information that they were  
19 going out there to serve a search warrant on people with  
20 explosives and booby traps and sawed-off shotguns and the  
21 defensive measures that they had in place, if one would  
22 guess that they gave these folks time to turn around  
23 backwards in the case or get rid of any evidence, that  
24 would be a serious underestimation of the level of force  
25 that they were bringing there. They didn't gather all

1 those folks up to go and make a causal knock on the door.  
2 You can bet in this case if they thought anybody was trying  
3 to get rid of that evidence out there in that doublewide  
4 mobile home, they would have got a backhoe and lifted that  
5 up before they let that happen. You can bet on that.

6 In this case, this box over here in the corner of the  
7 house, they said oh, he wasn't doing anything wrong in this  
8 case, you ought to find him not guilty because he didn't  
9 know anything about this, he would have gotten up out of  
10 the bed there with all those officers around and he would  
11 have just gotten rid of all this stuff. All these big old  
12 huge bags of drugs, they've got drugs and stolen goods and  
13 items, how big of a toilet would it take to flush away all  
14 that evidence that was throughout that house and scattered  
15 right and left and up and down? Drugs everywhere in the  
16 house. All this here, but scattered.

17 Look at the photographs of the underside of the bed up  
18 there where he was; drug paraphernalia, sawed-off shotgun,  
19 explosives, weapons. How's he gonna get rid of any of  
20 that? He wouldn't have had time to turn around backwards  
21 in this case. And, ladies and gentlemen, it's quite a  
22 stretch to think that the SLED SWAT team and ATF and the  
23 sheriff's department would have let them get rid of a thing  
24 in this case or do one thing where they could pick up a  
25 weapon or hurt somebody in this case.

1 All that we ask that you do is use your common sense  
2 and come back with a verdict that speaks the truth. Thank  
3 you.

4 **THE COURT:** Okay, folks. My instructions are coming  
5 hot off the press. Anyway, I know most of them. I like  
6 to make a written copy of them. I read some of them, I  
7 tell you some of them, then I give the balance of the  
8 written to Ms. Johnson and she keeps them in her record.

9 Anyway, it will take about thirty minutes, maybe a  
10 little less, to read these instructions to you. By that  
11 time lunch should be here and then we'll send you back to  
12 the jury room and once y'all begin deliberations y'all can  
13 eat and deliberate or eat and then deliberation. You're on  
14 own time, all right?

15 (Pause in the proceedings.)

16 **THE COURT:** All right, ladies and gentlemen of the  
17 jury. Mr. Barnes, thank you for being the foreperson.  
18 The State of South Carolina has charged the Defendant,  
19 Mr. Timothy Wayne Wheeler, with the crime of -- several  
20 indictments. To my count, there's five counts of receiving  
21 stolen goods, two counts of possession with intent to  
22 distribute illegal narcotics, one count of trafficking  
23 methamphetamine, and three counts of possession of illegal  
24 or improper firearms.

25 Please bear in mind that he's pled not guilty. Can

1 y'all hear me? Am I loud enough right now? I can hear  
2 the echo of the microphone. He's pled not guilty and by  
3 that plea has requested the State prove its case beyond a  
4 reasonable doubt.

5 As I told you in my opening instructions, a defendant  
6 comes into court clothed with a presumption of innocence  
7 and this presumption entitles him to a verdict of not  
8 guilty unless and until it is dispelled by all of the  
9 evidence presented by the State satisfying you of his  
10 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt of the offenses charged.

11 I tell you, and I'll define what a reasonable doubt is  
12 momentarily, but the State must prove all of the elements  
13 in each of the indictments beyond a reasonable doubt and  
14 each of those indictments stand separately. There's  
15 eleven. There could be five one way, six the other, seven  
16 and four, eleven and zero, two and nine. It does not  
17 matter. They all stand independently and you are to  
18 consider them independently.

19 Now I told you earlier that y'all would have to accept  
20 the law as I am instructing it to you here today, so I tell  
21 you that if you have an understanding or an idea what the  
22 law is or what you heard it might be, read somewhere what  
23 it is and it disagrees with the law as I'm instructing it  
24 currently, you must dissociate your misunderstanding and  
25 accept the law as I am giving it to you here today.

1           I mean, for instance, we had a -- a change in the law  
2 of how the closing statements go as recently as January 5th  
3 and the lawyers complied with that change by summarizing  
4 their cases under the new rule. So the law changes. We  
5 accept those changes and it's my job to keep up with the  
6 changes and so I am instructing you on the law as I  
7 understand it currently. Now if I make a mistake in the  
8 instruction of law, there's another time and another place  
9 that that mistake can be considered and, if necessary,  
10 corrected. But for our purposes today you must accept it  
11 as I am giving it to you currently.

12           In all criminal prosecutions, the State bears the  
13 burden of proof and they must prove each and every element  
14 to the extent of proof called beyond a reasonable doubt  
15 before a finding of guilt may be held. The same  
16 constitution which makes me the instructor of the law and  
17 the ruler on the legal issues presented during the trial  
18 makes you as a group the finders of fact and more or less  
19 the judges of the facts. In order to judge and find facts  
20 from the evidence which is presented, you must necessarily  
21 evaluate and judge the credibility of the evidence and  
22 testimony which has been presented to you.

23           Now credibility is believability. You can use  
24 anything in your collective group's common sense to  
25 evaluate whether someone's telling the truth or is not



1 telling truth. Some other things that you can consider,  
2 if not obvious from the beginning, would be that you can  
3 task and take into consideration the manner and the  
4 appearance of the witnesses who testified; were they  
5 straightforward? Were they hesitant in answering? How  
6 did a witness come to know the facts to which he or she  
7 testified? What was their ability to recollect the facts  
8 to which they testified? Is there some reason a witness  
9 would want to give testimony which would help or hurt one  
10 side or the other? In other words, did the witness have  
11 a bias or a prejudice towards one side or the other? Was  
12 the testimony of the witness strengthened or weakened by  
13 other testimony or other evidence? You as a group may  
14 believe as much or as little of the testimony provided as  
15 you deem appropriate. You can believe one witness against  
16 several, several witnesses against one. You can believe  
17 part of a witness's testimony and disbelieve the rest.  
18 Whatever you in your collective judgment determine to be  
19 believable and credible is what you're to do. The fact  
20 that testimony is not contradicted or controverted does  
21 not mean you must accept it. You still determine the  
22 credibility of who testified.

23 Several of the witnesses' past criminal record was  
24 presented to you or asked questions about. You can  
25 consider those prior records only on the issue of their

1 believability, but not on their -- for any other reason.

2       There were a couple of witnesses qualified as expert  
3 witnesses. Expert witnesses are persons who have  
4 experience, training, education in certain fields of  
5 expertise to which they can offer opinions in that field  
6 of expertise. Now I tell you you do not have to accept an  
7 expert witness's opinion because it's not undisputed. You  
8 can consider it just as you do with the other testimony of  
9 the other witnesses who were not experts. If you do not  
10 believe the expert had sufficient training and expertise,  
11 then you can disregard that opinion in its entirety. It  
12 is your job to determine the facts based upon all of the  
13 testimony and evidence presented to you in this trial. You  
14 do not have to consider an expert's opinion more believable  
15 because of the fact they're an expert.

16       Now as the factfinders, the twelve of you  
17 collectively, I observed you -- noticed you listening  
18 carefully to the testimony and evidence. Weighing evidence  
19 is entirely a mental process. You must weigh this evidence  
20 in the jury room using your good judgment and your common  
21 sense. The evidence which convinces you of the truth  
22 regardless of where it came from, whether the State or the  
23 defense, your objective is to find the truth and find the  
24 true facts.

25       Generally in trials there are two types of evidence.

1 There's direct evidence and there's also circumstantial  
2 evidence. Direct evidence is basically eyewitness  
3 testimony; that I saw, I smelled, I observed someone do  
4 this or that. Now circumstantial evidence is slightly  
5 different. It is proof of a -- several other facts, a  
6 chain of facts and circumstances, indicating the existence  
7 of yet another fact. Our law makes no distinction between  
8 either the weight or value to be given to either direct  
9 testimony or circumstantial evidence. There's no greater  
10 degree of certainty required of circumstantial evidence  
11 than that of direct evidence. You should weigh all of the  
12 evidence in the case. I tell you, however, that to the  
13 extent that the State relies upon circumstantial evidence  
14 all of the circumstances must be consistent with one  
15 another and when taken together point conclusively to the  
16 guilt of the accused beyond a reasonable doubt. If any of  
17 those circumstances just portray the Defendant's behavior  
18 as suspicious, then the proof the State has offered has  
19 failed. Thus, if after weighing all of the evidence,  
20 whether it be direct, circumstantial, photographs,  
21 anything, if you have a reasonable doubt that the  
22 Defendant's not guilty, you'll be required to find him not  
23 guilty.

24 What is a reasonable doubt? A reasonable doubt is the  
25 kind of doubt which causes a reasonable person to hesitate

1 to act. A reasonable doubt may arise from evidence which  
2 is in the case or from the lack or absence of evidence in  
3 the case. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt leaves you  
4 firmly convinced of the Defendant's guilt. It is the  
5 kind of doubt which a person can assign a reason if the  
6 assignment can be done reasonably and firmly. I charge you  
7 further the Defendant in this case is entitled to every  
8 reasonable doubt that may arise and what that means is if  
9 you have any doubt during the trial you're required to  
10 resolve that doubt in the Defendant's favor.

11 I'll tell you the fact that y'all as a group had a  
12 full and free discussion of the issue of guilt or innocence  
13 does not automatically create a reasonable doubt in this  
14 case. You must make a determination of whether or not a  
15 reasonable doubt exists. If the State's not met that  
16 burden, then the Defendant is entitled to a verdict of not  
17 guilty.

18 Criminal intent is a necessary element of the crimes  
19 charged here. Criminal intent is matter which must be  
20 determined from the jury from the circumstances surrounding  
21 the situation. There's no way to prove to a mathematical  
22 certainty that a criminal intent exists. There's no way  
23 medical science can dissect a person's brain to determine  
24 what he had in mind. Our law says that criminal intent  
25 may be inferred from the circumstances shown to have

1   existed both before and after the fact. Criminal intent  
2   is a state of mind that operates jointly with an act or  
3   omission in the commission of a crime. It is a mental  
4   state of conscious wrongdoing. You must determine what  
5   the Defendant intended to do based upon the circumstances  
6   shown to have existed and I tell you the State must prove  
7   intent beyond a reasonable doubt.

8         All right. The specifics on the indictments. As I  
9   told you, there are eleven. I'm gonna define those. The  
10   ones that are similar charges, the charges and instructions  
11   will be the same.

12         Mr. Wheeler's charged with possession with intent to  
13   distribute marijuana. In order to sustain a conviction on  
14   that offense, the State must prove that the Defendant  
15   possessed with intent to distribute that drug. Possession  
16   means the Defendant had both the power and intent to  
17   control the disposition or use of the marijuana.  
18   Possession may be actual or constructive. Actual  
19   possession means it was in physical custody of the  
20   Defendant. Constructive possession is slightly different.  
21   It means that the Defendant had dominion and control or  
22   the right to exercise dominion and control over the drug  
23   or over the property with which the drug was found. Mere  
24   presence at the scene where the drug was found is not  
25   enough to prove possession. Actual knowledge of the

1 presence of the marijuana is strong evidence of its intent  
2 to control its distribution and use. The Defendant's  
3 knowledge and possession may be inferred when a substance  
4 is found on the property under Defendant's control. This  
5 inference is simply an evidentiary fact to be taken in  
6 consideration by you along with the other evidence and you  
7 give the weight on that evidence that you decide -- you  
8 decide it deserves.

9 The State must also prove beyond a reasonable doubt  
10 that the Defendant intended to distribute the marijuana.  
11 The term distribution means to deliver other than by --  
12 distribute means deliver other than by administering or  
13 dispensing the drug. Intent may be shown by the acts and  
14 conduct of the Defendant and other circumstances from  
15 which you may naturally and reasonably infer intent.

16 In determining whether the Defendant had the intent to  
17 distribute marijuana, you can consider the circumstances  
18 surrounding the alleged possession. You can consider the  
19 amount of the substance that was to have allegedly been  
20 possessed, the manner in which it was possessed, the place  
21 in which it was allegedly possessed and any other factors  
22 which you would consider to be important. You must find  
23 that the Defendant did not intend to have the marijuana  
24 solely for his own use.

25 The State must also prove that the substance at issue

1 was marijuana. I tell you also the possession of  
2 twenty-eight grams or more of marijuana creates an  
3 inference that the Defendant intended to possess with an  
4 intent to distribute the marijuana. This inference does  
5 not relieve the State from proofing beyond a reasonable  
6 doubt that the Defendant intended to distribute. It is  
7 also an evidentiary fact to be taken into consideration  
8 along with the other evidence of his intent.

9 Now the same instruction on the possession of the  
10 controlled -- Jacob, will you print that up for me on the  
11 Xanax and alprazolam, that controlled substance?

12 (Pause in the proceedings.)

13 **THE COURT:** All right, folks. I'm gonna tell you  
14 also the Defendant's charged with possession with intent to  
15 distribute alprazolam or Xanax; one's generic and one's a  
16 drug store name. In order to prove that, the State must  
17 prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he had actually  
18 possessed the Schedule IV controlled substance with the  
19 intent to distribute. Possession, the same instruction  
20 will apply. The State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt  
21 that he had both the intent and power to control the  
22 distribution of the controlled substance, he had the  
23 ability to control where -- either actual or constructive  
24 where the drug was found. The State must prove that he  
25 possessed with intent to distribute in the same fashion as

1 the marijuana instructions; he had possession, either  
2 actual or constructive. Actual means it was in their  
3 physical custody. Constructive possession means he had  
4 dominion and control or the right to exercise dominion or  
5 control over the area where the drugs were found. The  
6 intent to distribute may be shown by the acts and conduct  
7 of the parties and any other circumstances which -- from  
8 which you may naturally and reasonably infer intent. I  
9 tell you the State must prove those elements beyond a  
10 reasonable doubt also with regard to the possession with  
11 intent to distribute controlled substances.

12 Also the Defendant is charged with trafficking  
13 methamphetamine. In order to sustain a conviction for  
14 trafficking methamphetamine, the State must prove the  
15 Defendant knowingly sold, manufactured, cultivated,  
16 delivered, purchased, brought into this state, provided  
17 financial assistance or otherwise aided, abetted,  
18 attempted or conspired to sell, manufacture, cultivate,  
19 deliver or purchase or bring into the state, and was --  
20 or was knowingly in actual or constructive possession or  
21 knowingly intended to become in actual or constructive  
22 possession of the methamphetamine. The State must prove  
23 beyond a reasonable doubt that the substance at issue here  
24 was methamphetamine. The State must also prove in order  
25 to sustain a conviction for trafficking that the amount of



1 the methamphetamine or any mixture containing  
2 methamphetamine was 400 grams or more.

3 Mr. Wheeler is also charged with three counts of  
4 possession of an unlawful firearm. In order to sustain a  
5 conviction for that offense, the State must prove beyond  
6 a reasonable doubt the Defendant stored, kept or had in  
7 possession or permitted another to store, keep, possess or  
8 have in possession a sawed-off shotgun. I instruct you  
9 that the definition of possession is above. A shotgun  
10 means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and  
11 intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or  
12 redesigned and made for the use intended of the explosion  
13 of a fixed shotgun shell to fire from a smooth bore barrel  
14 a number of ball shot or single projectiles with each pull  
15 of the trigger. This term includes any such weapon which  
16 is readily restored to fire a fixed shotgun shell but does  
17 not include an antique firearm. A sawed-off shotgun means  
18 a shotgun having a barrel or barrels less than eighteen  
19 inches in length or a weapon made from a shotgun which has  
20 been modified and has an overall length of less than  
21 twenty-six inches or a barrel or barrels less than  
22 eighteen inches in length. The State must prove those  
23 elements beyond a reasonable doubt in order to sustain a  
24 conviction.

25 I also charge you that the Defendant, Mr. Wheeler, is

1 charged with five counts of receiving stolen goods. On  
2 each of those indictments the State must prove beyond a  
3 reasonable doubt that Mr. Wheeler bought, received or  
4 possessed goods, chattels or other personal property and  
5 that he knew or had reason to believe that the property  
6 was stolen. Now whether the Defendant knew or had reason  
7 to believe the property was stolen may be shown by direct  
8 or circumstantial evidence, which I've already defined for  
9 you earlier. The State may prove the Defendant knew or  
10 had reason to believe the property was stolen by showing  
11 the Defendant knew facts that would make a reasonable  
12 person believe that the property was stolen.

13 All right. Several general instructions on the law  
14 and I'm almost done. When a crime is committed by two  
15 or more people who act together in committing the crime,  
16 the act of one is the act of all. A person who joins  
17 with another to commit an unlawful act is criminally  
18 responsible for everything done by the other which  
19 happens as a probable and natural consequence of the acts  
20 done in carrying out the common plan or purpose. Now I  
21 tell you the act of one is the act of all or, as is  
22 sometimes said, the hand of one is the hand of all.

23 Prior knowledge that a crime is going to be committed,  
24 without more, is not sufficient to make a person guilty of  
25 that crime. Mere knowledge that the other person's going

1 to commit a crime, even if the Defendant in this case was  
2 present when the crime was committed, is not sufficient to  
3 convict him as a principal. Guilt as a principal may be  
4 shown by actual or constructive presence at the scene as  
5 a result of a prior arrangement. Thus, finding a prior  
6 arranged plan or common scheme is necessary for finding  
7 guilt as a principal. The State must prove beyond a  
8 reasonable doubt by competent evidence the theory that the  
9 hand of one is the hand of all.

10 A principal in a crime is the one who either actually  
11 commits the crime or was present aiding, abetting or  
12 assisting in the commission of a crime. When a person does  
13 an act in the presence of another or with the assistance of  
14 another, the act is done by both. When two or more acting  
15 as a common plan are present at the commission of a crime,  
16 it does not matter who actually commits the crime. All are  
17 guilty. The hand of one is the hand of all. Present at  
18 the commission means sufficiently near to aid, abet and  
19 assist in the commission of a crime. However, I do tell  
20 you and caution you that mere presence at the scene of the  
21 crime is not sufficient to convict one under the theory of  
22 aiding and abetting.

23 Intent is a necessary element of this crime for there  
24 must be a common scheme or design or intent to commit that  
25 crime and the crime must have been committed pursuant

1 thereto with the person aiding and abetting by some over  
2 act. Intent means intending the result which actually  
3 occurred, not accidentally or involuntarily. The intent  
4 may be shown by the acts and the conduct of the Defendant  
5 or any other circumstances which you may reasonably and  
6 naturally infer intent. The State must prove those  
7 elements beyond a reasonable doubt.

8 I instruct you also that mere presence at the scene  
9 is not sufficient. A defendant's presence where a crime  
10 is being committed or mere association with a person who  
11 commits a crime does not make him an accomplice or an aider  
12 or abettor of the person committing the crime. It is the  
13 burden upon the State to prove every element of the crimes  
14 charged. So after reviewing all of the evidence presented  
15 you find that the State has proven the Defendant was only  
16 present at the scene and they have not proved beyond a  
17 reasonable doubt any other participation in the crime, then  
18 you must find him not guilty. Our law is that proof at  
19 the scene of the crime is not sufficient to find someone  
20 guilty.

21 Now in this case also the Defendant has contended  
22 there's evidence before you indicating that someone else  
23 other than he may have committed these crimes and that  
24 evidence raises a reasonable doubt with respect to his  
25 guilt. In that regard, I tell you and instruct you that

1 a defendant in a criminal case has a right to rely on any  
2 evidence produced at trial that has a rational tendency  
3 to raise a reasonable doubt with respect to his guilt. I  
4 instructed numerous times that it is the State's burden of  
5 proving the Defendant's guilt and it never shifts to the  
6 Defendant to disprove or produce evidence that proves his  
7 innocence. It is the State's requirement to show evidence  
8 proofing guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. If the evidence  
9 only raises a strong probability that someone else other  
10 than the Defendant committed the crime, you must decide  
11 whether the State's proven the Defendant's guilt beyond a  
12 reasonable doubt, not whether the other persons may have  
13 committed a crime.

14 Now, importantly, Mr. Wheeler chose to exercise his  
15 constitutional right to not testify. He has not testified  
16 in this trial. I'll tell you that in every crime -- in  
17 every case tried in South Carolina that I'm aware of when  
18 a defendant chooses to exercise that constitutional right  
19 to not testify, that is his decision. The fact that he  
20 chose to exercise that right indicates that he thinks the  
21 State must prove his guilt. It also requires you to only  
22 consider the evidence the State presented in the case and  
23 the other evidence the Defendant presented through other  
24 testimony. You're not to take anything, any inference,  
25 any supposition, any guesswork in what he may or may not

1 have said should he have chosen to testify. The fact that  
2 he chose to not testify should not be discussed in the  
3 jury room. You must decide the case based on what's been  
4 presented, all right? So I emphasize to you you're not  
5 to discuss his exercising his constitutional right not  
6 to testify. That's his decision. It's the State's  
7 responsibility to prove its case.

8       Some of you took notes, some of you didn't, and  
9 that's fine. When you begin doing your deliberations if  
10 y'all start discussing some fact, whatever it may be, and  
11 a note-taker says well, I remember the gentleman said  
12 thus and so about the red truck, for instance -- and I'm  
13 not commenting on the evidence, it's not my job to have  
14 opinions or ideas on the evidence presented, but if a  
15 note-taker says something about the red truck, a  
16 non-note-taker says well, I remember him testifying to  
17 thus and so, slightly different, a note-taker's notes does  
18 not trump a listener's memory. You're all on equal footing  
19 whether you took notes or not, so a person who recollects  
20 the testimony because he was staring them down and  
21 listening to exactly what was said and recollects it one  
22 way does not override or overrule or outvote someone who  
23 took notes. So everyone's on equal footing whether they  
24 took notes or not.

25       Now, Mr. Barnes and ladies and gentlemen of the jury,

1 I remind you you don't get called upon to serve as jurors  
2 very often. It's your duty to find a true and just  
3 verdict. I am confident that you will follow my  
4 instructions, you will go to the jury room deliberate and  
5 not consider anything outside the courtroom. You should  
6 only consider the evidence received and my instructions  
7 to you in reaching a unanimous verdict on all of the  
8 indictments.

9 All right. I'm about done here. What I've got to  
10 do next is I've got to talk to the lawyers to make certain  
11 my instructions were complete. There were numerous  
12 indictments. They may have an idea that, judge, you  
13 glossed over this aspect of the law, will you please give  
14 additional instructions on this aspect or that aspect. I  
15 will consider those requests here momentarily and, if  
16 necessary, I'll bring you back in here. Assuming my  
17 instructions were full and complete, I'll send the verdict  
18 form and the evidence to the jury room with you. I'm  
19 gonna hold the guns here in the courtroom. If you want  
20 them in the jury room, we'll send them back there and once  
21 you're done examining them, looking at them, we'll bring  
22 them back out because sometimes the guns just get in the  
23 way, it makes some people nervous, some people it don't.  
24 If you want to see them, you can see them, they'll be made  
25 available to you, but I don't want them in the jury room

1 during the entire deliberation, while you're eating lunch.  
2 It's just a little more than necessary.

3 Now if you have any questions about the law, write it  
4 down and hand it to the bailiff. She'll bring to me, I'll  
5 discuss it with the lawyers and we'll try to figure a way  
6 to respond to your question. If you want to take a break  
7 -- I'm assuming lunch is here, Mr. Reel.

8 **THE CLERK:** The lunch is back there, but it's  
9 everybody's lunch that was ordered, so they'll have to --

10 **THE COURT:** Okay. They'll have to sort some of the  
11 stuff out.

12 Okay. Now once you begin deliberations, it's up to  
13 y'all, the time. If you want a break and somebody wants  
14 to step outside and have some fresh air or whatever, stop  
15 deliberations. If somebody wants to step in the restroom,  
16 stop deliberations. Only when all twelve of you are there  
17 do you deliberate. So if you need a break, you don't ask  
18 for it, it's on your time. So if you want to take a break,  
19 just tell the bailiff and we'll take about ten minutes to  
20 step outside or walk around the block or whatever. Don't  
21 let anybody talk to you about the case. It's just you  
22 twelve.

23 Now the two alternates, I'm gonna send y'all to the  
24 jury room now with the other twelve. As soon as they start  
25 deliberating, I'll pull you out. Now the jury I had last



1 week did something I had not heard of before, but I had  
2 three alternates and they said judge, can we eat lunch with  
3 the alternates and then start deliberations, and I said  
4 sure, that was a reasonable request, so that's what they  
5 did. Y'all are up to y'all. If you want to go ahead and  
6 start eating and deliberating once you get the evidence,  
7 it's up to you.

8 So if you need more instructions, write me a request  
9 as to what you want to hear. If you have a question about  
10 anything else, just write a request on that. If you need  
11 to hear testimony again, we can replay it. Ms. Johnson  
12 needs a little time to find what you need.

13 But, anyway, go to the jury room. I'll let you know  
14 when you can started deliberating and the bailiff or  
15 Mr. Reel will help y'all sort your lunch out and get the  
16 ones that don't belong in there. My lunch is back there,  
17 too. So y'all head to the jury room. Don't begin  
18 discussing the case until I let y'all know.

19 (Whereupon, the jury retires to the jury room at  
20 12:47 PM.)

21 **THE COURT:** All right. Any deletions or suggestions  
22 on the instructions from the State or defense?

23 **MR. MAYE:** None from the State, Your Honor. Thank  
24 you.

25 **MR. THUSS:** Not from the defense.

1           **THE COURT:** Very well.

2           All right. What I normally do, and y'all might have  
3 experienced it if you've been in court in front of me, if  
4 the jury asks what is such and such or can we have a copy  
5 of what you read to us, I generally give it to them. I  
6 don't give it to them right now, but if they ask for  
7 something in writing, they get what's off my instructions.  
8 So we'll hang onto this and whatever they ask for, even if  
9 it's the entire instruction, I'm gonna give it to them,  
10 okay?

11           **MR. MAYE:** Your Honor, I certainly consent to any of  
12 that, but isn't it something -- isn't there some case, and  
13 I don't know, you'd know way better than I do, if they just  
14 ask for part of the charge, you've got to give them all of  
15 it?

16           **THE COURT:** No, I actually don't do it that way. I  
17 give them the part they -- the part they want.

18           **MR. MAYE:** That's fine.

19           **THE COURT:** If they just want reasonable doubt, I give  
20 them a copy of reasonable doubt.

21           **MR. MAYE:** I have no objection to whatever you do.

22           **THE COURT:** Some judges hand it out ahead of time and  
23 let -- let the jury read through them.

24           **MR. MAYE:** No objection from the State. Thank you,  
25 Your Honor. We'll go through the exhibits.

1           **THE COURT:**   Okay.

2           (Pause in the proceedings.)

3           (Whereupon, the alternate jurors were dismissed.)

4           (Whereupon, the evidence and the verdict form was  
5 given to the jury at 1:15 PM.)

6           **BAILIFF:**   All rise.

7           **THE COURT:**   All right.   Everybody here?

8           All right.   Let's bring the jury in, please.

9           (Whereupon, the jury returns to the courtroom at  
10 1:43 PM.)

11          **THE COURT:**   All right.   Mr. Barnes, have y'all reached  
12 a verdict?

13          **THE FOREPERSON:**   We have, Your Honor.

14          **THE COURT:**   Is it unanimous?

15          **THE FOREPERSON:**   It is, Your Honor.

16          **THE COURT:**   All right.   Will you hand it to the  
17 bailiff, please.

18          **THE FOREPERSON:**   (Handing.)

19          **THE COURT:**   All right.   Mr. Reel, publish the verdict.

20          **THE CLERK:**   Will the Defendant please stand.

21                 In the case of State of South Carolina, County of  
22 Edgefield, the State versus Timothy Wayne Wheeler,  
23 Defendant, we the jury find as follows:   Trafficking  
24 methamphetamine, guilty.   Possession with intent to  
25 distribute marijuana, guilty.   Possession with intent to

1 distribute a Schedule IV controlled substance, guilty.

2 Three counts of possession of an unlawful firearm:

3 2016-GS-19-247, guilty; 2016-GS-19-246, guilty;

4 2016-GS-19-245, guilty.

5 On five counts of receiving stolen goods;

6 2017-GS-19-74, guilty; 2017-GS-19-75, guilty;

7 2016-GS-19-258, guilty; 2016-GS-19-256, guilty;

8 2016-GS-19-255, guilty.

9 Mr. Foreperson, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, if  
10 that is your verdict, please indicate by raising your right  
11 hand. All hands were raised.

12 **THE COURT:** All right. Anything further from the  
13 jury, Mr. Thuss?

14 **MR. THUSS:** No, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** All right.

16 All right, folks. I appreciate y'all's service.

17 Y'all are done. I'd like to step back in the jury room  
18 and talk to y'all momentarily. So let's step back in the  
19 jury room and then I can dismiss you or you can come back  
20 in here for the sentencing portion. We'll do that this  
21 afternoon, okay?

22 Let's go back to the jury room.

23 (Whereupon, the jury was excused at 1:45 PM.)

24 **BAILIFF:** All rise.

25 **THE COURT:** You may be seated.

1           Folks, I was looking up sentences. Does everything  
2 carry ten years except potentially the possession of the  
3 vehicles worth less than \$5,000?

4           **MR. MAYE:** The insurance thing I'm not sure about.  
5 The PWID, Schedule IV, I'm not positive on that one.  
6 PWID marijuana and PWID Schedule IV, I'll have to look  
7 that up.

8           **THE COURT:** Obviously the trafficking carries a lot.

9           **MR. THUSS:** Judge?

10          **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

11          **MR. THUSS:** And I'm not sure -- I don't know that I  
12 renewed my motion for directed verdict at the -- at the end  
13 of the trial and I wanted to make sure I did renew that  
14 before sentencing basically on the same grounds that I made  
15 earlier.

16          **THE COURT:** All of your grounds for directed verdict  
17 at the close of the State's case are renewed post your case  
18 and post verdict and so you're protected on the grounds  
19 that you've outlined fully for your client's benefit.

20          **MR. THUSS:** Thank you. And, Your Honor, I also want  
21 to make a motion for a new trial also.

22          **THE COURT:** All right. Understanding that the Court  
23 heard the case and accepted the evidence and the jury has  
24 considered the evidence and reached a unanimous verdict,  
25 the Court is very, very hesitant going behind the jury's

1 verdict considering the verdict being unanimous, so. It  
2 was definitely a question of fact, they considered it, and  
3 I would respectfully deny that motion.

4 Do we have sentencing sheets ready, Mr. Maye?

5 **MR. MAYE:** Your Honor, I do have sentencing sheets on  
6 all of these charges here and I'll hand them up.

7 **THE COURT:** All right. Mr. Maye, I heard all of the  
8 facts of this enterprise going on. Tell me Mr. Wheeler's  
9 prior record now.

10 **MR. MAYE:** Your Honor, Mr. Wheeler, he does not have  
11 an extensive criminal prior history, Your Honor. I've got  
12 going back to 1987 it looks like he's got a possession of  
13 marijuana and a possession of paraphernalia out of Florida.  
14 The only more contemporary charges that I see on him, Your  
15 Honor, he's got a South Carolina charge of carrying a  
16 pistol. It looks like that occurred in 2014. He's got  
17 some kind of misdemeanor thing about driving without a CDL  
18 and then he's got a driving without a license and a DUI,  
19 Your Honor, it looked like. That's his only other South  
20 Carolina record. That was prior to 2014, Your Honor. His  
21 prior record is not extensive, Your Honor. This was just  
22 such a -- a major criminal enterprise. The sentence on the  
23 trafficking I think speaks to the gravity of it. It's the  
24 most finished product that any of us have certainly ever  
25 seen. I mean, sometimes we'll get batches when people are

1 making meth, but having finished ice at 717 grams, that's  
2 staggering. It is certainly for us in Edgefield. They  
3 might see that in Florida or other bigger trafficking  
4 states, but that's the most any of us have ever encountered  
5 in any one location.

6 **THE COURT:** It is a bunch.

7 Okay. Mr. Thuss, let me hear from you anything you've  
8 got in mitigation on these things. I think your primary  
9 focus for the Court would be the trafficking understanding  
10 that range is twenty-five to thirty.

11 **MR. THUSS:** Yes, Your Honor.

12 **THE COURT:** My hands are kind of tied between those  
13 two numbers.

14 **MR. THUSS:** Understood. Your Honor, Mr. Wheeler  
15 doesn't have an extensive criminal history at all. That  
16 unlawful possession, I think, was a misdemeanor. No felony  
17 convictions that I'm aware of in his background. He's  
18 fifty-four years old now. He did serve honorably in the  
19 United States military in the U.S. Army and in the Marine  
20 Corps and received an honorable discharge in 1997. He  
21 has --

22 **THE DEFENDANT:** 1987.

23 **MR. THUSS:** 1987. He has two sons living in Florida.  
24 He's divorced and has two sons who are young adults and  
25 they're doing well in life and he had a working career as a

1 -- you know, until all this occurred in recent -- recent  
2 times. His only other family is in Pennsylvania.. He lost  
3 his mother a couple of years ago and just while he was  
4 incarcerated in the detention center he lost his father.  
5 He has no mental conditions we're aware of and -- and  
6 that's the -- that's the gist of his background, Your  
7 Honor.

8 **THE COURT:** Stand up. Can I ask him something?

9 **MR. THUSS:** Yes, Your Honor.

10 **THE COURT:** Mr. Wheeler, how did you get involved in  
11 this stuff?

12 **THE DEFENDANT:** I was in the wrong place, sir.  
13 There's no question. A huge mistake. I've never  
14 trafficked or sold a drug in my life. I did do  
15 recreational there for about a year, that was a mistake,  
16 but I've never trafficked a drug in my life. I didn't know  
17 the drugs were present at that amount. It doesn't matter  
18 now, but I don't -- I don't know what else to say.

19 **MR. THUSS:** Your Honor, I'll say that with his time  
20 served and the .85 percent on this that the -- if he  
21 receives the minimum, then he'll be in his seventies before  
22 he would be eligible to be released.

23 **THE COURT:** When was he arrested? On the 22nd of  
24 December? So he's got roughly thirteen months' credit?

25 **MR. THUSS:** Uh-huh.



1           **THE COURT:** Did you find that sentence range,  
2 Mr. Maye, on the possession of a Schedule IV -- Schedule  
3 II?

4           **MR. MAYE:** Your Honor, we will retrieve our sentencing  
5 sheets.

6           **THE COURT:** Just so y'all can see, the drugs because  
7 they're all specified, that's my cheat sheet for the drugs.  
8 There's so many out there and so many different ranges,  
9 that's why I asked for that. Give me that book.

10          **MR. MAYE:** Schedule IV is not more than three years  
11 and/or not more than \$3,000, Your Honor. PWID Schedule IV,  
12 not more than three. And the PWID marijuana first is zero  
13 to five, so it would be not more than three, even on  
14 Schedule IV, and zero to five years and/or zero to \$5,000  
15 on the PWID marijuana first.

16          And I do concur, Your Honor. The possession of a  
17 sawed-off is not more than ten years and/or not more than  
18 \$10,000.

19          And, Your Honor, I have possession of stolen goods,  
20 two thousand to ten thousand, not more than three years  
21 and/or not less than a thousand. So the Harley-Davidson,  
22 two to ten, would be not more than three years. And the  
23 Mossberg shotgun, Model -- 12 gauge model, less than  
24 \$2,000, not more than thirty days or not more than a  
25 thousand.

1           **THE COURT:** It sounds like time served to me on that  
2 one. All right.

3           All right. I don't have all the details of the  
4 indictments filled out, but I'm pretty close.

5           All right. Considering all of the facts presented by  
6 the State and the verdict of the jury, on the trafficking  
7 meth the sentence is twenty-five years. He gets credit for  
8 days earned since December 22nd of 2015.

9           The others, the receiving stolen goods more than  
10 ten -- there's only one. I didn't get that. I'm sorry.  
11 Receiving stolen goods, two to ten, there should be three  
12 of those; is that right? Actually four counts of receiving  
13 stolen goods between two and ten. On all four of those,  
14 three years, credit for days served since December 22nd of  
15 '05. On the one less than that, thirty days, credit for  
16 time served. That sentence has already been satisfied.

17           On the guns, the sawed-off shotguns as well as the --  
18 on each of those, five years, all to run concurrent. There  
19 were three shotguns that were unlawful weapons.

20           The possession of marijuana, also five years.  
21 Possession with intent to distribute controlled substance,  
22 Schedule IV, three years. All those nonviolent sentences  
23 to run concurrently. Everything is running under the  
24 twenty-five year violent. That's a serious conviction and  
25 a violent offense. Anything else?

1           **MR. MAYE:** None from the State, Your Honor. Thank  
2 you.

3           **THE COURT:** All right. Anything else, Mr. Thuss?

4           **MR. THUSS:** No, Your Honor.

5           **THE COURT:** All right. I need some help with the  
6 sentencing sheets. I didn't fill in the exact sentence of  
7 everything and verify with the CDR code on those. I filled  
8 out the balance of it, so.

9           **MR. MAYE:** Yes, sir, Your Honor. I'll take care of  
10 that. Thank you.

11          **THE COURT:** If you will do that.

12          **MR. MAYE:** Thank you, Your Honor.

13          **THE COURT:** All right. We're off the record.

14          (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded for  
15 January 18, 2017, at 2:14 PM.)  
16  
17  
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25

## C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Stacy S. Johnson, Official Court Reporter  
for the Eleventh 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 the evidence introduced in the trial  
of the captioned case in Circuit Court on the 17th - 18th  
day of January, 2017.

This transcript may contain quoted material. Such  
material is reproduced as read by the speaker.

I do further certify that I am neither of kin,  
counsel, nor have an interest to any party hereto.

April 4, 2017

/s/ Stacy S. Johnson  
STACY S. JOHNSON  
CIRCUIT COURT REPORTER

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )

IN THE GENERAL SESSIONS COURT )

COUNTY OF EDGEFIELD )

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )

Plaintiff, )

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION TO BE RELIEVE AS COUNSEL  
AND FOR A CONTINUANCE )

vs. )

Warrant Nos. 2015A1910100-717,  
-720, -723, -724, -725, -726, -727,  
-731, -732, -733, -740, -742, -764 )

TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER, )

Defendant. )

vs. )

Warrant Nos. 2015A1910100-719,  
-722, -728, -729, -734, -736, -737,  
-741, -746, -750, -753, -757, -765 )

HEATHER LEIGHANN HALL, )

Defendant. )

The above named Defendants submit this memorandum in support of their motions filed January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

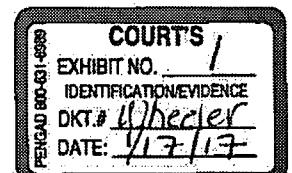
## I. FACTS

1. In late February, 2016, the defendants entered into a joint representation agreement with undersigned counsel, wherein the defendants gave informed written consent to joint representation.

2. At a subsequent bond review hearing, both defendants affirmed the joint representation before the court. Although one client received bond following their second bond review, one client was denied bond and has been and is held in the Edgefield County Detention Center.

3. Through October, 2016, this matter was believed to be in preparation for adoption by federal authorities. But, in October, 2016, undersigned counsel was advised that this case

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would not be federally adopted.

4. Unbeknownst to these defendants or counsel, a co-defendant, David Coon, on bond review, want granted an order that he be tried in January, 2017, or be granted a personal recognizance bond.

5. On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, defendants' counsel was provided with discovery concerning the identity, background, and expected testimony of a confidential information who provided the Edgefield County Sheriff's Department information leading to the issuance of a search warrant.

6. On this date, defendant's counsel asked the State about plea offers for these defendants. From communications with Coon's attorney in this time frame, I learned that Coon had been made a plea offer for himself and these co-defendants. However, this offer was not communicated to me or these defendants until after Coon rejected the offer. On this date, I asked State's counsel about the plea offer, and a harsher plea offer, contingent upon co-defendant Coon's acceptance, was communicated. I asked about the fourth co-defendant and was told that she was not testifying against these defendants. These defendants were advised and informed about this offer, and both rejected it, based on all circumstances known.

7. On or about December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, defendants' counsel received notice that their case was added to the January, 2017 Term of Court trial roster.

8. Coon's trial was scheduled for the January 9<sup>th</sup> term of court, and was tried. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, the fourth co-defendant appeared as a witness against Coon. The witness had given an oral statement to Edgefield County and federal law enforcement officers on or about December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. On Thursday morning, the undersigned was given a copy of this witness' written statement that contradicted her prior statement, as did her testimony, which made new

and serious allegations against both Hall and Wheeler. After the close of the State's case, Mr. Coon pled guilty to all charges and gave a statement that the other co-defendants had no knowledge of the contraband in Coon's home.

9. After Coon's trial ended, I asked the Deputy Solicitor Maye for a plea offer for Hall and Wheeler, and the offer made favors one client over the other. My clients are facing identical charges and evidence that will most likely survive directed verdict and expose both clients to trafficking over 400 grams of meth.

10. Additionally, on Thursday, I learned that the fourth co-defendant, who had not previously been charged with trafficking meth, the most serious charge involved, had been charged with trafficking. This new charge only appeared on the Public Index on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, although it bears a 2016 case number. I may not have been provided a rap sheet or other discovery for this witness.

11. Additionally, Coon made a motion to suppress evidence on grounds the affidavit that led to the search warrant was lacking. However, supplemental oral testimony taken during Coon's motion now shows that this defense will not be availing for Hall and Wheeler.

## II. REQUEST FOR A CONTINUANCE IS WARRANTED

In the past four days, the defendants have learned of important new evidence that will be presented against them at trial. The defendants have not have an opportunity to adequately consult with counsel, investigate, and prepare a defense against this new highly material evidence. They are facing most serious charges, and should be granted time to prepare for testimony against them by the fourth co-defendant. This witness' expected testimony as a co-defendant and eye-witness is highly material to the trafficking charges and is surprising in light of her prior statement. Furthermore, defendants'

3 of 8

counsel has not had adequate opportunity to fully and fairly advise both clients of the change in their circumstances and obtain supplemental written conflict of interest waivers due to time constraints, the logistics of arranging a meeting with both clients. One client is detained at the Edgefield County Detention Center and the other is out on bond, but does not possess a reliable phone nor have her own transportation.

Therefore, the defendants respectfully request the court exercise its sound discretion and grant them a continuance of this trial until the next term of court, as provided by Rule 7, SCRCP.

### III. A CONFLICT OF INTEREST HAS ARISEN THAT REQUIRES DEFENDANTS' COUNSEL TO MOVE TO BE RELIEVED

The South Carolina Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions provide guidance on the permissible boundaries to joint representation. In the most recent published decision, *Gonzales v. State* (S.C. 2017), decided on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in Opinion No. 27695, the Court wrote:

A criminal defendant's Sixth Amendment right to effective assistance of counsel includes a right to counsel "unhindered by a conflict of interest." *Cuyler v. Sullivan*, 446 U.S. 335, 345-50, 355 (1980) (quoting *Holloway v. Arkansas*, 435 U.S. 475, 483 n. 5 (1978)). When counsel is burdened by an actual conflict of interest, he "breaches the duty of loyalty, perhaps the most basic of counsel's duties." *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668, 692 (1984). Due to the seriousness of the breach and the difficulty in "measure[ing] the precise effect on the defense of representation corrupted by conflicting interests," the *Strickland* ineffective assistance of counsel standard is modified in actual conflict of interest cases in that the defendant is not required to show prejudice. *Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 692; see also *Duncan v. State*, 281 S.C. 435, 438, 315 S.E.2d 809, 811 (1984) (quoting *Cuyler*, 446 U.S. at 348). In other words, a defendant is not required to show prejudice in the traditional *Strickland* sense, i.e., that there is a reasonable probability the result of the proceeding would have been different. *Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 692-94 (citing *Cuyler*, 446 U.S. at 345-50). Rather, "prejudice is presumed" if the defendant demonstrates that counsel "actively represented conflicting interests" and that "an actual



conflict of interest adversely affected his lawyer's performance.'" *Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 692 (quoting *Cuyler*, 446 U.S. at 350); see also *Duncan*, 281 S.C. at 438, 315 S.E.2d at 811 (quoting *Cuyler*, 446 U.S. at 348)); *Lomax v. State*, 379 S.C. 93, 102, 665 S.E.2d 164, 168 (2008). An actual conflict of interest arises where:

a defense attorney places himself in a situation inherently conducive to divided loyalties. If a defense attorney owes duties to a party whose interests are adverse to those of the defendant, then an actual conflict exists. The interests of the other client and the defendant are sufficiently adverse if it is shown that the attorney owes a duty to the defendant to take some action that could be detrimental to his other client.

*Jordan v. State*, 406 S.C. 443, 449, 752 S.E.2d 538, 541 (2013) (quoting *Duncan*, 281 S.C. at 438, 315 S.E.2d at 811 (quoting *Zuck v. Alabama*, 588 F.2d 436, 439 (5th Cir. 1979))).

The *Gonzales* court concluded that both the PCR judge and Court of Appeals erred in finding and holding that whether an attorney recognizes an actual conflict of interest, if the conflict adversely affects the attorney's performance, the applicant has established entitlement to relief. This holding may have changed precedent in that some prior decisions considered the attorney's subjective view and *Gonzales* may now have moved this analysis toward a more objective standard. *Jordan*, cited in *Gonzales*, also discussed waiver of conflicts of interest, as some conflicts are may be waived following explanation of the precise nature of the conflict and knowing, voluntary, and intelligent consideration by the defendants, as set forth in the following short excerpt:

Here, however, there is simply no evidence that DePew informed Petitioner or the trial court of his dual representation of Petitioner and Summers, or that Petitioner knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently waived any potential conflict of interest. See *Thomas*, 346 S.C. at 144, 551 S.E.2d at 256 ("To be valid, a waiver of a conflict of interest must not only be voluntary, it must be done knowingly and intelligently.") (citing *United States v. Swartz*, 975 F.2d 1042, 1048-49 (4th Cir.1992); *Hoffman v. Leeke*, 903 F.2d 280, 289 (4th Cir.1990)). The only evidence at the PCR hearing on this issue was the testimony of both Petitioner and DePew that Petitioner was not informed of the precise nature of the conflict of interest.

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See *Swartz*, 975 F.2d at 1049-50 (holding that a waiver is not knowing, intelligent, and voluntary unless the defendant knows the precise form of the conflict of interest that eventually results); *Hoffman*, 903 F.2d at 289 ("A defendant cannot knowingly and intelligently waive what he does not know."). We conclude that the PCR court erred in finding that Petitioner waived any conflict of interest. *Cherry v. State*, 300 S.C. 115, 118-19, 386 S.E.2d 624, 625-26 (1989) (holding that a PCR judge's findings will be reversed if there is no probative evidence to support them).

*Thomas v. State*, 551 S.E.2d 254, 346 S.C. 140 (S.C. 2001), cited in *Jordan*, provides guidance on waivers of conflict of interest, and relevant language follows:

In this case, an actual conflict of interest arose when the solicitor offered a plea bargain that would allow the charge against one spouse to be dismissed if the other spouse would plead guilty to the entire amount of the cocaine. See *Duncan v. State*, *supra* (interests of other client and defendant are sufficiently adverse if it is shown the attorney owes duty to the defendant to take some action that could be detrimental to his other client). The conflict arose because it was in each spouse's best interest for the other spouse to take the entire responsibility for the cocaine. See, e.g., *Edgemon v. State*, 318 S.C. 3, 455 S.E.2d 500 (1995) (actual conflict of interest where counsel convinced solicitor petitioner's co-defendants were less culpable). At the moment the solicitor made the plea offer, petitioner's and Husband's interests became adverse to one another and counsel should have advised them accordingly.

Further, counsel acted upon this conflicting loyalty by failing to advise petitioner she had nothing to lose by proceeding to trial. See *Langford v. State*, 310 S.C. 357, 359, 426 S.E.2d 793, 795 (1993) (until defendant shows counsel actively represented conflicting interests, he has not established constitutional predicate for claim of ineffective assistance arising from multiple representation). By taking the plea, petitioner received the maximum sentence.

Although petitioner initially waived a conflict of interest, once it became clear an actual conflict existed due to the plea bargain, counsel should have either withdrawn from representing one or both of them or acquired another waiver covering this specific conflict. To be valid, a waiver of a conflict of interest must not only be voluntary, it must be done knowingly and intelligently. *United States v. Swartz*, 975 F.2d 1042, 1048-49 (4th Cir. 1992); *Hoffman v. Leeke*, 903 F.2d 280, 289 (4th Cir. 1990) (citation omitted). When deciding to waive a potential conflict, petitioner was told only that she needed a separate attorney in case she and Husband began to implicate each other, something that never happened. Petitioner should have been given another opportunity to waive the conflict, if she so chose, when the solicitor offered to dismiss the charge against one spouse in exchange for the other spouse pleading guilty to the entire amount of cocaine. See *Swartz*, 975 F.2d at 1049-50 (waiver not knowing, intelligent, and voluntary

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unless defendant knows of precise form of conflict of interest that eventually results); *Hoffman*, 903 F.2d at 289 (Hoffman's waiver not intelligent "because Hoffman could not waive what he did not know").

Petitioner has shown an actual conflict of interest that adversely affected her attorney's performance. Further, her initial waiver of a potential conflict did not act as a waiver of this actual conflict. As a result, counsel was ineffective and the PCR court erred by denying her PCR application.

*Thomas* is good law and the undersigned has reviewed the decisions citing *Thomas*. In particular, *State v. Gregory*, 612 S.E.2d 449, 364 S.C. 150 (S.C. 2005) may provide additional guidance. In *Gregory*, Defendant's counsel moved to be relieved on the first day of trial and for a continuance. The conflict issue, distinguishable from this matter, involved defense attorney's representation of an assistant solicitor in her divorce. The trial judge denied the motion and continuance and our Supreme Court reversed. The following excerpts are helpful:

"[A] motion to relieve counsel is addressed to the discretion of the trial judge and will not be disturbed absent an abuse of discretion." *State v. Graddick*, 345 S.C. 383, 385, 548 S.E.2d 210, 211 (2001) (citation omitted). An actual conflict of interest occurs where an attorney owes a duty to a party whose interests are adverse to the defendants. *Fuller v. State*, 347 S.C. 630, 557 S.E.2d 664 (2001). The mere possibility defense counsel may have a conflict of interest is insufficient to impugn a criminal conviction. See *Langford v. State*, 310 S.C. 357, 359, 426 S.E.2d 793, 795 (1993) citing *Cuyler v. Sullivan*, 446 U.S. 335, 350, 100 S.Ct. 1708, 64 L.Ed.2d 333 (1980). However, a defendant need not demonstrate prejudice if there is an actual conflict of interest. *Thomas v. State*, 346 S.C. 140, 551 S.E.2d 254 (2001); *Duncan v. State*, 281 S.C. 435, 315 S.E.2d 809 (1984) citing *Cuyler v. Sullivan*, 446 U.S. 335, 348-350, 100 S.Ct. 1708, 1718-19, 64 L.Ed.2d 333 (1980).

In *Duncan v. State*, 281 S.C. at 438, 315 S.E.2d at 811 (1984), this Court set forth the following test to determine when an actual conflict of interest occurs:

... when a defense attorney places himself in a situation inherently conducive to divided loyalties.... If a defense attorney owes duties to a party whose interests are adverse to those of the defendant, then an actual conflict exists. The interests of the other client and the defendant are sufficiently adverse if it is shown that the attorney owes a duty to the defendant to take some action that could be detrimental to his other client. An actual conflict of interest occurs where an attorney owes a duty to a party whose interests are adverse to the

788

defendant's.

citing *Zuck v. State of Alabama*, 588 F.2d 436, 439 (5th Cir.1979).

The question in this case is whether defense counsel owed duties to a party whose interests were adverse to Gregory. Under this Court's holding in *Duncan* and the case cited therein, *Zuck v. Alabama*, we find that he did. In *Zuck v. Alabama*, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals held that where the law firm retained to represent the defendant in a murder trial also represented the state prosecutor in an unrelated civil trial, there was an actual conflict of interest, and the conflict rendered the trial fundamentally unfair. The court noted that "the basis of these decisions is our belief that the sixth amendment requires that a defendant may not be represented by counsel who might be tempted to dampen the ardor of his defense in order to placate his other client.... This possibility is sufficient to constitute an actual conflict as a matter of law." 588 F.2d at 440 (emphasis supplied)[by the court].

Therefore, the Defendants respectfully move for a continuance of this matter until the next scheduled term of court so that counsel may have adequate opportunity and time to confer with both clients concerning new allegations, and determine whether he must withdraw from representation of one or both clients after investigation of the new evidence. If the court, in its sound discretion, is not inclined to grant the continuance, then undersigned counsel must respectfully withdraw from representation of both clients.

In conclusion, on grounds and for reasons set forth herein above, and in their respective motions, and for other reasons that may be set forth during argument of this motion, the undersigned respectfully requests the court grant the defendants relief.

Respectfully Submitted,

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Columbia, SC



Robert R. Thuss, Esq.  
Thuss Law Office LLC  
7001 St. Andrews Rd. #193  
Columbia, SC 29212  
(803) 640-1000

WITNESSES

ECSD

YOUNG

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2015A1910100732

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date: 4/18/17

VERDICT

Guilty

4/18/17

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

DOCKET NO. 2016-GS-19- 244

The State of South Carolina

County of EDGEFIELD

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

APRIL TERM 2016

THE STATE

vs.

TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER

CDR#0189

Indictment for

POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO  
DISTRIBUTE A SCHEDULE IV  
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

DONALD V. MYERS, SOLICITOR

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )

INDICTMENT FOR

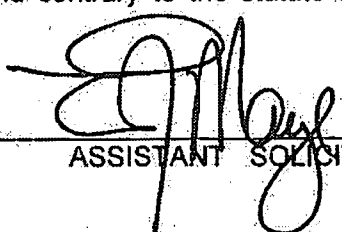
COUNTY OF EDGEFIELD )

POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE A  
SCHEDULE IV CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on March 30, 2016 the Grand Jurors of Edgefield County present upon their oath:

That TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER, did in Edgefield County on or about December 22, 2015, knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute a quantity of Alprazolam (generic for Xanax), a controlled substance, in violation of §44-53-370(b)(2), South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, such possession not having been authorized by law, with penalties provided for in §44-53-370(b)(3), South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

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

  
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

311

WITNESSES

ECSD

DORAN

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2015A1910100733

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

*Sherrice Campbell*  
Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date:

VERDICT

*Charles A. Barnes*

*Guilty*

*4/18/17*

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

DOCKET NO. 2016-GS-19- 245

The State of South Carolina

County of EDGEFIELD

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

APRIL TERM 2016

THE STATE

vs.

TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER

CDR#0315

Indictment for

POSSESSION OF AN UNLAWFUL  
FIREARM

DONALD V. MYERS, SOLICITOR

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )

INDICTMENT FOR

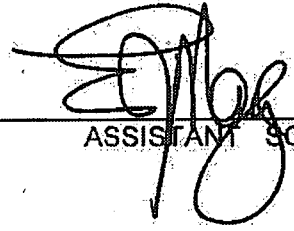
COUNTY OF EDGEFIELD )

POSSESSION OF AN UNLAWFUL FIREARM

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on March 30, 2016 the Grand Jurors of Edgefield County present upon their oath:

That TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER, did in Edgefield County on or about December 22, 2015, unlawfully store, keep, possess, or permit another to store, keep, or possess a firearm, described as follows: a Harrington and Richardson, Inc. Topper Model 158, 12 gauge shotgun with no serial number available, the barrel of the shotgun was sawed off making the length of the shotgun less than 26 inches, in violation of §16-23-230 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR



313

WITNESSES

ECSD

DORAN

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2015A1910100740

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

Sherrie Campbell  
Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date: MAR 30 2016

VERDICT

Guilty  
1/18/17

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

DOCKET NO. 2016-GS-19- 246

The State of South Carolina

County of EDGEFIELD

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

APRIL TERM 2016

THE STATE

vs.

TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER

CDR#0315

Indictment for

POSSESSION OF AN UNLAWFUL  
FIREARM

DONALD V. MYERS, SOLICITOR

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF EDGEFIELD )

INDICTMENT FOR  
POSSESSION OF AN UNLAWFUL FIREARM

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on March 30, 2016 the Grand Jurors of Edgefield County present upon their oath:

That TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER, did in Edgefield County on or about December 22, 2015, unlawfully store, keep, possess, or permit another to store, keep, or possess a firearm, described as follows: a Harrington and Richardson, Inc. Topper Model M48, 12 gauge shotgun with serial #H23330, the barrel of the shotgun was sawed off making the length of the shotgun less than 26 inches, in violation of §16-23-230 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

315

WITNESSES

ECSD

DORAN

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2015A1910100742

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

BILL

Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date: MAR 30 2016

VERDICT

Guilty

4/18/17

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

DOCKET NO. 2016-GS-19- 247

The State of South Carolina

County of EDGEFIELD

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

APRIL TERM 2016

THE STATE

vs.

TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER

CDR#0315

Indictment for

POSSESSION OF AN UNLAWFUL  
FIREARM

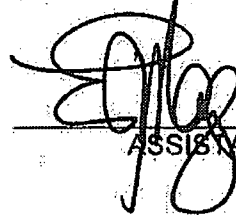
DONALD V. MYERS, SOLICITOR

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA     )  
                                          )  
COUNTY OF EDGEFIELD        )     INDICTMENT FOR  
                                          )  
                                          )     POSSESSION OF AN UNLAWFUL FIREARM

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on March 30, 2016 the Grand Jurors of Edgefield County present upon their oath:

That TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER, did in Edgefield County on or about December 22, 2015, unlawfully store, keep, possess, or permit another to store, keep, or possess a firearm, described as follows: a Winchester Inc., 12 gauge shotgun Model 37A with serial # C520219, the barrel of the shotgun was sawed off making the length of the shotgun less than 26 inches, in violation of §16-23-230 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

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



ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

317

WITNESSES

ECSD

YOUNG

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2015A1910100720

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

Foreperson of Grand Jury  
Date: MAR 30 2016

VERDICT

Stacy A. Barnes

Guilty

4/18/17

Foreperson of Petit Jury  
Date:

DOCKET NO. 2016-GS-19- 250

The State of South Carolina

County of EDGEFIELD

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

APRIL TERM 2016

THE STATE

vs.

TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER

CDR#0186

Indictment for

POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO  
DISTRIBUTE MARIJUANA

DONALD V. MYERS, SOLICITOR

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF EDGEFIELD )

INDICTMENT FOR

POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE  
MARIJUANA

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on March 30, 2016 the Grand Jurors of Edgefield County present upon their oath:

That TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER, did in Edgefield County on or about December 22, 2015, knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute a quantity of Marijuana, a controlled substance, in violation of §44-53-370(b)(2), South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, such possession not having been authorized by law, with penalties provided for in §44-53-370(b)(2), South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

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

  
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

319

WITNESSES

ECSD

YOUNG

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2015A1910100717

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

Foreperson of Grand Jury  
Date: *APR 8 2016*

VERDICT

*Guilty*

*4/18/17*

Foreperson of Petit Jury  
Date:

DOCKET NO. 2016-GS-19- 251

The State of South Carolina

County of EDGEFIELD

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

APRIL TERM 2016

THE STATE

vs.

TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER

CDR#0370

Indictment for

TRAFFICKING METHAMPHETAMINE

DONALD V. MYERS, SOLICITOR

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF EDGEFIELD )

INDICTMENT FOR  
TRAFFICKING METHAMPHETAMINE

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on March 30, 2016 the Grand Jurors of Edgefield County present upon their oath:

That TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER, did in Edgefield County on or about December 22, 2015, knowingly, intentionally, willfully and unlawfully sell, manufacture, cultivate, deliver, purchase or bring into this state, or provide financial assistance or otherwise aid, abet, attempt or assist, conspire or participate with others to sell, manufacture, cultivate, deliver, purchase, or bring into this State, or was knowingly in actual or constructive possession of, and/or knowingly attempt to become in actual or constructive possession of more than four hundred (400) grams of Methamphetamine, a controlled substance, in violation of and with penalties provided for in §44-53-375(C)(1)(a), South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

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



ASSISTANT SOLICITOR



321

WITNESSES

ECSD

DORAN

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2015A1910100731

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

*Sherrin Campbell*  
Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date:

VERDICT

*Stanley M. Barnes*

*Guilty*

*4/18/17*

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

DOCKET NO. 2016-GS-19- 255

The State of South Carolina

County of EDGEFIELD

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

APRIL TERM 2016

THE STATE

vs.

TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER

CDR#3425

Indictment for

RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS

DONALD V. MYERS, SOLICITOR

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF EDGEFIELD )

INDICTMENT FOR  
RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on March 30, 2016 the Grand Jurors of Edgefield County present upon their oath:

That TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER, did in Edgefield County on or about December 22, 2015, buy or receive certain personal goods of James Thomas Miner, described as follows: a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun Model 88 serial #MV88839A, of the value of less than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00), such goods having been feloniously taken and carried away with intent to deprive the owner thereof permanently of such goods, and the said defendant knowing such goods to have been stolen, in violation of §16-13-0180 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

323

WITNESSES

ECSD

DORAN

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2015A1910100727

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

*Sherrie Campbell*  
Foreperson of Grand Jury  
Date: MAR 30 2016

VERDICT

*Stanley H. Barnes*

*Guilty*

*1/18/17*

Foreperson of Petit Jury  
Date:

DOCKET NO. 2016-GS-19- 256

The State of South Carolina

County of EDGEFIELD

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

APRIL TERM 2016

THE STATE

VS.

TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER

CDR#3740

Indictment for

RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS

DONALD V. MYERS, SOLICITOR

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF EDGEFIELD )

INDICTMENT FOR  
RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on March 30, 2016 the Grand Jurors of Edgefield County present upon their oath:

That TIMOTHY WAYNE WHEELER, did in Edgefield County on or about December 22, 2015, buy or receive certain personal goods of William Cecil Allen described as follows: a 2007 Zeppelin Camper 30 foot VIN#4YDT291277Z400913, of the value of more than Two Thousand Dollars but less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), such goods having been feloniously taken and carried away with intent to deprive the owner thereof permanently of such goods, and the said defendant knowing such goods to have been stolen, in violation of §16-13-0180 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, with punishment provided for in §16-13-0180(b) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

## CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL FOR APPELLANT

Counsel for appellant certifies that this Record on Appeal contains all material proposed to be included by any of the parties and not any other material and that this Record on Appeal complies to the best of my ability with the April 15, 2014 order from the South Carolina Supreme Court entitled "Revised Order Concerning Personal Identifying Information and Other Sensitive Information in Appellate Court Filings."

Respectfully Submitted,



Taylor D. Gilliam  
Appellate Defender

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense  
Division of Appellate Defense  
PO Box 11589  
Columbia, S.C. 29211-1589

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

This 7th day of June, 2018.

**RECEIVED**  
JUN 07 2018  
SC Court of Appeals