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S.C. SUPREME COURT

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE SUPREME COURT**

**Certiorari - PCR  
APPEAL FROM BERKELEY COUNTY  
Court of Common Pleas  
Robert M. Young, Sr., Circuit Court Judge**

**Appellate Case № 2019-000119**

**Roger A. Williams, #303509 ..... Petitioner,**

**vs.**

**The State ..... Respondent.**

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIX**

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
	)	COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
COUNTY OF BERKELEY	)	
State of South Carolina	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 10-GS-08-1875 et al
	)	
Grace Trotman,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

### TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

The within Hearing in the above-captioned matter was held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, before The Honorable R. Markley Dennis in Courtroom 3B of the Charleston County Courthouse, 100 Broad Street, Charleston, South Carolina; attended by counsel as follows:

**APPEARANCES:**

Debi Herring-Lash, Assistant Solicitor  
 Anne Williams, Assistant Solicitor  
 9<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT SOLICITOR'S OFFICE  
 300 California Avenue  
 Moncks Corner, South Carolina 29461  
 Appearing for State

D. Keith Bolus, Esq.  
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 Appearing for Defendant

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
	)	COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
COUNTY OF BERKELEY	)	
State of South Carolina	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 10-GS-08-1875 et al
	)	
Grace Trotman,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**TRANSCRIPT OF SENTENCING HEARING**

The within Hearing in the above-captioned matter was held on December 11, 2012, before The Honorable R. Markley Dennis in Courtroom 3B of the Charleston County Courthouse, 100 Broad Street, Charleston, South Carolina; attended by counsel as follows:

**APPEARANCES:**

Debi Herring-Lash, Assistant Solicitor  
 Anne Williams, Assistant Solicitor  
 9<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT SOLICITOR'S OFFICE  
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1

2

(DEFENDANT PRESENT)

3

THE COURT: Has anyone seen Mr.

4

Bolus? We've got a docket behind this one.

5

SOLICITOR HERRING-LASH: I believe

6

that he said he'd be here at 9:00, Your

7

Honor.

8

THE COURT: Well, it is now 9:15.

9

SOLICITOR HERRING-LASH: Yes,

10

sir. Let me see if he is out here.

11

(RECESS AWAITING MR. BOLUS)

12

(MR. BOLUS ARRIVES @ 9:20 A.M.)

13

(DEFENDANT BROUGHT INTO COURTROOM

14

THE COURT: Let's get started.

15

Any problem with her signing these now?

16

SOLICITOR WILLIAMS: No, Your

17

Honor. She can -- they've already been

18

signed.

19

THE COURT: The other one just

20

said that I accepted the plea.

21

SOLICITOR WILLIAMS: I think that

22

she did sign.

23

THE COURT: I understand. But she

24

can sign those. Both are important.

25

SOLICITOR WILLIAMS: All right.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Bolus, sign them with  
2 her. We are going to -- the other one has  
3 accepted the plea and the one that we're  
4 waiting to come -- but it occurs to me that  
5 it speaks for itself. You can just sign this  
6 one and use this one this morning, if that is  
7 all right with you?

8 MR. BOLUS: Yes, sir.

9 (SENTENCE SHEETS SIGNED)

10 SOLICITOR WILLIAMS: Your Honor,  
11 these are copies of the signed one. I didn't  
12 know if that would be helpful -- and the  
13 indictments, (tendering).

14 THE COURT: No problem. I'm just  
15 going to put on the record -- if you want me  
16 to sign these, I will do that as well.

17 SOLICITOR WILLIAMS: Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Good morning, Ms.  
19 Trotman.

20 DEFENDANT: Good morning.

21 THE COURT: We are here today to  
22 continue the proceeding that was commenced on  
23 February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

24 DEFENDANT: (Affirmative nod).

25 THE COURT: The last time -- not

1 the last time, because you weren't -- you  
2 were testifying in the trial but -- the first  
3 time that you appeared before me in  
4 conjunction with and -- in connection with  
5 Indictments 2010-1520 and 2010-1875 was on  
6 February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, when I went through a  
7 number of questions with you and your lawyer,  
8 Mr. Bolus, and we -- after having that  
9 discussion, I accepted your plea of guilty to  
10 these two indictments. Do you recall that  
11 day?

12 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

13 THE COURT: I'd ask you to raise  
14 your right hand, please.

15 DEFENDANT: (Complies)

16 THE COURT: Do you solemnly swear  
17 or affirm that all of your answers to my  
18 questions today will be the truth, so help  
19 you God?

20 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: On that date, you  
22 answered questions and basically convinced me  
23 that it was your desire to enter a plea to  
24 these two indictments. Is that still your  
25 desire?

1 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

2 THE COURT: And that plea was  
3 Guilty, is that correct?

4 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

5 THE COURT: Indictment 10-GS-08-  
6 1520 charges you with homicide by child  
7 abuse. At that time, we discussed that the  
8 minimum sentence was twenty years and, I  
9 believe, the maximum sentence was life. Is  
10 that correct?

11 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

12 THE COURT: And you indicated a  
13 desire to enter a guilty plea to that charge;  
14 is that correct?

15 DEFENDANT: Correct.

16 THE COURT: And Indictment 10-GS-  
17 08-1875 was the destruction or desecration of  
18 human remains. And that was ten, I believe?

19 SOLICITOR WILLIAMS: Up to ten.

20 THE COURT: Up to ten, (affir-  
21 mative nod); zero to ten years. Do you  
22 understand that?

23 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

24 THE COURT: And your plea was  
25 Guilty as to that; is that correct?

State of South Carolina v Grace Trotman

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Case No. 10-GS-08-1875

Hearing of December 11, 2012

Before The Honorable R. Markley Dennis

1 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

2 THE COURT: And that is still your  
3 plea?

4 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

5 THE COURT: Do you reaffirm and  
6 confirm your responses to my questions that I  
7 asked of you on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012?

8 DEFENDANT: (No verbal response).

9 THE COURT: And specifically -- to  
10 help you, and help me, I asked you about --  
11 did you understand that you were giving up  
12 your right to a jury trial, your right to  
13 confront the witnesses against you, and your  
14 right to remain silent. You indicated to me  
15 that you were desirous of doing that. Is  
16 that correct?

17 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: Is that still your  
19 desire today, ma'am?

20 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: Are you still  
22 satisfied with your lawyer?

23 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

24 THE COURT: And there is a  
25 recommendation, Solicitor, as I understand?

1 SOLICITOR WILLIAMS: Yes, Your  
2 Honor.

3 THE COURT: That recommendation is  
4 what?

5 SOLICITOR WILLIAMS: The  
6 recommendation is for twenty years.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Bolus, that  
8 is your understanding of the recommendation?

9 MR. BOLUS: Yes, sir, it is.

10 THE COURT: And you understood,  
11 and in fairness, in conversation there was  
12 discussion that there was a possibility that  
13 the Court could consider and, uh, suspend the  
14 maximum sentence; give her a split sentence?

15 MR. BOLUS: (Affirmative nod).

16 THE COURT: And that was your  
17 understanding?

18 MR. BOLUS: Yes, sir.

19 THE COURT: But that was never a  
20 part of the recommendation, is that correct?

21 MR. BOLUS: Judge's it's my  
22 understanding that the State would oppose ---

23 THE COURT: I understand that, but  
24 that wasn't a part of the recommendation.

25 MR. BOLUS: That's correct.

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Case No. 10-GS-08-1875

Hearing of December 11, 2012

Before The Honorable R. Markley Dennis

1 THE COURT: And of course the  
2 recommendation -- we agree that a recommend-  
3 ation is not binding on the court; do you  
4 agree with that?

5 MR. BOLUS: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: In your discussions  
7 with your client since February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, is  
8 it still her desire to enter this plea?

9 MR. BOLUS: (No verbal response).

10 THE COURT: In your opinion?

11 MR. BOLUS: (No verbal response).

12 THE COURT: Mr. Bolus?

13 MR. BOLUS: Well, Judge, in light  
14 of recent developments, I've not discussed  
15 that with her.

16 THE COURT: Well, do you want to  
17 talk with her about it? We can try this case  
18 again -- I mean, witnesses are all available.  
19 That won't be a problem.

20 MR. BOLUS: If I may have a  
21 moment?

22 THE COURT: Please do. Take a  
23 moment and talk to her.

24 MR. BOLUS: (Sidebar with  
25 Defendant).

1 SOLICITOR WILLIAMS: Your Honor,  
2 if we may step out?

3 THE COURT: That's fine.

4 MR. BOLUS: Sorry, Judge.

5 THE COURT: No apology necessary,  
6 Mr. Bolus. Thank you, sir.

7 (DEFENDANT RE-ENTERS COURTROOM)

8 (BRIEF RECESS)

9 THE COURT: Mr. Bolus, have you  
10 had time to discuss further with Ms. Trotman,  
11 and others?

12 MR. BOLUS: Yes, sir.

13 THE COURT: What's the decision?

14 MR. BOLUS: Your Honor, we wish to  
15 proceed.

16 THE COURT: Very well. Ms.  
17 Trotman, is that your decision, ma'am?

18 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

19 THE COURT: Are you under the  
20 influence of any medication, any alcohol, any  
21 type of drugs today?

22 DEFENDANT: I just took a Flexeril  
23 forty minutes ago.

24 THE COURT: Is that a prescribed  
25 medication?

1 DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

2 THE COURT: And you took it as  
3 prescribed?

4 DEFENDANT: Right.

5 THE COURT: Have you been taking  
6 it on days other than today?

7 DEFENDANT: Yes.

8 THE COURT: Does it in any way  
9 impair or affect your ability to think and/or  
10 reason?

11 DEFENDANT: No.

12 THE COURT: And are you comfort-  
13 able with your reasoning ability here today?

14 DEFENDANT: Yes.

15 THE COURT: All right. I find --  
16 and it is your desire that I accept your  
17 guilty plea today?

18 DEFENDANT: Yes.

19 THE COURT: I find that Ms.  
20 Trotman has confirmed her desire to go  
21 forward with this plea as previously  
22 determined by this Court on February 16<sup>th</sup>,  
23 2012. I find that plea to be freely,  
24 voluntarily, knowingly and intelligently  
25 made. She has had the benefit of very

1 competent counsel, with whom she has  
2 indicated that she is totally satisfied.

3 She has had further opportunity  
4 to discuss the matter with him today. I  
5 appreciate his attention to that detail,  
6 dealing with that as well.

7 I will therefore accept the plea  
8 this morning. Anything -- as we mentioned in  
9 the pre-status conference, I do recall this  
10 case. I will be happy for you to state  
11 anything further.

12 SOLICITOR WILLIAMS: Yes, Your  
13 Honor. Very, very briefly. You've heard the  
14 facts at trial. The State would just like to  
15 very briefly address her compliance with the  
16 proffer agreement, and also just a couple of  
17 other issues that came out during the  
18 investigation.

19 First and foremost we'd like to  
20 inform the Court why Ms. Trotman was chosen  
21 for us to proffer and to corroborate. From  
22 the first day, Mr. Williams was communicating  
23 with his attorney a desire to cooperate  
24 against Ms. Trotman. He wanted to testify  
25 against her.

1           After further investigation, in the  
2 trial it became very clear to us that  
3 although Mr. Williams' case was the more  
4 difficult case to prove, in some ways, that  
5 he was more culpable than -- that he was the  
6 person responsible for the abuse, in terms of  
7 the commission of the abuse.

8           Ms. Trotman clearly -- after a very  
9 lengthy investigation, we never uncovered any  
10 evidence that she was guilty of anything but  
11 omission. Just egregious. Still was, you  
12 know, a large factor in why this child died  
13 and suffered. But that was the determination  
14 that we made after a lengthy investigation.  
15 That's why we chose for her to be the person  
16 that we proffered, for her to testify against  
17 Mr. Williams.

18           During the whole time that we were  
19 meeting with Ms. Trotman, investigating the  
20 case, Mr. Williams through various people  
21 made many attempts to influence her to not  
22 cooperate. Letters were sent to the jail.  
23 He sent people over to put money in her  
24 canteen. He sent threats. I think that it  
25 has shown an amount of strength in her

1       resisting those efforts, because of the  
2       previous relationship and because it was  
3       putting her in a scary situation.

4               During the investigation we also  
5       found some DNA that -- nothing at all tied to  
6       Ms. Trotman, not to the child. I think the  
7       Court would find her sympathetic at trial.

8               Nothing changes the cruel indiffer-  
9       ence shown to this child and the way that he  
10      suffered before he died. The Court knows  
11      that from previous testimony.

12              But with regard to the proffer, she  
13      complied fully with the proffer. She met  
14      with Ms. Herring-Lash and I six times. She  
15      gave us names and contact information of many  
16      witnesses that we could have never found --  
17      people that were sympathetic to Mr. Williams  
18      and people that weren't.

19              She gave us facts that helped  
20      clarify the physical evidence. As you know,  
21      she testified and we never uncovered any  
22      information that she wasn't being truthful.  
23      Your Honor, at the appropriate time, the  
24      mother of Rodricus Williams, Shanika  
25      Washington would like to very briefly address

1 the Court. And also Ms. Connie Huger is also  
2 here.

3 THE COURT: I'll be happy to hear  
4 from them now.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: And, Your Honor,  
6 also, as you know and we know, without Ms.  
7 Troutman's help we probably would have never  
8 found the child's body. And we certainly  
9 would have had a more difficult time  
10 convicting Mr. Williams.

11 MS. WASHINGTON: Shanika  
12 Washington.

13 THE COURT: Yes, Ms. Washington,  
14 good morning.

15 MS. WASHINGTON: I would like to  
16 thank her for helping us through the trial  
17 because I don't think we would have gotten  
18 his father. Thank you.

19 Even though it is all over, it's  
20 still not going to bring back Rodricus. I  
21 wish as a mother that she would have told  
22 something and -- being a mother herself,  
23 because there's plenty of times that we were  
24 alone that she could have told.

25 Even though you said you were

1           scared, there is a difference between  
2           being scared and you don't even care.  
3           And if I ever, if I ever had your child,  
4           I would never let anyone hurt the child.  
5           I would have protected your child because  
6           no child deserves to be hurt. That's it.

7           MS. HUGER:     My name is Connie  
8           Huger. Thank you for this opportunity. To  
9           Grace Trotman to know that you're a mother  
10          and stood by while a child's life was slowly  
11          and painfully taken away is unsettling. I  
12          believe that if it was one of your daughters  
13          being beaten to death, you would probably  
14          have acted differently.

15                 I know you wept in the end while  
16          trying to make it right. But if you had  
17          reacted in the beginning instead of waiting  
18          until his life was lifeless, he would be here  
19          today, five years old, enrolled in kinder-  
20          garten, reading books, stating sentences,  
21          giving his loved ones hugs and kisses, making  
22          us laugh continuously with heartfelt joy.  
23          Eating and helping to prepare his favorite  
24          dishes, riding his bike, running through the  
25          house, letting everyone know of his presence,

1 singing his songs of joy that made him and  
2 everyone around him happy to see such a happy  
3 little soul, a little boy with soul and  
4 spirit. And I can go on forever with how  
5 beautiful of a life Rodricus would have, had  
6 he been here with us. But instead his little  
7 life was cut short due to negligence, on both  
8 you and Roger's behalf.

9 To Rodricus, we will forever love and cherish  
10 you. No one will ever know of the joy and  
11 happiness you brought into our lives. I know  
12 there are many nights you cried out for us  
13 and we weren't there to come to your rescue.  
14 But I know you know while looking down on us,  
15 flapping your little wings, my angel, that  
16 had we known what you were going through, we  
17 would have been there in the blink of an eye.  
18 I want you to rest, my baby, knowing all is  
19 well for you now and you will never be hurt  
20 or feel pain ever again.

21 All of the wonderful memories that we  
22 had together as a family will forever be with  
23 us and you will always be a part of our  
24 family. We love you, Rodricus.

25 To Judge Dennis, Solicitors Herring and

1 Williams and to all others that played a role  
2 in this case at trial, none of this would be  
3 possible without your support, your expertise  
4 and persistence to bring this to justice.  
5 Ms. Herring and Ms. Williams, I would also  
6 like to thank you both personally for finding  
7 and allowing my family to tell our story of  
8 what and how much Rodricus meant to our  
9 family. Thank you all so much. We are  
10 forever grateful to you all.

11 THE COURT: Anything else?

12 MS. WILLIAMS: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Bolus, I'd be  
14 happy to hear from you now.

15 MR. BOLUS: Yes, sir. The State  
16 is in agreement that my client did not suffer  
17 from domestic abuse by the Defendant, Roger  
18 Williams.

19 Secondly, my client pled to an act of  
20 omission, not of commission. And I believe  
21 that trial that was held back in October  
22 indicated that the child died from the blows  
23 from Mr. Williams, not from my client.

24 My client's mistake was not calling the  
25 ambulance and 9-1-1 at that time. And we'll

1 get back to that.

2 THE COURT: Sure.

3 MR. BOLUS: Your Honor, my client  
4 is twenty-seven years old. She has no prior  
5 record. She graduated from Summerville High  
6 School, twelfth grade. She has two children,  
7 her own children, they're about three and  
8 five and they are with her aunt and uncle,  
9 who are also present in the courtroom.

10 Judge, my client kind of had a rough  
11 upbringing. Her mother was a schizophrenic  
12 and a drug addict. She was -- my client was  
13 in DSS care at the age of one, two, and she  
14 languished there, going from foster home to  
15 foster home, until she was about six. When  
16 Grace was six she started living with her  
17 grandmother, when she could.

18 When Grace was about nine years old,  
19 she suffered severe burns over half of her  
20 body when her pajamas caught fire. She was  
21 in the hospital for two months. Shortly  
22 after she got out of the hospital, her  
23 grandmother died. There was nobody to take  
24 care of her. Authorities knew of her  
25 situation so they sent her to New Jersey

1 where she was up there for a year before she  
2 finally came back here when she was twelve  
3 years old and started living with the Deas,  
4 her aunt and uncle. She lived there from  
5 about twelve to seventeen. While in high  
6 school, she was in the remedial classes. She  
7 did get her certificate and graduated. So  
8 she overcame those obstacles.

9 Judge, she was involved with Mr. Williams  
10 for about four years and from day one it was  
11 a relationship dominated by physical abuse  
12 towards Grace.

13 I have a -- she worked at Hillrom for  
14 three or four years. I have her former  
15 supervisor. He's here and he will mention to  
16 the Court. She would go into work many days  
17 busted and battered up, black eyes and busted  
18 lips. Her -- the employees and coworkers  
19 knew what was happening because she would  
20 tell them. She said she was afraid to do  
21 anything. She was afraid of this man. She  
22 also had the two kids with him. So from the  
23 beginning of her relationship it was a  
24 constant physical abuse. We're not talking  
25 just verbal abuse. We're talking smack down

1 abuse.

2 The Solicitor mentioned that after this  
3 case came to light the police searched the  
4 house where this incident happened and they  
5 saw not one but numerous blood spatters on  
6 the wall. Thinking that this could be the  
7 child's blood or some other child, they  
8 examined it. It wasn't the child's, it was  
9 my client's blood where she was punched in  
10 the nose and beaten in the face, thrown  
11 against the wall and her blood is dripping  
12 off the wall.

13 This didn't happen a year before the  
14 incident. It happened several weeks, several  
15 days before the incident. So it was  
16 constant, constant abuse. Mr. Williams from  
17 Hillrom, her former employer, said she was an  
18 ideal worker. They loved her. They tried to  
19 help her out but she eventually lost her job  
20 because of lack of transportation. Her  
21 boyfriend's swings wouldn't allow her or  
22 wouldn't take her to work, so it was that  
23 controlling aspect of her life and her world  
24 getting smaller and smaller by this man.

25 She lost that job and basically was

1 unemployed from that point on, which made her  
2 more dependent on Mr. Williams for her  
3 livelihood because she had no income.

4 At the time that this incident happened,  
5 there was no phone in the house for her to  
6 use. There was no car for her to use. As a  
7 matter of fact, they were probably getting  
8 ready to be evicted at that time.

9 Of course, when the child went into  
10 seizures, she ran next door for a phone  
11 frantically. What did she do? She called  
12 Roger. That was probably the first mistake,  
13 right there. But she was dependent. And  
14 I'll have Dr. Acierno from MUSC, he would go  
15 into details about, explain the behaviors of  
16 somebody who was under the constant threat  
17 and domination of this man.

18 Judge, she did cooperate fully with the  
19 prosecution. I believe the prosecution  
20 indicated that without her they would not  
21 have a case against Mr. Williams. That case  
22 wouldn't have happened. She was truthful  
23 from the get-go. Obviously, very remorseful  
24 for those actions.

25 Judge, at this point, I would like to

1 introduce Dr. Acierno if -- he would like to  
2 inform the Court.

3 THE COURT: We'd be delighted to  
4 hear from you, Doctor. Yes, sir.

5 DR. ACIERNO: Okay. I'm a professor  
6 of psychiatry at the Medical University of  
7 South Carolina, specifically in the National  
8 Crime Victims Research Treatment Center where  
9 I'm a -- basically interpersonal violence  
10 researcher and epidemiologist. I'm also a  
11 clinician. I also direct the Ralph H.  
12 Townsend Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder  
13 Program and the evidence-based center therapy  
14 program for them. So I have over a hundred  
15 publications and over twenty grants in the  
16 area of post-traumatic stress disorder.

17 I've been called basically to provide a  
18 bit of background characterization of a  
19 typical domestic violence victim.

20 THE COURT: Wait a second. We  
21 don't need to have the doors -- don't allow  
22 anybody come in until he's completed, please.  
23 Thank you. Excuse me, Doctor.

24 DR. ACIERNO: In reviewing the case  
25 notes of Dr. Wade and in discussing the case

1 with the defendant's attorney, it seemed to  
2 me to be an entirely expected outcome in  
3 terms of what was happening in the home. A  
4 four-year history of severe physical and  
5 emotional abuse resulting in an exceedingly  
6 controlled situation and environment where  
7 the individual was basically ruled by  
8 creating fear.

9 . Given this particular situation, I would  
10 find it absolutely surprising were a mandate  
11 given by him to wait that she would violate  
12 that mandate particularly given that it was  
13 his child, that he had suffered seizures  
14 before and that he had recovered.

15 I would expect that there was a very  
16 automatic cost-benefit analysis where she  
17 considered what had happened in the ensuing  
18 years and what would happen if she violated  
19 it now, his mandate; it would have gotten her  
20 in obvious trouble.

21 It would again surprise me that she would  
22 choose to do that voluntarily given the  
23 situation that she could not leave -- at  
24 least that's her perception and that's almost  
25 prototypical of domestic violence cases.

1 We've studied thousands of women who will  
2 report being victims of domestic violence.  
3 And the most obvious question of somebody not  
4 in the situation is, 'why on earth don't you  
5 leave?' And anybody who deals with this  
6 knows that after the first punch is thrown,  
7 the better option would be to leave. But  
8 it's virtually unheard of.

9 As a matter of fact, the cases that leave  
10 after one or two episodes of violence that  
11 you may hear about is extraordinary.

12 The fact that he was outlining a system  
13 of control through violence, limited her  
14 transportation, didn't really value her in  
15 terms of not helping her get there had the  
16 effect of moving her to the last probable  
17 exit point in terms of income.

18 So in this situation, I can see a fear of  
19 leaving and also the lack of viable  
20 opportunities to leave, that's the general  
21 picture upon which this specific incident is  
22 juxtaposed.

23 Most domestic violence incidents do not  
24 result in the party leaving. That's  
25 prototypical. Most domestic violence

1 incidents where there's child abuse does not  
2 result in the non-perpetrating parent calling  
3 DSS or turning the other person in. That is  
4 prototypical.

5 The reason they don't result in it quite  
6 simply is that the consequences are very  
7 likely going to be worse, at least in the  
8 short term, for turning in a person in or for  
9 making that report in terms of escalated  
10 physical violence and eventually for  
11 escalated child abuse. That is the sad  
12 truth.

13 And when we conduct studies where we look  
14 at men who have reported and we look at women  
15 who have reported and we look at outcomes,  
16 it's very disappointing to say that those  
17 outcomes do not seem to weigh-in on the side  
18 of reporting. Specifically, reporting is a  
19 risk factor for getting beaten up again. And  
20 it's -- that might be a statement on the  
21 criminal justice system, but it is, in fact,  
22 reality.

23 So given the situation where you have a  
24 person who is acting in a very prototypical  
25 manner, in terms of not being, not reporting

1 the child abuse one would continue in that  
2 prototypical manner. One would expect when  
3 given a mandate "do not call" that one would  
4 not call. I would expect in this tense  
5 situation that such a mandate was given.

6 Now, to go further and consider what  
7 happened afterwards, the damage was already  
8 done, the potential for future damage to her  
9 and her kids was always there. And I would  
10 expect that his control after this incident  
11 was tremendously strengthened, not  
12 questioned. That at this point, the person  
13 would be very, very, very, very compliant  
14 with all future mandates.

15 And, again, when we ask how many times  
16 has this happened -- we do these national  
17 surveys, we do anonymous surveys -- we're  
18 always surprised it's happened multiple  
19 times:

20 *Why didn't you call the police?*

21 *When I did, it got worse.*

22 And so, again, as I reviewed this case,  
23 it's very disappointing but it's very  
24 typical. And it fits very well with what we  
25 know in terms of our domestic violence

1 research.

2 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

3 COURT REPORTER: And your name for  
4 the record, Doctor?

5 THE COURT: Your name for the  
6 record, Doctor?

7 DR. ACIERNO: Ronald Acierno, A-C-I-  
8 E-R-N-O.

9 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

10 THE COURT: Thank you, Dr.  
11 Acierno.

12 MR. BOLUS: Judge, the report I  
13 received with Dr. Wade's information, the --  
14 when Grace was arrested for this incident,  
15 obviously they took her mug shot at the jail.  
16 And I don't know if you can see it readily,  
17 but in today's paper there was a picture and  
18 you could see it. She had two black eyes and  
19 her hair was pulled out.

20 THE COURT: I noticed that.

21 MR. BOLUS: And that was the day  
22 she was arrested. Which this incident  
23 happened about two days prior to the whole  
24 story coming forward.

25 We did talk about the blood spatters.

1 Judge, I have the picture that I got from the  
2 State showing obviously more than one of  
3 those.

4 Judge, I'd like to now have Dr. Wade give  
5 his report to the Court.

6 THE COURT: Sure. Dr. Wade.

7 DR. WADE: I did have the  
8 opportunity to conduct the forensic  
9 evaluation of her. And my opportunities  
10 commenced really in December of 2011 and  
11 preceding toward January, an opportunity to  
12 review an incredible amount of records and  
13 work with her personally before and she was  
14 also seen by my esteemed colleague with whom  
15 I've worked for years. I've also had the  
16 opportunity to do these type of cases;  
17 battered wife syndrome, and so forth.

18 The main things that we did right away  
19 was to assess competency. She's certainly  
20 competent, understood the charges. She was  
21 very distraught, almost with post-traumatic  
22 stress symptomology herself with these  
23 experiences.

24 I find it interesting that she was  
25 sitting in prison, detention center being

1 treated for depression, but also almost  
2 delighted to have found some emancipation  
3 from this man, though that could be  
4 punctuated by becoming very anxious when she  
5 would receive these notes or having to hear  
6 -- in October, I believe, for a hearing where  
7 literally a case worker had to help her deal  
8 with just being in close proximity to Mr.  
9 Williams.

10 Certainly, we understood that she was in  
11 an abusive, dysfunctional relationship. I  
12 found several characteristics also that went  
13 on for four years. Why an individual, a  
14 woman can allow herself be disempowered and  
15 stay in an abusive relationship, it's always  
16 difficult for the people who are not in those  
17 situations to understand.

18 Was it the upbringing with a schizo-  
19 phrenic mother who was a drug abuser, where  
20 she was in and out of DSS foster homes?  
21 Certainly not the best upbringing.

22 She was molested by her biological  
23 father. She finally, really at age twelve  
24 was rescued a little bit out of that and had  
25 a fairly decent upbringing.

1 Her self-esteem was not good during her  
2 upbringing. She was a Special Ed student,  
3 learning disabled, put in a resource  
4 classroom. Thought of herself as dumb. Did  
5 not get a high school certificate, but did  
6 well by employed at Hillrom. Has no criminal  
7 background.

8 I always wondered with her in my own  
9 evaluation what would have happened in this  
10 four-year relationship if maybe her own  
11 children started to get abused, which did not  
12 occur. And that was even reported in a DSS  
13 investigation, that did not occur.

14 She emancipated from this man on one  
15 occasion for about a six or seven-month  
16 period. So she had some strength there that  
17 I'm aware of. Unfortunately, that meant  
18 living with her mother. Her mother,  
19 unfortunately, could not sustain the home.  
20 The home was lost. They were evicted and she  
21 goes back to this relationship. That might  
22 have been the opportunity and it did not  
23 occur.

24 Then as Dr. Acierno points out, you know,  
25 that had taken away even more her ability to

1 be empowered, to get out of the relationship  
2 by costing her the job, really not having a  
3 cell phone, not having a car, really was  
4 controlled right up to the end, physically  
5 abusive. Physically abusive but also verbally  
6 abusive.

7 So one of the things that's clear to me  
8 that this lady was caught and then we have  
9 where this man seemingly wants to toughen up  
10 this young boy, to have him acting more like  
11 a male. He had some problems, very  
12 significant problems with some femininity  
13 characteristics that really are hard to  
14 conceal. And that's when he would rough him  
15 up literally, thinking he's toughening up  
16 this boy. And this this boy starts to have  
17 some seizure like activities. So that had  
18 already occurred.

19 And then ultimately this last event  
20 occurred when the boy was playing with one  
21 of the children and had a fall.  
22 My recall in my evaluation with her, she did  
23 try the CPR first before she has to run to  
24 the neighbor's house and made this call.

25 Then this man takes over again with the

1 controlling aspects. It's easy to understand  
2 his controlling aspects. His child was  
3 already bruised. He did not want anybody to  
4 come look at it. He had already left marks  
5 on this child from previous open-handed and  
6 use of a Kool-Aide spoon, fork, this rough-  
7 and-tough strategy to toughen him up and make  
8 this young boy a man. Really, really  
9 dysfunctional stuff.

10 So ultimately, I've done these cases.  
11 I understand the research. I've been  
12 involved with many of these cases and this is  
13 a woman who's very remorseful, depressed, has  
14 her own post-traumatic stress issues, but was  
15 somewhat emancipated from this relationship  
16 that she's serving at the detention center.  
17 Her behaviors were controlled.

18 The behaviors we want to detail are from  
19 June 7<sup>th</sup> through July 6<sup>th</sup>. I want to detail my  
20 co-analysis about that. The fear of  
21 retribution, the passivity on her part and  
22 then this whole escapade that occurred down  
23 at the Battery where she's literally being  
24 directed over the phone about what to say,  
25 what to do. That call falls apart as the FBI

1 and other investigators started to see  
2 through inconsistencies from the report and  
3 ultimately and subsequently she comes  
4 forward. And that certainly was the state of  
5 mind that I saw when I saw her in my  
6 evaluations.

7 For me, this is a clear case of an  
8 individual who has the dynamics of being  
9 controlled, in a terribly abusive  
10 relationship.

11 Whatever the markers are for why certain  
12 individuals/women can allow themselves to be  
13 stripped of their power, it's not always hard  
14 for most laymen to conceive. But as Dr.  
15 Acierno pointed out, it absolutely is a  
16 textbook kind of case in this situation.  
17 This is what it was with her.

18 I will also point out that in my forensic  
19 assessment when you have a prediction of  
20 violence for the future, this woman is  
21 assessed as being at very low risk for any of  
22 the behaviors that would be a violation in  
23 the future. She is not a threat of violating  
24 societal parameters or anything. She's at a  
25 very low risk if she can somehow can navigate

1 back into her life.

2 And clearly, and I feel very strongly  
3 about this case not having any  
4 inconsistencies with the dynamics that we see  
5 in these cases.

6 THE COURT: Thank you, Dr. Waid.

7 MR. BOLUS: I'm not sure -- some  
8 of her friends and family are here.

9 THE COURT: Sure.

10 MR. BOLUS: And I would like the  
11 ones who are going to say to the Court to  
12 please come up to the bar. Mr. Williams.  
13 First of all, Your Honor, Phillip Williams,  
14 and he was the former supervisor of Grace at  
15 Hillrom, back in, I think, '06 to '09.

16 Mr. Williams, just introduce  
17 yourself, where you work and just say a few  
18 things.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Phillip  
20 Williams, I worked with Grace from April of  
21 '06 to about November of '09. I was her  
22 supervisor and lead person. Grace was really  
23 a very good worker. Got along with everybody  
24 and everybody liked her. She was a very  
25 pleasant person and very easy to like.

1           The last few months that she worked  
2           there, I started on more than one occasion  
3           seeing signs of abuse that she was going  
4           through. She would come to work. Her face  
5           would be bruised and swollen, black eyes.  
6           There were scratches and bruises on her arms  
7           and her neck. Her hair had been pulled out.  
8           I asked her who was doing it, and she told me  
9           it was Roger Williams. And I told her that  
10          she needed to try and get away from him. And  
11          she said that she was afraid that would make  
12          him even worse. She was afraid of what he  
13          might do if she did try to move.

14                 MR. BOLUS:     Mr. Williams, y'all  
15                 were forced to let Grace go; correct?

16                 MR. WILLIAMS:     Yes, because of  
17                 her attendance. She was a very good worker  
18                 but her attendance had gotten bad at the end.  
19                 The main thing was she was unable to get to  
20                 work on time, sometimes not at all, basically  
21                 because of transportation. Mr. Williams  
22                 would have the car. He wouldn't bring her to  
23                 work or he just wouldn't come home with the  
24                 car and she had no way to get there.

25                 MR. BOLUS:     Thanks. Introduce

1           yourself.

2                   MR. GILMER:   My name is Barry  
3           Gilmer, I'm an assistant minister at the  
4           Church of Christ on Azalea Drive. I met  
5           Grace through Brother Deas and his wife,  
6           Katrina. Grace was in my youth group. I was  
7           a youth minister for her. And Grace always,  
8           she loved to participate in the youth group.  
9           I never had any problem with her. She was,  
10          you know, very -- a real good girl.

11                   And when Grace got in -- when she got  
12          into trouble and I first went to visit her,  
13          Your Honor, when I first saw Grace it was so  
14          hard for her to even mention this man's name  
15          without, I mean, showing terror in her eyes.  
16          And as we talked, because I tried to visit  
17          her as much as I could, and as we talked and  
18          as time went on, I could see the calmness  
19          that was coming into her.

20                   Then, when she found out that he was  
21          arrested and he was down at the same jail on  
22          Leeds where she was, I went to visit her one  
23          day and that calmness was gone. She was once  
24          again showing that terror in her eyes. It  
25          was as if she thought that he could get to

1 her. I told Grace, I said, "Grace, regard-  
2 less of what, I want you to tell the truth."  
3 I said, "you've got to tell the truth and  
4 we'll deal with whatever come after that." I  
5 was so proud of her when she did come forward  
6 and she testified.

7 Grace loved the church. One of my visits  
8 -- it would go like this when I would always  
9 go to visit her, we always would talk about  
10 the church. She'd ask me about my family.  
11 I would ask her how she's doing. We would  
12 talk about her kids. We'd talk about the  
13 Deas and everything. And then we would  
14 discuss the Bible. I even would give her  
15 little assignments that I would want her to  
16 check out and things, to kind of give her  
17 encouragement to hold on. That, you know,  
18 the Lord was in control and things would be  
19 okay.

20 When Mr. Williams was sentenced and I  
21 went back to see her, it was like a big  
22 relief had came over her. Grace is a  
23 wonderful girl. And this morning, I just  
24 asking you to please show mercy on her  
25 because she's a -- like I said, she's a

1 wonderful lady. She can't wait to get back  
2 her family and with her children. The things  
3 that she did was, you know, horrific. And,  
4 of course, she have, you know, testified to  
5 that.

6 I think those who are participating in  
7 this, I feel so sorry for the mother who lost  
8 her son. And I pray much for her.

9 Grace, when I went to see her, after  
10 Roger had been sentenced, Grace told me, she  
11 said, "Uncle Barry, I'm still praying for  
12 him." Like I said, I come in here this  
13 morning just asking for mercy for Grace  
14 Trotman. Thank you, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

16 MR. BOLUS: Jackie.

17 MS. CONYERS: I'm Jackie Conyers and  
18 Grace is like a daughter to me. We have a  
19 mentoring group at our church and Grace is an  
20 active part of that where we try to encourage  
21 young girls to be productive young women. In  
22 doing that, we have the advantage of spending  
23 some quality time with them, getting to know  
24 about them. And when Grace was in our group  
25 she was very instrumental in always being

1 positive. We try to help them with their  
2 self-esteem in showing them that, yes, you  
3 are worthy. And Grace is one of those people  
4 who has this beautiful smile, warm inner  
5 spirit.

6 When I heard about the incident, I knew  
7 something went wrong. Something happened to  
8 where she was not able to help herself.

9 And I just want Grace to know that I love  
10 her. I ask the Court that you please have  
11 mercy on her.

12 This is a tragic event and my heart goes  
13 out to the family who's lost their son and --  
14 I just ask that she be given leniency and  
15 that God is in control of all. And we love  
16 you.

17 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

18 MS. CONYERS: Thank you.

19 MR. BOLUS: Mr. Deas.

20 MR. DEAS: My name is Derrick  
21 Deas and for all intents and purposes, I am  
22 Grace's, Grace Trotman's father. My wife and  
23 I, Katrina, is here with me, along with  
24 Grace's aunt and her grandaunt, her  
25 grandmother's sister and her sister. Also

1           have a few other friends that came here with  
2           me as well.

3           Mr. Bolus has explained some of the  
4           trauma and things that have happened in  
5           Grace's life. And even in more detail, Grace  
6           has been through a lot, Your Honor.

7           I first came in contact with Grace after  
8           her having had gone through all of the  
9           displacements, having been in the Burn Center  
10          at MUSC and having to come out. And her  
11          caretaker at the time was her grandmother had  
12          now taken ill and not soon after passed away.

13          Grace, not only, you know, the trauma,  
14          but Grace's grandmother was abused and  
15          molested. Grace's mother was abused and  
16          molested. Grace, herself, was abused.

17          She came into our family and we embraced  
18          her. Your Honor, at the time, we had two  
19          other children of our own and later to have a  
20          third. Grace and her sister, Lamona, became  
21          a part of my family. Never a day did I tell  
22          anybody that Grace was my niece or my cousin.  
23          Always, Grace was my daughter. And that's  
24          what happened and how she became a part of  
25          our family.





1           Your Honor, I've had the misfortune of  
2           having to sit in that courtroom in Moncks  
3           Corner. I want to say to you I thank you for  
4           your wisdom and for your patience and your  
5           diligence in making sure that justice was  
6           served on that day.

7           I want to thank and say I'm sorry to Ms.  
8           Washington. My heart goes out to you.  
9           Someone who comes from a big family, lots of  
10          children.

11          I expressly heard from Ms. Huger. I know  
12          how it is for you to have a surrogate and  
13          that person put all their love into you and  
14          really care for you and for somebody to take  
15          that child away, I can definitely relate to  
16          that.

17          But I want to say this morning, Your  
18          Honor, that Grace has been failed by life.  
19          Grace was failed by her parents. Her parents  
20          let her down. And I think all Grace ever  
21          wanted was to be loved and for somebody to  
22          love her and to be in a family that she could  
23          say was her own. I believe her biological  
24          aunts and uncles, who none of them are here  
25          this morning, failed her; to the point where

1 she ended up being raised by her second  
2 cousin and adopted as her own.

3 I believe that life has failed Grace even in  
4 my own house, Your Honor. I believe that  
5 though we gave Grace everything we gave our  
6 other children, I still don't believe they  
7 ever felt like this was their house. They  
8 always longed for their own family. And you  
9 can't dispute that. She always wanted to  
10 have that perfect situation where it was her  
11 mother and her father. That was her dream.  
12 She's the baby of the family. And because of  
13 that, Your Honor, I have to apologize for  
14 Grace, because I believe I failed her. I  
15 don't think I failed her because -- I just  
16 assumed that these children know that if  
17 you're ever in trouble, I'm always here.  
18 That you can always come home. I just made  
19 that assumption. And evidently, Your Honor,  
20 I didn't do a very good job.

21 But I want Grace to know today, you can  
22 always come home. I love you so much.

23 And no matter what happens, it doesn't  
24 matter if there's a million Roger Williams in  
25 the world, who I have never met, Your Honor,

1 never, Grace, you can always come home and  
2 we'll take care of you. I hope that you  
3 remember that.

4 And I hope all young women remember  
5 that, that they can always come. They don't  
6 have to be victims of abuse.

7 And lastly, Your Honor, I believe Roger  
8 Williams failed Grace Trotman. Grace, in her  
9 desperation to have that model family, so  
10 desperately put up with the abuse that Roger  
11 Williams inflicted on her, constantly, just  
12 because she had her fantasy, a dream to be in  
13 the model family with her two little children  
14 and their father. He failed her.

15 And now, after all of that, Grace stands  
16 here again a victim.

17 Your Honor, father-to-father, I trust  
18 your judgment, your expertise, but I ask you  
19 this morning for mercy and I pray that God  
20 will prevail. And that he will prevail in  
21 Grace's life and all of ours. And know that  
22 justice and right is right. And I thank you  
23 this morning and I just pray and ask that you  
24 be lenient to my daughter.

25 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Deas.

1 MR. BOLUS: Your Honor, my client  
2 would like a word.

3 THE COURT: Certainly.

4 DEFENDANT: First I'd like to  
5 thank God for where he brought me, to your  
6 family.

7 I'm so sorry that I didn't do the things  
8 that I should have done because I was  
9 terrified. I pray that all of you can find  
10 it in your hearts forgive me. I was  
11 terrified. But you're right, I should have  
12 told you. But I felt like he would have beat  
13 me and that you would taken him over me, so I  
14 never said anything. I couldn't say  
15 anything.

16 But I just want you all to know that I  
17 love you no matter what and that you will  
18 always have a place in my heart.

19 I wish you and your family could have  
20 gotten to know me for yourself, because I'm  
21 not like what you think or what Roger  
22 Williams had told you about me. I'm nothing  
23 like that at all. I was lost, hurt. I was  
24 terrified of Roger. My mind was being  
25 controlled and I felt that no one loved and

1       cared about me. Through this life-changing  
2       experience, I have matured mentally and  
3       spiritually to know that I have a God-fearing  
4       loving structural family that will walk  
5       through the fire with me. I didn't know that  
6       then, but now I do. I thank my family for  
7       being there every step of the way. God has  
8       given me another chance, so I pray that  
9       everyone in this courtroom will do the same.  
10      Thank you.

11                   THE COURT:     Thank you, Ms.  
12      Trotman.

13                   MR. BOLUS:     Judge, after many of  
14      our sessions I had with Grace, I asked her,  
15      'why didn't you call?' And her words to me  
16      were, "I'm next, that if this man could do  
17      that to his child, I'm next."

18                   I hope that Dr. Wade and Dr. Acierno  
19      explained that, that would explain her  
20      behavior that day. As Dr. Waid said, Your  
21      Honor, she is not a risk to society. I would  
22      ask you to consider a sentence that would be  
23      appropriate under the circumstances.

24                   THE COURT:     Counsel, y'all  
25      approach, please?

1 (OFF RECORD BENCH CONFERENCE)

2 THE COURT: One thing, Ms.

3 Trotman, that I shared with your lawyer, and  
4 it's been crystalized here today, I think I  
5 got it right in the life sentence for Mr.  
6 Williams. He deserved it. He deserved it  
7 for his acts with regard to Rodricus. But he  
8 deserved it with his acts in general and his  
9 insensitivity to humanity.

10 We were just talking about, and I am well  
11 familiar -- not well familiar -- I shouldn't  
12 say that. I'm familiar with the battered  
13 wife syndrome and abuse, and I would agree  
14 with you over and over again. You sit there  
15 and you scratch your head and say 'why,  
16 didn't she just leave?'

17 In this case, Ms. Trotman, you did, and  
18 that gives me concern. You had somebody that  
19 cared.

20 Mr. Deas, I am a father. And we all make  
21 mistakes but don't you be punishing yourself,  
22 sir. You don't deserve to do that. And  
23 don't you spend any time doing that because  
24 we do the best we can. And, yes, we have all  
25 -- everybody in this room, we need to be

1 cognizant of the fact and not make  
2 assumptions that we make every day.

3 One of the things that I do, and that's  
4 constantly on my mind, I'm supposed to pass  
5 judgment on situations and persons and decide  
6 what's an appropriate sentence, you know,  
7 about a person who lived a life that I have  
8 no idea what it's like. I didn't have that.  
9 And so I'm supposed to do justice? How in  
10 the world do you do justice when you really  
11 don't understand? You can read about it, but  
12 you've never lived it.

13 Ms. Trotman, I've never lived what you  
14 had to live. My heart goes out to you. But  
15 I also know that there are people that rise  
16 above that every day. It'd be extraordinary  
17 cases, no question about that. And I  
18 understand they exist. What they are and  
19 what the ingredients, I'll leave that to the  
20 accomplished physicians.

21 But I do know that in looking at this  
22 sentence and the statute as I was just  
23 sharing -- and I've done it. There is a case  
24 on record where the Judge suspended and I did  
25 it in a case in this circuit, where I

1 suspended the mandatory minimum sentence.  
2 There have been some decisions, though, that  
3 say that that really isn't an appropriate  
4 sentence. Appropriate in this sense, it's  
5 not a legal sentence, I don't think. It  
6 wasn't appealed so, therefore, it's fine.  
7 But the Legislature sets the parameters when  
8 they prescribe -- and the analogy is, the  
9 case that was reversed was a burglary first.  
10 The range is fifteen years to life. And the  
11 Judge suspended the fifteen-year sentence and  
12 the Court said, 'you don't have the authority  
13 to do that because the range is fifteen being  
14 a limit, similar to a murder, thirty to  
15 life.'

16 This case there's no question. When you  
17 entered the plea, agreed to plead under  
18 (a) (1), which says and I quote, that the  
19 Judge, that the sentencing person under this  
20 section, the Judge must -- excuse me. Under  
21 section (a) (1), may be imprisoned for life  
22 but not less than twenty years.

23 No question you deserve twenty years  
24 under that section. And no question, based  
25 on what's happened. But then (a) (2) says --

1 and (a) (2) is when, as your lawyer has  
2 discussed and as we know, it reads, "when a  
3 person is guilty of homicide by child abuse,  
4 if the person knowingly aids and abets  
5 another person to commit child abuse or  
6 neglect that results in a death..." -- and in  
7 that, the Legislature has seen fit to change  
8 that sentence. And that sentence under this  
9 section says, must be imprisoned for a term  
10 of not exceeding twenty years, but not less  
11 than ten.

12 Based on what I've heard today and it's  
13 not a perfect society, Doctor, you're right.  
14 We sit there in our criminal justice system,  
15 we struggle and we're working on it, just as  
16 the medical profession is. We're working on  
17 it daily. We haven't really addressed that.  
18 We've addressed persons who have some mental,  
19 some impairment, mental impairment that  
20 allows -- that we have where they can't  
21 understand the difference between right and  
22 wrong. And, therefore, the *McNaughton* test.  
23 And we recognize that. We have guilty-but-  
24 mentally-ill, which is an interesting, that  
25 somebody is compelled act, and knows the

1 difference between right and wrong. I really  
2 think that's even worse because they know  
3 what they're doing is wrong but can't stop  
4 themselves, where the person who doesn't have  
5 that ability, really doesn't realize it. But  
6 we're allowed to punish that person without  
7 any -- they can be sentenced up to the max.

8 We recognize self-defense. No question  
9 if you had taken Mr. Williams life, probably  
10 a good defense for you, a battered wife -- a  
11 battered person syndrome.

12 But I think what the statute gives me is  
13 the right to consider it all and apply those  
14 facts and that's what I'm going to do. I  
15 think you were more aiding and abetting than  
16 you were the perpetrator.

17 Do you deserve to be punished? Yes,  
18 ma'am, you do.

19 So the sentence of the Court on  
20 indictment 10-GS-08-1520 -- and I know that's  
21 what she's pleading to, but I'm sentencing  
22 her under (a) (2). 16-03-0085(a) (2). The  
23 sentence is fifteen (15) years. You're given  
24 credit for time served. Since when? She's  
25 been in jail for how long?

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MS. WILLIAMS: July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

THE COURT: Credit for time served since July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The sentence of Court in 10-GS-08-1875 is ten (10) years, credit for time served since July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

And the sentences are concurrent.

I hope that what you said and what you've heard, you mean. You have much to offer. You've made some tragic mistakes, some of them your own doing, some of them you were the victim. But you don't have to be a victim the rest of your life. Good luck to you.

MR. BOLUS: Thank you, sir.

(HEARING CONCLUDED)

