

Guilt Innocence Phase  
August 9, 2017

1 11:15, and we'll take a 30-minute break, and then we'll  
2 work until 1:00, and we'll take a break at 1:00.

3 Gary, going out or staying in today?

4 THE BAILIFF: Staying in today.

5 All right. So the moment you get done  
6 eating, and you're ready to go, ring the bell, and we'll  
7 get started. So if you need to take a break earlier  
8 than I call a break, raise your hand and let me know.

9 And with that, will the State approach and  
10 arraign the defendant.

11 MS. BARNETT: In the name and by the  
12 authority of the State of Texas, the duly organized  
13 grand jury of Harris County, Texas, presents in the  
14 District Court of Harris County, Texas, that in Harris  
15 County, Texas, Sandra Melgar, hereafter styled the  
16 defendant, heretofore on or about December 23, of 2012,  
17 did then and there unlawfully, intentionally, and  
18 knowingly cause the death of Jaime Melgar, hereinafter  
19 called the complainant, by stabbing the complainant with  
20 a deadly weapon, namely a knife.

21 It is further presented that in Harris  
22 County, Texas, Sandra Melgar, hereafter styled the  
23 defendant, heretofore on or about December 23, 2012, did  
24 then and there unlawfully intend to cause serious bodily  
25 injury to Jaime Melgar, here and after called the

Guilt Innocence Phase  
August 9, 2017

1 complainant, and did cause the death of the complainant  
2 by intentionally and knowingly committing an act clearly  
3 dangerous to human life, namely by stabbing the  
4 complainant with a deadly weapon, namely a knife.

5           Against the peace and dignity of the  
6 State. Signed by the foreman of the grand jury.

7           THE COURT: To which the defendant pleads  
8 guilty or not guilty?

9           THE DEFENDANT: I am not guilty.

10          THE COURT: State wish to make an opening  
11 statement?

12          MS. BARNETT: I would, Your Honor.

13          THE COURT: You may proceed.

14                   **OPENING STATEMENT BY THE STATE/MS. BARNETT**

15          MS. BARNETT: On December 23, of 2012, was  
16 a Sunday. At 4:30 that afternoon, the family members of  
17 Jaime Melgar came over to the Melgars' house to have  
18 dinner. They had been invited the day before, or a  
19 couple of days before to come over and have a meal with  
20 Sandra and Jaime Melgar.

21                 When they got to the residence at 4:30  
22 p.m. -- they were supposed to be there at 4:00. They  
23 were running late and came at 4:30 p.m. There were five  
24 of them, they were all in one car. They saw Jaime  
25 Melgar's truck parked on the right side of the driveway