

Guilt Innocence Phase
August 18, 2017

1 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

2 **BY MR. SECREST:**

3 Q. Mr. Lacy, let me show you what's marked as
4 Defense Exhibit No. 12. Do you recognize the person
5 depicted in that?

6 A. I don't recognize him.

7 Q. Very well.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. SECREST: I have no further questions,
10 Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Any re-cross?

12 MS. BARNETT: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: May this witness be excused?

14 MR. SECREST: He may, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Lacy.

16 Defense, call your next witness.

17 MR. SECREST: We call Britni Cooper.

18 THE COURT: You may proceed.

19 MR. SECREST: Thank you.

20 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

21 **BY MR. SECREST:**

22 Q. Good morning, Ms. Cooper.

23 A. Good morning.

24 Q. Would you please state your name and spell it
25 for the court reporter.

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1 A. My name is Britni Cooper; B-r-i-t-n-i,
2 C-o-o-p-e-r.

3 Q. Ms. Cooper, how are you employed?

4 A. I am a assistant district attorney with the
5 Harris County District Attorney's Office.

6 Q. So you work for the same District Attorney's
7 Office as Mr. Barnett?

8 A. Yes, I do.

9 Q. How long have you been a prosecutor?

10 A. 10 and 1/2 years.

11 Q. Okay. What is your present assignment?

12 A. I am a district court chief in the 230th
13 District Court. I handle capital murders and murder
14 cases, and I supervise prosecutors that handle
15 lower-level felony cases.

16 Q. Do you know a gentleman by the name of Shawn
17 Carrizal?

18 A. Yes, sir, I do.

19 Q. And how did you meet Shawn Carrizal?

20 A. He is a homicide detective with the Harris
21 County Sheriff's Office. And I have had several
22 cases -- well, not several, but a couple of cases with
23 him.

24 Q. And the cases that you had with him, were they
25 homicide or murder-type cases?

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1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And let me ask you just point-blank: Do you
3 have an opinion as to whether or not Shawn Carrizal is
4 truthful or untruthful?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And what is that opinion?

7 A. My personal opinion based on personal dealings
8 with him is that he is untruthful.

9 Q. Have you had dealings with him with respect to
10 the way he conducts an investigation?

11 A. Yes, sir, I have.

12 Q. What can you tell us with respect to his work
13 ethic as far as working up a case, at least based on
14 your personal opinion?

15 A. Again, this is just me in my personal dealings
16 with him; I'm not speaking for other prosecutors. But
17 me personally, he has not been thorough in cases. And
18 in one particular case, it was a sloppy police
19 investigation, in my opinion, on that case.

20 Q. We're talking about serious felony cases like
21 homicide?

22 A. The case -- one case in particular was a murder
23 case.

24 MR. SECREST: Pass the witness.

25 THE COURT: All right. Cross-examination.

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CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MS. BARNETT:

Q. When you -- you and I talked about this, did we not?

A. Yes, we did.

Q. And one of the things that you told me was that you thought that Shawn Carrizal was sloppy because he was leaving one job and going to another job; is that right?

A. During the time that I was dealing with him on that case, he had left the Sheriff's Office and went to the D.A.'s office, yes. During his investigation, I think -- yes, that was earlier.

Q. Okay. So -- and I'm not excusing his behavior, but if I'm right in what I remember you saying that that's what you kind of attributed part of the sloppiness to was because he was leaving one job and going to another one?

A. Yes.

Q. And you said you don't trust him, you don't think he's truthful; is that right?

A. That's correct.

Q. And that's based on how many cases you had with him?

A. It was one case when I formed that opinion of

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1 him.

2 Q. Okay. And being a prosecutor in 10 1/2 years,
3 there's no way for you to tell how many cases you've
4 handled, I would assume?

5 A. A lot.

6 Q. A lot.

7 So your opinion on him is based on the one
8 case that you've testified to?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And have you and I tried cases together?

11 A. We have.

12 Q. And are we about to try another case?

13 A. In about three weeks.

14 Q. Together?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And answer this truthfully, please: Do you
17 trust my judgment on cases?

18 A. Absolutely, yes.

19 MS. BARNETT: Pass the witness.

20 THE COURT: Any redirect?

21 MR. SECREST: No further questions. Thank
22 you.

23 THE COURT: Call your next.

24 MR. SECREST: Your Honor, I call Billy
25 Belk.