IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

Case Nos. 53159 & 55759

Electronically Filed
Apr 18 2018 02:41 p.m.
Elizabeth A. Brown
Clerk of Supreme Court

NORMAN KEITH FLOWERS,

Appellant,

v.

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Respondent.

APPELLANT'S APPENDIX TO MOTION TO REINSTATE APPEALS VOLUME III OF III

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Dated this 18th day of April, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

RENE L. VALLADARES Federal Public Defender

/s/ CB Kirschner

C.B. KIRSCHNER Assistant Federal Public Defender

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 18, 2018, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Nevada Supreme Court by using the appellate electronic filing system.

I served a true and accurate copy of the foregoing by placing it in the United States mail, first-class, postage pre-paid, addressed to:

Steve Wolfson Clark County District Attorney 200 Lewis Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89101

Adam Laxalt Office of the Attorney General 100 N. Carson Street Carson City, NV 89104

I further certify that I have mailed the foregoing document by first-class mail, postage pre-paid, or have dispatched it to a third party commercial carrier for delivery within three calendar days, to the following people:

Norman Flowers #39975 High Desert State Prison P.O. Box 650 Indian Springs, NV 89070

/s/ Dayron Rodriguez

An Employee of the Federal Public Defender, District of Nevada

DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

COURT MINUTES

Felony/Gross Misdemeanor

March 19, 2018

05C216032

State of Nevada

VS

Norman Flowers

March 19, 2018

9:00 AM

Evidentiary Hearing

HEARD BY: Herndon, Douglas W.

COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 16C

COURT CLERK: Deborah Miller

RECORDER: Sara Richardson

PARTIES

PRESENT: Connolly, Karen Ann

Attorney for Defendant

Flowers, Norman K

Defendant

Luzaich, Elissa

Attorney for State

State of Nevada

Plaintiff

JOURNAL ENTRIES

Upon Court's inquiry, defendant waived his right to his attorney/client privilege. James Oronez and Norman Flowers sworn and testified. Arguments by counsel. Court stated FINDINGS and ORDERED, Motion to Withdraw Plea GRANTED. COURT ORDERED, matter SET for Status Check.

NDC

4/11/18 9:00 AM STATUS CHECK: TRIAL SETTING

PRINT DATE: 04/04/2018 Page 1 of 1 Minutes Date: March 19, 2018

Electronically Filed 3/30/2018 10:38 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

1 2 DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 3 4 CASE NO. 05C216032 THE STATE OF NEVADA, 5 Plaintiff, DEPT. NO. III 6 VS. 7 NORMAN K. FLOWERS, 8 Defendant. 9 BEFORE THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS W. HERNDON, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 10 11 MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018 12 RECORDER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 13 **EVIDENTIARY HEARING** 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 APPEARANCES: 21 For the State: ELISSA LUZAICH 22 Chief Deputy District Attorney 23 For the Defendant: KAREN A. CONNOLLY, ESQ. 24 25 RECORDED BY: SARA RICHARDSON, COURT RECORDER

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1	LAS	S VEGAS, NEVADA, MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018, 9:27 A.M.
2		* * * * *
3	THE	COURT: All right. We will be on the record. Mr. Flowers is present
4	with his att	orney, Ms. Connolly. This is 216032. You-all can be seated.
5	Thank you.	This is the time set for our evidentiary hearing. We have
6	Mr. Oronoz	here to testify.
7		So, Jim, if you could raise your right hand for me, please.
8		JAMES ORONOZ,
9	[having l	peen called as a witness and first duly sworn, testified as follows:]
0	THE	CLERK: Will you please state and spell your name for the record.
1	THE	WITNESS: Yeah, my name is James Oronoz, J-A-M-E-S, last name
12	Oronoz, O-I	R-O-N-O-Z.
13	THE	COURT: Okay. Who wanted to go first?
4		DIRECT EXAMINATION OF JAMES ORONOZ
15	BY MS. CO	NNOLLY:
16	Q	How are you employed, Mr. Oronoz?
17	A	I'm sorry?
18	Q	How are you employed?
19	A	I'm I'm in I work for myself in the practice of law.
20	Q	Okay. And what's the nature of your practice?
21	A	I do criminal defense and personal injury cases.
22	Q	When were you first admitted to practice law in the state of
23	Nevada?	
24	A	1998.
25	Q	Do you represent or do you recognize the gentleman seated to m

'	ingin :	
2	A I do.	
3	Q And how do you recognize him?	
4	A Well, that is my former client, Norman Flowers.	
5	MS. LUZAICH: Oh, and I'm sorry, he needs to waive the privilege.	
6	THE COURT: You are correct. I'm sorry.	
7	Karen, did you have those conversations with Mr. Flowers?	
8	MS. CONNOLLY: He understands.	
9	THE COURT: All right. So, Mr. Flowers, you understand that in order fo	
10	your attorney to testify to certain things, and we're just talking about things	
11	that that revolved around the plea that you entered, but in order for him to	
12	answer questions about that, you need to waive your right to attorney-client	
13	privilege just in regard to those kinds of conversations, okay?	
14	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.	
15	THE COURT: And you're willing to do that?	
16	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.	
17	THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.	
18	BY MS. CONNOLLY:	
19	Q So you you were appointed to represent Mr. Flowers back in	
20	2011, 2010, 2011; does that sound familiar?	
21	A Yes, it does.	
22	Q Okay. And do you remember the circumstances under which you	
23	were appointed on the case, like, what you were appointed to do?	
24	A I think it was just the appeal.	
25	Q Okay. Were you involved in filing a motion to withdraw the guilty	

1	Q	Are you familiar with what's commonly known in the legal	
2	community as a <u>Cripps</u> violation?		
3	A	I am.	
4	Q	And what is your understanding of what that what is a Cripps	
5	violation?		
6	A	My understanding of a Cripps is essentially that a judge becomes	
7	unduly invo	olved in trying to persuade a client to do something, to plead guilty	
8	or or whatnot and		
9	Q	Okay. Now, you never raised that as an issue in this particular	
10	case, did y	ou?	
11	A	I did not.	
12	Q	Was there any strategic reason for your failure to do that?	
13	A	No. I no, there wasn't.	
14	MS.	CONNOLLY: I don't have anything further.	
15	THE COURT: Ms. Luzaich.		
16		CROSS-EXAMINATION OF JAMES ORONOZ	
17	BY MS. LUZAICH:		
18	Q	Did you think there was a <u>Cripps</u> violation?	
19	A	For me it's it's there have been many times where I've believed	
20	it's been helpful that when judges have addressed clients and explained		
21	things, and I think quite frankly it's saved some of my clients a lot of time. But		
22	I understand the Supreme Court's ruling and I respect it. And at the time I jus		
23	didn't I d	idn't think it was a significant issue.	
24	Q	Right. So based on your training and experience and all of your	
25	experience	in criminal law has been as a defense attorney, correct?	

1	A	That's true.	
2	Q	So based on your training and experience, you did not believe at the	
3	time that it was a <u>Cripps</u> violation?		
4	A	I I I did not see it as a violation.	
5	Q	And when you say that very often when a judge at least talks to a	
6	client it sav	ves a lot of time, you just said that, correct?	
7	A	Well	
8	Q	No, that's what you just said, correct?	
9	A	It saves time in the sense that sometimes the client does things that	
10	I that I think assists their cause.		
11	Q	Right. And in fact in this case it saved the defendant from the	
12	death penalty, right, a plea?		
13	A	Yeah, that's that's true.	
14	MS.	LUZAICH: Okay. I have nothing further.	
15	THE COURT: Anything further?		
16		REDIRECT EXAMINATION OF JAMES ORONOZ	
17	BY MS. CONNOLLY:		
18	Q	You're familiar with Cripps means essentially the Court can't get	
19	involved in	plea negotiations?	
20	A	Yes, yes, I do. I	
21	Q	And in this particular case from reviewing the transcript, it's eviden	
22	that the Court got involved in plea negotiations and that's in fact what the		
23	Supreme Court has determined?		
24	A	Yes, correct. That's true.	
25	Q	So was it it wasn't really an issue of you not believing it was a	

1	<u>Cripps</u> violation, it's just not an issue you raised?
2	A Correct. I mean, it I believe I was wrong and the Supreme Court
3	you know, they're obviously, they get to decide, so.
4	MS. CONNOLLY: Okay. Thank you.
5	THE COURT: Were there
6	Did you have anything further?
7	Were there any discussions you had with Mr. Flowers after the
8	District Court's comments to him about the plea, if you remember at all?
9	THE WITNESS: You know, Judge, I don't I don't remember. I'm sorry
10	THE COURT: Okay. Okay. Thank you, Jim, I appreciate it.
11	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
12	THE COURT: Tell Judge Smith I appreciate you
13	THE WITNESS: Okay. All right.
14	THE COURT: him him releasing you to come down here.
15	THE WITNESS: All righty, thanks.
16	THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Connolly.
17	MS. CONNOLLY: Norman Flowers.
18	THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Flowers, you can come on up here to the
19	witness stand, sir.
20	Go ahead and raise your right hand as best you can for me, if you
21	would, please, sir.
22	NORMAN FLOWERS,
23	[having been called as a witness and first duly sworn, testified as follows:]
24	THE CLERK: You may be seated. Will you please state and spell your
25	name for the record?

1	THE	WITNESS: Norman Flowers, N-O-R-M-A-N, F-L-O-W-E-R-S.
2	THE	COURT: All right. Thank you.
3		Ms. Connolly.
4		DIRECT EXAMINATION OF NORMAN FLOWERS
5	BY MS. CO	ONNOLLY:
6	Q	Okay. Mr. Flowers, you're in custody on a case in which you pled
7	guilty to tw	vo counts of first degree murder, correct?
8	A	Yes.
9	Q	And initially on those cases you were charged with the death
10	penalty?	
11	А	Yes.
12	Q	Now, your case and and your both those cases were set for
13	calendar ca	all on June 10 th , 2011, right?
14	A	Yes.
15	Q	Okay. And at the calendar call, let's talk about early in the morning
16	on calenda	r call when the hearing first started. The District Court or do you
17	recall your	attorney advising the District Court that the case had not been
18	negotiated	?
19	А	Can you repeat that please?
20	Q	Do you recall your your attorney at that time was
21	Mr. Clark F	Patrick, right?
22	A	Yes.
23	Q	Okay. And in the beginning of calendar call Mr. Patrick indicated to
24	the Court t	hat there was no that you had not accepted any negotiations that
25	had been e	extended?

1	A	Yes.
2	Q	And then shortly thereafter it was indicated that you wanted to tall
3	to your mo	om?
4	A	Yes.
5	Q	And your mom was brought into the courtroom and everybody left
6	the courtre	oom except for officials and you were permitted to talk with your
7	mom in pr	ivacy, right?
8	A	Yes.
9	Q	And you talked to your mom for about an hour?
10	A	Yes.
11	Q	And after that discussion the judge came back in and asked if the
12	case was	resolved and your attorney indicated the case was not resolved?
13	A	Yes.
14	Q	Okay. And after that there was some
15	MS.	LUZAICH: Objection. Leading. This is direct.
16	MS.	CONNOLLY: I'm just trying
17	THE	COURT: Well, I'll sustain the objection.
18	BY MS. C	ONNOLLY:
19	Q	At some point in time you changed your mind during the process of
20	that hearing	ng, right?
21	A	Yes.
22	Q	At the start of calendar call what was your position in regard to
23	pleading g	uilty?
24	A	I didn't want to plead guilty.
25	Q	And at the end of calendar call did you plead guilty?

1	A	Yes.
2	Q	And why did you do that?
3	A	Because the judge mentioned to me, his statement was, Once he
4	leave there	will be no other offers, are you aware you're facing death penalty
5	twice, once	e I leave, that's it, you know, and I basically felt nervous and scared
6	like if I didr	n't accept this then I wouldn't have a fair shot at trial.
7	Q	And why did you think you would not have a fair shot at trial if you
8	didn't acce	pt the negotiation?
9	A	Him being a judge it just felt, the way he said it, it's like either I
10	take that o	r he wasn't he wasn't gonna be fair at trial.
11	Q	So you thought because the Court was talking from the bench and
12	encouragin	g you to take the plea that if you didn't he wouldn't give you a fair
13	trial?	
14	A	Yes.
15	MS.	CONNOLLY: I don't have anything else.
16	THE	COURT: Ms. Luzaich.
17		CROSS-EXAMINATION OF NORMAN FLOWERS
18	BY MS. LU	ZAICH:
19	Q	You understand that whether or not any other offers are made are
20	up to the S	tate, correct? The State is the one who makes the offers not the
21	judge.	
22	A	I do now.
23	Q	Okay. Prior to your calendar call you had been through the crimina
24	justice syst	em on, what, six prior criminal cases?
25	A	They were all put in one deal. It's not like I went to six different
	i .	

1	courtrooms.
2	Q All of your priors were put in one deal?
3	A Yes.
4	Q Okay. You pled in separate cases all at the same time, but you ha
5	six separate cases in the system?
6	A Yes.
7	Q So it's not like you were new to the system, you knew that it was
8	only the State, the D.A., who decides whether or not to make an offer, not a
9	judge?
0	A I was young then, I just took the deal to get it over with. I mean,
1	don't know exactly the chain of who has authority or whatnot. The judge made
12	it very clear as if he had the authority, he was like, hey, you know, the State -
3	there will be no better deals, you're not getting another deal
4	Q And in fact, the judge said
15	A and once I leave, that's it.
16	Q this was the
7	MS. CONNOLLY: Judge, I would ask she let him finish his
8	THE COURT: Hold on. Hold on. Hold on. Go ahead, finish your answe
19	THE WITNESS: I finished it.
20	THE COURT: Okay.
21	BY MS. LUZAICH:
22	Q The reason the judge said there would be no other chances was
23	because the State said this is the one and final that we are making and we are
24	ready for trial because we wanted to go to trial
25	MS. CONNOLLY: Objection. Judge, object

1	BY MS. LUZAICH:
2	Q isn't that
3	A I don't recall the State saying that.
4	MS. CONNOLLY: Objection.
5	THE COURT: Hold on, hold on. What's your
6	MS. CONNOLLY: She can't talk about why the judge did what the judge
7	did. I object to that question. Speculation.
8	THE COURT: Well, overruled. You can ask the question. Go ahead,
9	repeat your question.
10	BY MS. LUZAICH:
11	Q He said that because the State had indicated that that was the only
12	offer we were ever going to make and that we wanted to go to trial; isn't that
13	correct?
14	A I don't recall that.
15	Q So you thought that because the judge said no more offers are
16	going to be made you were not going to get a fair trial?
17	A Yes. I felt I felt nervous, I felt intimidated. Then I also had Clark
18	pressuring me saying, well, hey, you know, as pressuring me into taking a
19	deal saying, hey, you're not there's no way you're going to get any action or
20	your appeal like I should just take the deal.
21	Q Okay. But that's got nothing to do with the judge, does it?
22	A I had the judge wasn't stopping them, so I felt it was all on the
23	judge. I mean, if I didn't go ahead and do this he was going to be hard on me.
24	They were standing right there
25	Q He was going to be hard on you?

Α

Yeah, it was like --

MS. CONNOLLY: I don't have anything further, thank you. 1 2 THE COURT: Lisa, anything more? 3 MS. LUZAICH: No. THE COURT: All right, Mr. Flowers, you can go ahead and step down. 4 5 Thank you. 6 Ms. Connolly. 7 MS. CONNOLLY: I don't have any other witnesses. 8 THE COURT: Okay. State? 9 MS. LUZAICH: No. 10 THE COURT: Any argument? 11 MS. CONNOLLY: We submit it, Judge. 12 MS. LUZAICH: You know, I'm sorry, I just think that by his own 13 testimony the motion should be with -- denied. He's been through the system 14 pretty much his entire life. He knows the system. He knows it's the State who 15 makes the offers not the judge. And he said he thought the judge would be 16 hard on him. It's not the judge who sentences either, it's the jury who 17 sentences. So I just think his own testimony demonstrated that his plea was 18 free and voluntary and it wasn't because the judge had anything to do with it. 19 THE DEFENDANT: Can I say something real quick, Your Honor? 20 THE COURT: No, no, no. 21 MS. CONNOLLY: Wait, no. 22 He didn't say the judge would be hard on him in sentencing, he 23 indicated he didn't think he would get a fair trial and the judge was going to be

hard upon him during trial, which is a fair position or a fair belief for him to have

given the repeated comments from the Court which were improper as indicated

24

by the Nevada Supreme Court.

THE COURT: Well, so, look, this is one where I think the Supreme Court has really, really narrowed, narrowed, narrowed down the issue here today and it's an issue that I think justifies the granting of the -- the petition to withdraw the pleas.

The law of the case that the Court's operating under, to begin with, is that neither trial or appellate counsel raise -- on direct appeal, raise any issue of a <u>Cripps</u> violation. And then the District Court, when it was in Department 8, erroneously concluded that that issue had been raised on direct appeal and the Supreme Court said, nope, that wasn't raised on direct appeal which is why we're here today. Thereafter, the Supreme Court said there was clearly a <u>Cripps</u> violation. So there's not any dispute or any ability of this Court to find that there wasn't a <u>Cripps</u> violation, and quite frankly, I agree that there was a <u>Cripps</u> violation.

The only issue left over is the Supreme Court, at least in my mind, the Supreme Court's use of the word "may" on page 4 of their opinion where they say, The statements, i.e., the statements of the Court, Judge Smith, may reasonably be viewed as having been a material fact or affecting Flowers's decision to plead guilty. So really it's just, for me to decide today based on what evidence is available is do I think that reasonably affected -- was a material factor affecting the decision to plead guilty. And I think that they were.

Look, I don't think that there was much left over in that regard.

There wasn't really much of a hurdle to overcome in that regard after the Court said that there was a Cripps violation. And I agree with Ms. Connolly that it's

not just about the penalty since the jury would be deciding the penalty versus the Court, it's about the idea of whether I'm going to get a fair trial in front of the judge or he's pissed off at me basically because I won't plead guilty and is going to treat me unfairly during the course of the trial.

The Supreme Court, when they said that there were <u>Cripps</u> violations, they didn't really parcel out certain things, but I think they are worth commenting on in light of what Mr. Flowers said today that he was nervous and scared, he felt like if he didn't accept the deal that he was not going to get a fair trial from the judge, and I say that because some of the things that Judge Smith was saying about no deals once I leave the room, and once we walk out the door there's no negations, we're going to trial, you know, the reason those things are inappropriate is because the Court kind of aligns itself with the attorneys almost adversarially against the defendant, meaning, hey, we're all in over here and if you don't do anything, we're all leaving and we're going to trial, and — and you're basically going to be left as, you know, with an empty basket so to speak. So I do think it's reasonable for Mr. Flowers to have felt the way he did as he expressed in his testimony such that it would have affected his decision to plead guilty.

Look, it's very easy to say with the death penalty on the table that somebody could have decided to plead guilty anyway regardless of those statements. But, I mean, that's not the state of our record or the state of our evidence. So I think it's -- it's appropriate to allow him to withdraw the pleas.

So that leaves us in a position, and I don't know, Karen, if you had conversations with Drew's office about just being appointed to move forward with the resetting of the trial.

1	THE COURT: April 11 th
2	MS. LUZAICH: 25 th .
3	THE COURT: or 25 th ?
4	MS. LUZAICH: 25 th .
5	MS. CONNOLLY: I 25 th I have well, I have something at 9:00, but
6	it's it's downstairs.
7	THE COURT: Well, look, let's just do the 11 th in terms of filing refiling
8	the original charges and making sure we get another attorney involved, and at
9	that point we can set another status check on getting the renotice of death filed
10	and talk about trial dates.
11	THE CLERK: April 11 th at 9:00 a.m.
12	MS. LUZAICH: Thank you.
13	THE COURT: All right, guys, thank you.
14	MS. LUZAICH: Thank you.
15	THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, sir.
16	PROCEEDING CONCLUDED AT 9:49 A.M.
17	* * * * * *
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20	
21	ATTEST: I do hereby certify that I have truly and correctly transcribed the
22	audio-video recording of this proceeding in the above-entitled case. See Handan—
23	SARA RICHARDSON
24	Court Recorder/Transcriber