```
1
               THE WITNESS: I do.
               THE CLERK: Thank you.
 3
              Please have a seat. State your full name
    spelling your first and last name for the record.
 4
 5
              THE WITNESS: Martin Sanchez-Jankowski,
    M-A-R-T-I-N, capital J-A-N-K-O-W-S-K-I.
 7
 8
                  MARTIN SANCHEZ JANKOWSKI,
 9
              being called as a witness on behalf of the
10
    Defendant, was first duly sworn and testified as
11
   follows:
12
13
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
   BY MR. WHIPPLE:
1.4
              Mr. Jankowski, thanks for being here this
15
         Q.
16
   afternoon.
17
              Where do you live?
18
              I live in Berkeley, California.
19
              What do you do in Berkeley, California?
20
              I'm a professor of sociology at the
21
   University of California at Berkeley.
22
        Q
              So, you're a professor at Berkeley
23
   University?
24
        Α
             Yes.
25
             And what is it that you teach?
```

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```
I teach sociology.
 1
        Α
             And how long have you been teaching at
 2
 3 Berkeley?
             Twenty years.
        Α
             And what type of things do you teach at
 5
        Q
   Berkeley?
 6
             I teach courses in quantitative methods,
 7
        Α
   sociology of poverty, race and ethnicity.
             And just give the folks a heads up why did
 9
   I ask you to testify here today?
10
             I'm an expert in gangs.
11
12
             Now, if you would, please, give these
   folks a little bit of background with regards to
13
   your education and training.
14
              I have a BA in political science and
15
        Α
   history from Western Michigan University. I have an
16
   MA in political science from Dalhousie in Halifax,
17
   Nova Scotia, and I have a Ph.D. from Massachusetts
18
   Institute of Technology in political science and
19
   economics.
20
             You're not here for free?
21
        Q
             No, I am not.
22
        Α
             How much are you charging by the hour?
23
        Q
24
        Α
             I charge $175 an hour.
             Now, if you would, where did you grow up?
25
```

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```
I was born in Mexico. I grew up there for
1
   some, then we moved to Texas, and I grew up in South
   Texas, in the rural area of South Texas.
   families were migrant workers, and I moved to
   Michigan and grew up in inner city Detroit.
             You left off explaining you were educated
6
   at MIT, I believe?
        Α
             Yes.
             What was your level of education up to
 9
10
   MIT?
             Well, I did a Ph.D. at MIT, doctorate in
11
   political science and economics.
12
             How was it that you identified -- when did
        Q
13
   you decide you wanted to be an expert in gangs?
14
             Well, I was first and foremost an expert
15
        A
   in poverty because I studied poverty as an
16
   economist, and I was a macro theorist, which means
17
   that I did quantitative studies, mostly in numbers,
18
   not with any humans involved, and then I did some --
19
   we did a very large project -- a team of researchers
20
   did a very large project, and in the third world, as
21
   we often do, and a lot of our numbers weren't
22
   corresponding to each other. So, the people who
23
   were, in fact -- in Mexico was where this project
24
   was -- were sending back data that didn't correspond
25
```

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to the kinds of formulas that we were producing, so we needed somebody to go down and see how things were working in every day life, and I volunteered to do that. Once I did that, I found that I could be an asset to most studies having to do with poverty, so I essentially was a direct observer of how things were working out in every day life. As part of the general area of poverty, I got interested in gangs, because gangs had been an institution in poverty neighborhoods not only in the 10 United States but in most parts of the world, so as 11 institutions, they needed to be studied, and that's 12 why I decided to study them. 13 How old were you when you made the 14 determination to start studying gangs? 15 How old was I? It's easier for me to tell 16 Α you the year that I decided. It was 1977 that I did 17 this. 18 And when you say you did research, what 19 20 did you do? Well, that research project was to --21 essentially was a very large, long-term project that 22 was originally funded by the Weatherhead Foundation 23 and subsequently by a number of other agencies for 24 the foundation as well, and it was to address really

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two questions. Why have gangs been with us for more
   than 150 years despite all our efforts both material
   and human resources to eradicate them; and secondly,
   why do some gangs rise and thrive and others decline
   and die?
             We had a number of -- we had a lot of data
6
  from police reports, FBI reports, criminal justice
   reports about gangs, but what we did not have is an
   in-depth study of gangs, how they behaved every day;
   so, I decided to design a project in which I would
10
   live with gangs for a hundred percent of the time,
11
   but within New York and Los Angeles and Boston was
12
   where the project was designed and tried to answer
13
   this question.
14
             How many years did you live with gangs?
15
             The project itself was -- the project
16
   itself was ten years. Five years with -- full-time
17
   with gangs. I had no teaching responsibilities, and
18
   the other five years half time.
19
              So, it sounds like it could have been a
20
   little hazardous.
21
              First of all, did you have family with
22
   you; and second of all, was it a hazard for those
23
24
   five years?
              For the first five years I was not
25
        Α
```

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married, and for the second five years I was, and
   yes, it is hazardous and it was hazardous.
             If you would explain to the folks what
   things happened to yourself and things that you saw?
             Well, you see a lot of violence, and once
5
   you're in those kinds of areas, you know, you put
   yourself in a position to experience violence
   yourself both observing it but as well as being the
   recipient of it, so as a result, I -- and I did
   incur some injuries. I had -- over the ten years, I
10
   was shot twice and stabbed three times and beaten
11
   badly in the face with this chain.
12
             Do you think it was a little unusual type
13
        0
   of research, the type of research that you did?
14
             It's unusual. It would be in the general
15
        Α
   area of police work. It would be undercover work.
16
             Now, following this research, did you
17
        Q
   write a book?
18
             Yes, I did.
19
             How many books did you write?
20
             I've written a number of books, but one
21
   book on gangs has come out, and that one is entitled
   Islands in the Street. There's a subsequent book
23
   that's about ready to come out that will have
24
   sections of gangs in it also.
25
```

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```
The book Islands in the Street, how is it
        Q
1
  received and did you receive any awards?
2
             Yes. It was received well, but there is
3
  also some criticisms of it, but it also won some
  lawards. It won three awards, essentially, from
   various professional agencies as being the best book
   in various areas.
             What were those awards?
 8
             One award was in the area of the best book
 9
10 in urban sociology. The second one was in the area
11 of the best book on juvenile crime, and the third
   one was the best book on the crime, general area of
12
13
   crime.
             When you say "best book," would it be best
        Q
14
   book for the year?
15
             Yes, best book for the year.
16
             On a national basis?
17
             Yes.
18
             And these -- after this research and this
19
   publication, did it lead you into a professional
20
   type of work?
21
              Well, I split my time really in -- really
22
   three areas now. One area is, of course, teaching,
23
   and the second area is research, and the third area
24
   is in the area of being an advisor to various kinds
25
```

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of agencies both at the State and local level in
   terms of anti-gang programs.
2
             Have you worked with the FBI?
3
             Yes, I have.
4
             And have you worked with the Center for
5
   Disease Control?
             I have.
        Α
             And you consulted police officers or
8
   police agencies?
             Yes, I have.
        Α
10
             If you would, please, kind of summarize
11
   for these folks your involvement with the FBI and
12
   police and other agencies.
13
             Well, the first is the Federal Bureau of
        Α
14
   Investigation which asked me to come to give a
15
   series of talks to their -- a number of their agents
16
   who they were switching from counter-subversive
17
   element within the bureau which was primarily
18 Ì
   involved in anti-communist movement; that is, as the
1.9
   anticommunist movement became -- the communist
20
   movement itself became less and less a factor
21
   towards national security, they decided to switch
22
   those agents out of that bureau and switch them over
23
   to anti-gang unit. As a result of making that
24
   switch, they asked me to come in to give these new
25
```

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agents backgrounds on gangs, what to expect in gangs and a whole variety of tasks, so I went to the academy which is in Quantico, Virginia, to actually teach them about gangs during this period. What about the police, different police 0 forces that you advised and consulted? I advised different police forces Α essentially on situations in gangs. The kinds of -two things I've advised on. The first was the real need for intelligence. I'm a big believer in having 10 police departments get as much intelligence as they 11 I'm also a believer in police agents trying to 12 do undercover work in gangs as much as they can, 13 because with more intelligence, there's easier ways 14 to, in fact, disrupt their behavior, and actually, I 15 think cause them to have less effect on -- negative 16 effects on society. And then the other area is once 17 we receive that information having a -- basically, a 1 B way in which processing it in which we can place 19 units in areas where we think that they would be 20 more likely to intervene with the agency; so, that's 21 what I have done basically with the police. 22 And the Center for Disease Control -- I've 23 been a consultant there in their development of their program to fund intervention strategies within 25

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areas that have high numbers of gangs, because as I
   said, most people understand the Center for Disease
   Control to be something that monitors illnesses,
   particularly infectious diseases like Ebola viruses
   or Hanta viruses are many of the ones that have been
   quite -- that have been in the papers and are all
   fearful that people have them. But the Center for
   Disease Control is involved in the broad spectrum of
   health, and they have defined violence, particularly
   in areas as a health issue, because when they look
10
   at the data, there is more people killed and injured
11
   in certain areas from violence than there is of all
12
   the other diseases combined, so the largest part of
13
   their budget is actually in the area of violence,
14
   and I've helped them consult in that.
15
             Now, is it fair to say you've also
16
        0
   testified a time or two?
17
              Yes, I have.
18
              If you would, first of all, have you been
19
   qualified as an expert in the Eighth Judicial
20
    District here in Nevada?
21
              I have.
         Α
22
              Just briefly, where else have you
23
         Q
    testified?
24
              California, New Jersey. I'm trying to
25
```

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```
think -- New Mexico.
             Federal and state courts?
2
             Yes.
3
             Now, I do want to turn your attention to
4
   more specifics.
             If you could, please, what is a gang?
6
             Well, gangs are organizations; they're not
   just loose collectives of people. We have lots of
   names for them -- "loose collectives," we can call
   some "bands"; we can call some, you know, "crews";
10
   we can call some "crowds," but gangs are
11
   organizations, and they may not have the exact
12
   numbers or all of the elements that we would think
13
   of in terms of a bureaucracy of an organization like
14
   you would see in corporate America, but they are
15
   organizations.
16
             The next question is kind of a double
17
   question here.
18
             Who joins a gang, and why does somebody
19
   join a gang?
20
              Well, one of the interesting things about
21
   gangs, which is why -- what you started with in my
22
   question -- they don't come from all areas.
23
   rarely see them in middle-class areas.
                                            They come
24
   from low income areas. They are a particular kind
25
```

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1 of organization that's associated with low income
2 areas; they're a particular kind of association that
 is associated with the type of economy that you find
  in low income areas; so, the people who join them
  are people who are from these areas.
             Now, you mentioned earlier your
        Q
   concentration in poverty, and then you say gangs.
   Is it fair to say they kind of go hand in hand?
             Yes. They're from low income to poverty
           I use low income, because poverty is an area
10
   areas.
   that -- "poverty" is a term that has -- is
11
   subjective. We -- different societies have
12
   different values on it, so some people have an
13
   income that is high in one society but it would be a
14
   poverty level in another society.
15
             Fair to say.
        Q
16
             Why is it that you see gangs associated
17
   with low income areas?
18
             Well, it's because it's one of the kind of
19
   organizational types that can secure money and
20
   material benefits.
21
              Now, why do individuals stay in the gang?
22
   I asked you why they join it. Why would they stay
23
    in the gang?
24
              There are two basic reasons that you stay
25
```

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in a gang. One is that you're getting a lot from
  the gang, and from there, you have money or material
 benefits or entertainment; and the second is that
  you are fearful of leaving.
             Now, is violence part of a gang
   environment?
             Violence is an integral part of the gang
7
   environment.
8
             When you say "integral," what do you mean
   by integral, and to follow up on that, why do you
10
   see it as being an integral part of gang society?
11
             It's the currency, really by -- in which
        Α
12
   gangs really exchange -- have an exchange
13
   relationship with each other, exchange goods with
14
   each other. It's really an extension of power and
15
   power to be able to control both physical movements
16
   as well as material movements like, speaking as an
17
   economist now, in terms of goods and services. It's
18
   the power to be able -- to be able to secure that
19
   market requires power, and the way in which power is
20
    administered is violence.
21
              I just want to clarify something.
22
              You had mentioned that the reason people
23
    join gangs is for financial reasons?
 24
              Yes.
 25
```

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```
Or because they have to?
        Q
1
             Well, I would say there are three reasons.
        Α
2
             Okay.
3
        Q
             I would say they do it for financial
4
   reasons; they do it because of entertainment issues,
   or they do it because they're coerced into doing it.
             Okay.
        Q
7
             Conscripted, I would say.
        Α
8
             I'm sorry?
        Q
9
             Conscripted, I would say.
        Α
10
             We'll touch base on that in just a minute.
        Q
11
             I just want to clarify we're talking about
12
   people joining the gang for these reasons, but then
13
   you say violence is the currency of the environment.
1.4
              What do you mean, if you could clarify
15
16
   that?
              Well, people join, but like all
17
   organizations, organizations have to pay bills.
18
   They have to have enough money to secure -- to pay
19
   off people, to give them money. They have to pay
2.0
   for entertainment, whatever that entertainment might
21
   be -- drugs, alcohol, parties, so -- and they also
22
   have to invest, although most people don't see this
23
   part of it. Because they are a business, they
24
    actually have to invest if -- as it were in guns or
25
```

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```
in different kinds of tools to rob things; so, there
  are some -- there are some investments here. So,
  when money -- when you need money, the area in which
3
   you're going to gain this money is what we generally
   call -- although, I don't want to be too
   elementary -- we call it a "market area," and the
   market that gangs deal in is very competitive, and
   it is not based simply on ideas but is based on the
                                   This market is not
   ability to control the market.
   like most economists would say is governed by supply
10
   and demand, but supply and demand is there, but it's
11
   governed by your ability to control supply and
12
   demand, complete power. Everybody knows that.
13
   a very physical world, and everybody who has engaged
14
   in this is prepared to know that that's the hazards
15
   of this world.
16
             So, violence is what allows a person to
17
   obtain this power and these marketable items?
18
              Yes, it is.
        Α
19
             Now, we've heard comments about Bloods and
20
21
   Crips.
              If you would kind of give some history
22
   with regard to gangs specifically with regard to
23
   Bloods and Crips, if you would?
24
              Bloods and Crips were the largest of the
25
         Α
```

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African-American gangs in Los Angeles. They really
  do start out of Los Angeles. They've always had a
  very antagonistic relationship to each other.
   think it's fair to say that in almost all the
  historical reports on Bloods and Crips, that it's
   very difficult. No one seems to have the exact
   reason why they don't like each other -- one
   incident or anything that can be pointed to, but
   they have formed as organizations, and whether they
   did not like each other before, they have become
10
   very antagonistic once they operate their own
11
   businesses because they're in competition with each
12
   other, and by the nature of this competition, it's
13
   about power, and the nature of that power is it's
1.4
   going to be violence. It's going to be violence in
1.5
   terms of, I'd say, willing yourself into a
16
                               There's no one in this
   particular kind of market.
1.7
   market, there's no one in this economy to mediate
18
              There's no outside source. There is no
   conflict.
19
   government to mediate it. There's no UN to mediate
20
   it. The only thing that exists in this economy is
21
   pure, raw power, who has it and who has the most of
22
23
   it.
             Is it fair to say that power also follows
24
   numbers; larger gangs have more power than other
25
```

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gangs?
        Α
             Yes.
             And part of that process is called
   "recruiting"?
             Exactly. You want to have as large
        Α
5
   numbers as you can, as much as you can afford,
            In other words, one of the things that is
   though.
   not well known about gangs is that you know they're
8
  not going to just take everybody, because you can't
   really maybe afford everybody, because you do have
10
   to give them something in return, but you are
11
   measuring what you can afford, and you're trying to
12
   grow, and in that way, they're no different than any
13
   other kind of business which would -- which would
14
   also try to garner and garner more and more of the
15
   market, and as you garner more of the market, you
16
   garner more need for personnel. So, yes, you want
17
   to recruit.
18
              Now, Mr. Jankowski, you had an opportunity
19
    to hear the last three witnesses that spoke?
2.0
              I did.
         Α
21
              And they spoke of the issue of recruitment
22
    or the way that people are put into a gang.
23
              With your studies, are your studies
2.4
    consistent with the things that you heard?
25
```

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A Mostly, yes.

1

2

5

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Q When you think of recruitment, how does recruitment exist in the gang environment with Bloods and Crips?

It can go two ways. Everyone heard the Α last person who testified. There can be enticements. I mean, the enticements -- younger kids tend to -- very young kids tend to be less interested in just the finances when they're really, really young than they are being enamored with just the ability to have power, and I think when you put it in context, you can see why that is because most of these children -- just children in general but most of the children come from poor areas feel very impotent, feel very lack of control of their lives. Most things are acted on them but they don't have really control of their lives and you could see where they would want to have actually more power and they can be enamored with that. That's the little children. As you get a little older, you would want to join because you can get the benefits that you would see in the more affluent societies.

The motion isn't that somebody -- the one thing that I think has been one of the powerful things about America is that we have a very large

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pie, and that pie has been -- tasted good to all of us, and not everybody gets to taste it but everybody gets sometimes to see it, and that's, again, I think, a very important dynamic ability to be a great society, but one of the negative ramifications of it is it lets all the people who haven't had a taste of the pie know that it exists, know that it tastes good, and of course you want them -- people want to get it. The question is, what economy are they going to use to get it? Are they going to go through this economy that we all think of, or are they going through this -- of course, this alternative economy to get it? One of the problems that we've always had in poor areas that the federal government has always 15 seen as a problem and, therefore, is why I was part 16 of a group of people who invoked the Weed and Seed 17 program, is that this idea was that in poor areas, 18 we've always had to compete with gangs or other 19 sorts of organizations that offer this money and 20 this alternative market, and we wanted to say we 21 want to compete with this alternative and offer some 22 incentives so people can see successes in the normal 23

1.0

11

12

13

14

24

25

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somebody, they also want to actually -- they

market. So, that's what you end up seeing with

actually want to have this money and they see successes in this local market, and this local market for them they see more successes than they do in the outside market, so that's a lure; so, that's another one. The other one is you actually get This is no different than what we all recruited. 7 have, when I was younger, which is the draft. get drafted, and it's a form of coercion to be sure, and the incentives there are you either do it or you're punished. In the draft when I was young, you 11 either went or you went to jail. In this case, 12 there is no jail; you either come or we're going to 1.3 beat on you or we're going to beat on one of your family members. 15 Is it unusual to draft people as young as 16 13 and 14 years of age in what you disguised as the 17 Crip or Blood gang environment? 18 That's -- that's a good question, and the 19 answer is that it depends on the situation of the 20 gang doing the recruiting. If the gang was not 21 under stress, the answer would be no. That is, it 22 would be unusual to try to recruit that young. 23 don't need to. If a gang is more under stress and 2.4 it needs people, it goes younger, and that would be

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no different than any other organization that we saw as sort of -- they had a military aspect to it. Now, I want to ask you about gangs under Q 3 stress. You're aware that the gang that Mr. White or Mr. Johnson was involved with was the 62 Brim. You've done work down in Los Angeles, and 7 you've heard of this particular gang? 8 Yes. 9 Tell us, if you would, please, what you 10 mean about a gang being under stress and then apply, 11 if you would, please, your knowledge with regard to 12 the 62 Brim. 13 In general, I would say it's a Blood --А 14 it's a Blood -- it's a Blood sect, and between the 15 two groups, between Bloods and Crips -- Crips always 16 had more numbers. They always had a numeric 17 advantage. In the particular area that he's from, 18 you know, Crips really -- not in the beginning, but 19 Crips outnumbered them. In that way I think they 20 were in a much more stressed situation. Bloods 21 always were in a much more stressed situation 22 because there was less of them. There would be 23 the -- requirement for membership would be more 24 imminent for them. They would need this. So, their 25

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tactics would be more likely, if you were in a Blood
  neighborhood particularly, and you -- whereby
  circumstance you were in a Blood neighborhood, they
  would be more likely to use more coercive tactics,
  because the need there was greater; so, that's what
   I mean by a more stressed situation.
             And in the 62 Brim, what is your knowledge
7
   of them and were they a gang that was under stress?
8
             I think they were a gang under stress for
9
   sure because they were more or less surrounded, and
10
   they were in an area that was near Rollin 60s which
11
   was a very, very powerful Crip group.
12
             Now, we heard the terms "enemy turf," I
13
14
   believe.
              Yes.
         Α
15
              We had an opportunity to discuss this last
16
            When you came in, you spoke of combatants
17
    night.
    versus noncombatants.
18
              Do you remember that?
19
              Yes.
         Α
20
              What does all that mean?
         Q.
21
              Well, combatants is like I want to use a
 22
    military analogy. It's the best way to make this
 23
    point.
 24
               You're in a conflict situation, you see
 25
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other soldiers in this conflict situation, everyone knows these rules and everyone knows what the situation is about. They know it's about power, they know it's about your will of power, they know that violence is involved; so, in that kind of situation, everyone sees the use of violence as fair, because that is the denominator by which everybody is operating. The noncombatant, the person who is simply

7

8

9

10

11

not involved in the gang is what we see in both Iraq today or any kind of conflict you would see today or in our own streets. And sadly, you get people 12 killed in conflict which we have a name for, which 13 is, I think, often overlooked. What it means is we 14 call it "collateral damage," but unfortunately, it 15 means somebody's life or limbs were at stake, but 16 these were people who were not involved in the 1.7 conflict, and we also feel that part and the people 18 who were in the participation is actually the unfair 19 part, but the participants themselves, the 20 combatants themselves are likely to say this is what 21 we're engaged in and these are -- killing and 22 maiming are part of it; both us killing and us 2.3 getting killed are a part of the entire situation. 24 25

And when you say this is part of the

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entire situation, does it mean it's part of the environment? It's hard for us to understand in a law abiding society that we live in that people actually acknowledge and accept violence, but is that what you're telling me in that environment? Yes, and we have plenty of data. 6 we're dealing with children at a very young age, 7 we've seen it. If I actually showed you data on people being interviewed -- this is not my data, but data I've read on other studies, children being 10 interviewed in South Central or South Bronx or E 11 Lower Eastside or Charlestown -- those areas in America that are very low income with large amounts 13 of violence, large amounts of gangs and compared it 14 to what you would see in Bosnia and Kosovo, the 15 children respond the same way. I think most people 16 here would never probably understand states that 17 every night, every single night there are 18 helicopters flying over, and every single night --19 and these helicopters are police helicopters 20 searching out somebody who is shooting, but even if 21 you're not involved, you have to put up with the 22 helicopters. This is not the same situation. 23 Now, is it a battle zone exactly like you 24 find in Bosnia? The answer to that is no. But is 25

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it something that's quite different and quite
 stressful? The answer to that is yes.
2
             Now, the 62 Brims was a gang living under
        0
3
   stress?
             When I say "under stress," I'm talking
        Α
5
   about an organization and keeping the organization
   together and keeping the organization as a
   functional organization able to do what it's doing,
   which is one, providing money; two, providing some
   kinds of benefits to people both in terms of loans
10
   or actually giving them some kinds of material
11
   benefits and protecting their own. I would say they
12
   were under stress.
13
             Is it fair to say people living in that
14
   environment with helicopters coming every night
15
   would be a stressful environment?
16
              It's a stressful environmental.
         Α
17
              Have you seen it where individuals join an
         Q
18
   organization or gang in order to provide protection
19
    to their family members?
20
              Yes.
         Α
21
              And why is that?
         Q
22
              Well, because it's -- well, it's the
23
    obvious part which is that if they don't do this,
24
    then many of the most vulnerable people of their
25
```

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family will be subjected to not simply harassment but being physically accosted. You heard this description of Big Deko. 3 think -- in fact, my witness, Johnnisha Zamora, had explained to you about this individual who had basically taken my client in and taken him into the gang. 7 Is that something that you see in a gang 8 environment? 9 Yes. Α 1.0 And again, why is that? 11 Well, he became the patron, and you know, Α 12 there's two things about this. You don't want to 13 see it as simply Big Deko setting himself up as 1.4 being this benevolent patron, because you have to 15 see it just simply as a patron as he takes these 16 people in and he will protect them, but it's a 17 reciprocal. It's a reciprocal in the sense that 18 these people he takes in owe him, so they have both 19 aspects to it. Yes, it is true that as, like we, 20 anything in the academic field, call "patient-client 21 relationship," yes it is true he will protect them, 22 take care of them, but in return, they have to do 23 things for him; so, he has a built-in support system 24 right there. 25

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Is it unusual to find an individual maybe
1
  as young as 14 years of age being controlled or
2
  mentored, "patron" as you say, by someone who is
3
  almost twice their age?
             No.
5
             And why is that?
6
             Well, because the gangs are not just
7
   organizations that deal with adolescence anymore,
   that there's so much money involved that there are
   people who are older -- 30s, 40s who are in gangs.
10
   Some in New York are in their 50s and who call the
11
   shots and who have been able to avoid prison or
12
   death and have risen up into very powerful
13
   positions, and in those kind of situations, those
14
   people are in a position to have a number of people
15
   under them.
16
              In your experience, if you have a
17
   14-year-old who is being -- what's the word you
18
   use -- a "benefactor" who owes something to the
19
   benefactor who's --
20
              Well, it's the patron-client relationship
21
    in which you know the benefactor is really a person
22
    who is the patron but there's a person who is under
23
    them.
24
              So, this person who owes this patron
25
```

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favors and obligations, what happens if that person tries to get out of that relationship? Well, it's resisted by the benefactor or Α the patron himself mainly because you can see -- one is, there is one less person to do your work or to do what you would want to have or protect you. when someone starts to -- when organizations start to have people who leave them, that makes organizations vulnerable. No organization likes that. So, desertion -- whether it's the Army or 10 this gang -- are seen as general threats to the 11 whole system, and they will be resisted even if the 12 person couldn't care less about that individual who 13 wanted to leave. They will be resisted because it 14 has a significance to the entire structure which 15 needs to be resisted. 16 And when you say "resistance" -- we know 0 17 the currency involved in the gang is violence. 18 What realm of violence can happen with 19 regard to an individual who may try to get out? 20 Well, certainly, physical beatings, if not Α 21 death, depending on how much they know. I think it 22 Of course, that varies with gangs. varies. 23 MR. WHIPPLE: Court's indulgence. 24 At this time, Mr. Jankowski, I have no 25

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further questions, and I thank you for your time.
             THE COURT: Cross?
2
             MR. DASKAS: This will be brief, Judge.
3
4
                     CROSS-EXAMINATION
5
   BY MR. DASKAS:
6
             Mr. Jankowski, you consider yourself
7
   somewhat of an academic at this point in your
8
   career?
9
             Yes.
        Α
10
             That's fascinating.
        Q
11
             You actually lived with a gang for five
12
   years?
13
                    Not one gang.
              Yes.
         Α
14
              Did you have a street name?
15
              I had a number of street names actually,
16
   because my study is both New York and Boston and LA.
17
              These gangs that you infiltrated, I guess,
         Q
18
    did they know that you were an academic there and to
19
    do research?
20
              Yes, they did, actually.
21
              They didn't consider you part of the gang?
 22
              No; they did. I think we have to go back
 23
    to the history. What I did then couldn't really be
 24
                This was in 1977, and the relationship
    done now.
 25
```

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between LA gangs and New York gangs were not
  existent. So, I used a hook that was just lucky in
 the sense that I said -- in New York, I started off
  by saying, "I'm doing this study. I am an academic.
  I want to write a book about gangs, and I want to
  compare gangs in New York and LA." And New York
   said -- well, I went to a number of them, but they
   all said the same thing. "If you tell us what's
   going on in LA, we'll let you hang with us." And I
   said okay. And then when I went to LA, I said the
10
   same thing, although I introduced it in LA.
11
   "Well, I'll tell you about the New York gangs if you
12
   let me hang with you," and they said yes. That same
13
   thing wouldn't work today probably because we have
14
   to much fluidity between both places between gangs,
15
   so they wouldn't really care. They already know
16
   what I know, but I was also jumped in, if that's
17
    what you mean.
18
              Did you prepare a report in regards to
19
    Donte Johnson in this case?
20
              No, I did not.
         Α
21
              How much time have you spent interviewing
22
    Donte Johnson about his gang activity?
 23
               Zero.
         Α
 24
              When is the first time you met Donte
         Q
 25
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Johnson?
             Today.
        Α
2
             When we took a break a couple hours ago?
3
             I think Miss Jackson introduced me to him.
        Α
             Do you have any personal knowledge of the
5
   Six -- it's not the 62 Brims is it? Is that what
   it's called or is it the Six Deuce Brims?
             Same thing.
        Α
8
             What do those gang members call the gang?
        O.
9
             The Six Deuce Brims.
        Α
10
              When Mr. Whipple said "62 Brims," a member
        Q
11
   of that gang wouldn't say that; he would say "Six
12
   Deuce Brims"?
13
              Probably.
14
              Or do you know?
15
              I thinks if it was a member of the gang,
16
    they would say "Six Deuce Brims."
17
              Have you spent any time with that gang,
         Q
18
    the Six Deuce Brims?
19
              No, I have not.
         Α
20
              Your knowledge of the Six Deuce Brims
         Q
 21
    probably consists of what you heard when you sat in
 22
    the court earlier today?
 23
               No, that's incorrect.
          Α
 24
               You do have some research on the Six Deuce
          Q
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Brims?
            Well, when I was doing research on gangs
  in LA, they did exist. It was not one of those that
  I hung around with, but a number of the ones I did
  hang around with were knowledgeable of them and at
   least had some relationship with them and a couple
   of them exist.
7
             This would have been back in the late
        Q
8
   '70s?
9
             The study starts in 1977 and ends in ^{1}88.
        A
10
             You certainly never met anyone with the
        Q
11
   moniker "Big Deko"?
12
              No, I certainly have not.
13
              Did you review the police reports
14
    regarding the quadruple homicide this man committed?
15
              No, I did not. I got a number of
16
    documents, but that, I did not get that.
17
              How about photos of the victims bound with
         Q
 18
    duct tape; did you see those photos?
 19
              No, I did not.
         Α
 20
               MS. JACKSON: Your Honor, objection as to
 21
    relevance and it's also beyond the scope.
 22
               THE COURT: Excuse me.
 23
               Approach the bench.
 24
               (Sidebar conference outside the presence
 25
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1 of the court reporter.)
             THE COURT: Overruled.
  BY MR. DASKAS:
3
             So, you haven't reviewed a single police
  report about this crime?
5
             correct.
6
             You haven't seen a single photo about this
7
   crime?
8
             correct.
        Α
9
             In fact, you have no information to
10
   suggest that the defendant was acting on behalf of a
11
   gang on August 14th, 1998?
12
              Could you repeat that?
13
              Absolutely.
14
              Do you have any information to suggest
15
    that Donte Johnson who committed this quadruple
16
    homicide was acting on behalf of a gang?
17
              No, I do not.
         Α
18
              Are you familiar with a shooting that the
19
    defendant committed on May 4th of 1998 when he shot
 20
    a man in the face here in Vegas?
 21
               No, I do not.
 22
               So, you would have no information to
 23
     suggest that was on behalf of a gang either,
 24
     correct?
 25
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No, I would not.
       Α
1
             You mentioned, obviously, that you're
2
  being compensated for your time here?
             I am.
             What's your total bill for testifying on
5
  behalf of the defense?
             I don't have a total bill, but I will be
7
   calculating it tomorrow.
8
             Did you spend time --
        Q
 9
              (Courtroom laughter.)
10
   BY MR. DASKAS:
11
             Did you spend time before you showed up
      . 0
12
   here preparing for testimony?
13
              Yes, I did.
14
              What did you do to prepare for your
15
    testimony?
16
                                          Miss Jackson
              I did a number of things.
17
    sent me lots of testimony from before which I
18
    reviewed a number of years ago, actually, and then I
19
    reviewed that again, as the time has passed between
20
    the time I got that and now, and I --
 21
              Let me interrupt you real quick.
 22
    apologize.
 23
               That testimony didn't include anything to
 24
    do with the crime committed on August 14th, 1998?
 25
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No, it did not.
       Α
1
            You mentioned the term "collateral
       0
2
  damage." We're talking about, for example, a
  drive-by shooting and maybe a toddler is crossing
  the street and takes a bullet.
             That's collateral damage, correct?
6
             Yes, it is.
        A
7
             You're not suggesting the four victims in
        Q
8
   this case are collateral damage?
9
             No. I haven't been taught -- no one asked
        Α
10
   me that question.
11
             Are you aware that the defendant, after he
12
   was in the gang, the Six Deuce Brims, was placed in
13
   a camp for over two years?
14
              I am aware of that.
15
              Are you aware that camp offered vocational
16
    training programs, anger management classes, things
17
    like that?
18
                    I'm not familiar with that camp
              Yes.
19
    specifically, but I am familiar with camps like
20
    that, and they do offer that, yes.
 21
              And you have no information to suggest
 22
    that during that two-plus years the defendant was in
 23
    the camp, he was being coerced to remain in a gang,
 24
    do you?
 25
```

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I don't have any information to that.
       Α
1
            Gangs often use military titles, don't
       0
2
  they?
3
             Yes.
        Α
             They might call their recruits "Soldiers,"
        0
5
   for example?
6
             Yes.
        Α
7
             They might call older, more senior members
        Q
8
   "Generals," for example?
9
             Yes.
        Α
10
             How would someone earn the term "General"
11
   in a gang?
12
              A number of ways. First, they -- first,
13
    they would -- they could work themselves up by doing
14
    soldier tasks.
15
              What are some soldier tasks?
16
              Robberies, steals, enforcement of turf,
         Α
17
    for example, physically beating, shootings.
18
    could do it by having developed a new idea about how
 19
    to make money and secured that. They could do it by
 20
    being voted in if they were able to secure enough
 21
    power within the agency -- within the organization
 22
    itself because the sects themselves have different
 23
     interests, and they could do it by moving up that
 24
           They could also do it by the fact that a
 2.5
     way.
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number of people who had been generals were either
2 \mid killed or incarcerated and they just assumed the
  vacant spots.
3
             MR. WHIPPLE: Your Honor, at this time,
4
  may we approach?
5
             THE COURT:
                         Yes.
6
             (Sidebar conference outside the presence
7
   of the court reporter.)
             THE COURT: Sustained.
9
   BY MR. DASKAS:
10
             You mentioned gangs under stress needed to
        Q
11
   recruit younger members.
12
              Do you recall that testimony?
13
              Yes, I do.
         Α
14
              Let's talk about the Six Deuce Brims.
15
              Back in '93, do you know what the status
16
    of the Six Deuce Brims was in terms of being under
17
    stress?
18
              That, probably, I would know.
19
              Tell me what you based that on. What did
         0
20
    you research?
 21
              What did I research?
 22
               Yes.
          Q
 23
               I was with other groups that were in and
 24
    around their area. I would assess their situation
 25
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as being stressful.
             And that's because the Crips have more
       0
2
  members?
             Yeah, because there were a number of Crips
        Α
  and another Crip sects, and they were actually
  infringing in their area and not just actually
   infringing in their area but I think actually
   confining them in a particular kind of way.
             Did your research include anything about
        Q
. 9
   gangs, Crips or Bloods, here in Las Vegas?
10
             No, it did not.
        Α
11
              So, you have no information about the
12
   status of the Crips and Bloods here in Las Vegas and
13
   certainly not back in 1998?
14
              That's correct.
15
              And again, no information to believe that
16
    the crimes in this case have anything to do with
17
    gang activity?
18
              That's correct.
         Α
19
              MR. DASKAS: I have nothing else, Judge.
 20
                           Redirect?
               THE COURT:
 21
               MR. WHIPPLE: Thank you, your Honor.
 22
   1////
 2.3
    11111
 24
     11111
 25
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REDIRECT EXAMINATION 1 BY MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Jankowski, you are aware that there 3 were homicides -- the four homicides on August 14th, 1998? Yes. 6 Have we, in any way, tried to excuse, by Q 7 your testimony, to say that those homicides were 8 excused or justified? 9 Well, on my part, I make no excuse for any Α 10 homicide, and I'm not here to excuse any homicides. 11 Okay. Q 12 Now, Mr. Daskas had brought out a comment 13 about the particular gang that you were referring 1.4 to, you said that they were -- you said they 15 confined them in a particular way. In other words, 1.6 this group, the Six Deuce Brims, I believe they were 17 confined, correct? 18 I believe that they -- like any 19 organization who wants to expand, but in this 20 particular case I think it was in a contractual mode 21 which means it was losing turf, it was losing 22 ground, and it certainly was becoming much more 23 difficult for them to entertain operations. 24 And again, this particular group was Q 25

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```
what's known as a "Blood"?
             Yeah, it was a Blood sect.
2
             And the groups that were confining it are
3
  what's known as "Crips"?
             Crips.
        A
5
             In fact, the Rollin 60s were one of them?
6
                            They were probably the most
             One of them.
        Α
7
   powerful.
8
             What would happen when a person of a Blood
        Q
 9
   sect would find themselves in a Crip sect?
10
              You mean in a geographic area, correct?
         Α
11
              correct.
         Q
12
              That would simply mean that you would be
13
    shot at and attempt to be killed in either
14
    direction.
15
              What would happen if a person in a Blood
16
    sect tried to cross through a Crip sect to get
17
    someplace, what would happen?
18
               Unless they had a pass, they would be shot
 19
    at and attempt to be killed.
 20
               MR. WHIPPLE: Court's indulgence.
 21
               Thank you.
 22
               Nothing further.
 23
               MR. DASKAS: Nothing else, Judge.
 24
               THE COURT: Thank you very much, Doctor.
 25
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We appreciate it.
            Folks, we're going to take our afternoon
2
3 break or evening break. It's five to 5:00.
  going to reconvene Monday morning at 9:00 a.m.
  right?
             You're admonished not to -- listen, folks.
   It's very important -- you all took an oath that
   you're going to follow the law. It's very important
   that you not read any -- you saw these cameras and
   photographers in here. It's very important that you
10
   not read any of these newspaper articles or watch
11
   any television reports or news casts about this case
12
   or listen to any commentary about the case on the
13
   radio and don't talk to anyone about the case or let
14
   anyone talk to you about the case and don't express
15
   any opinion on it.
16
              I'll see you Monday morning at 9:00 a.m.
17
              MS. JACKSON: Your Honor, before you
18
    excuse the jury, we have about ten minutes, and we
19
    can be done. I have a witness that needs to go home
2.0
    because they're about to lose their job. I thought
21
    we would at least go to 5:00.
22
              THE COURT: How do I know you're going to
 23
    be finished in ten minutes?
 24
              Ten minutes, that's all you have.
 25
```

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I can guarantee you, your
            MS. JACKSON:
1
          Actually, I can do two in ten minutes, and
  Honor.
  they all can go home.
             THE COURT: What?
             MS. JACKSON: I can do two in ten minutes
5
  and they all can go home.
             Donna Revonor, R-E-V-O-N-O-R.
7
             THE CLERK: Ma'am, remain standing and
8
   raise your right hand.
9
              (Oath administered.)
10
              THE WITNESS: Yes.
11
              THE CLERK: Thank you. Please be seated.
12
   State your full name spelling your last name for the
13
   record.
14
              THE WITNESS: Donna Revoner, R-E-V, as in
15
   Victor, O-N-E-R.
16
              THE CLERK: Thank you.
17
18
                       DONNA REVONER,
19
              being called as a witness on behalf of the
20
    Defendant, was first duly sworn and testified as
21
    follows:
 22
    11111
 23
    11111
 24
    11111
 25
```

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```
DIRECT EXAMINATION
1
  BY MS. JACKSON:
             Ma'am, are you related to my client, John
3
  White?
             Yes, I am.
5
             What's your relationship?
6
             I'm his first cousin.
7
             Who in that group of seven children that
8
   Miss Edwards has is your mother?
             The oldest daughter, Schaumetta Cain.
        A
10
              She's never had an alcohol or drug
        Q
11
   problem?
12
         Α
              No.
13
              During the course of your growing up when
14
    John was a particular --
15
              MR. DASKAS: I apologize.
                                          Judge, I
16
    apologize here, but I think a juror raised her hand
17
    a moment ago.
18
              JUROR: Yes. I had something for the
19
    bailiff.
20
                           Roy, come over here.
               THE COURT:
21
               Continue.
 22
               MS. JACKSON: Thank you, your Honor.
 23
    BY MS. JACKSON:
               You indicated you know John?
 25
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```
Yes.
        Α
1
             During the time that John -- you're aware
2
  that John, at one point in his life around the age
  of 13 or 14 years -- between 13 and 15, joined a
   gang, the Six Deuce Brims?
5
             Yes.
        Α
6
             Did you know that?
        Q
7
             Yes, I knew that.
        Ά
8
             How did you come to have that information?
9
             Because Big Deko, he would come over to
10
   the house and get John or we would be walking to the
11
   store and he would tell John to come with him, and
12
   that was like almost every day.
13
              Who was Big Deko?
14
              He was a member of a gang called "Six
15
   Deuce Brims."
16
              And is that how John got his name "Baby
         0
17
    Deko"?
18
              Yes.
19
              What was it like walking around the area
20
    before John joined the gang?
21
                                             The guys
              Very scared. I was scared.
22
    would, like, pick on us, say little things,
23
    comments, be very nasty towards the girls.
24
               Did the treatment that you received from
         Q
25
```

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the gangs in that area improve, to some extent,
   after John joined the gang?
             Yes, it did.
        Α
3
             Now, you grew up with your own mother
        Q
4
   because she was one of the ones able to take care of
5
   her own kids?
6
             Correct.
7
        Α
             Nevertheless, there came a time when John
        Q
8
   resided in your home?
 9
              Yes, he did.
        Α
10
              When was that, ma'am? Approximately how
        Q
11
   old was John, if you know?
12
              He was about -- had to be about 16, 17.
13
         Α
              Okay.
         Q
14
              And during that time frame, how long did
15
   John live with you?
16
              Approximately about three to six months.
17
              When he lived with you, you told me about
18
    an incident where John talked you out of getting
19
    into what could have been a very serious situation.
20
    Tell the jury about that.
21
              Well, me and my daughter's father were
22
    arguing, and he had really got me upset. He put his
23
    hands on me, so, you know, any person -- when
24
    someone hit you, you, you know, hit them back.
25
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

237

```
he was, you know, he would always hit me or say
  nasty things to me. So, an iron was near me, so I
  picked it up, and John said, "No, don't do that,
  because I don't want you to get in trouble, and you
   got to think about your child." So, if John wasn't
   there, then I think I would have done something to
   him to cause myself in a lot of trouble, and he
   basically talked to me and tried to get me out of
   that situation.
             Do you appreciate John's intervening?
10
             I do; I really do.
        Α
11
             You know why you're here?
        Q
12
             Yes -- for my cousin. I really love him,
        Α
13
   and when he was in my home, he used to talk to me,
1.4
   help me with my daughter, talk to her. He loved
15
   her, spent time with her, and she asks every day
16
               She know what's going on because my
   about him.
17
   daughter is 11, so when he was there, she was one
18
   years old, so she remembers him a lot and she just
19
   like ask me questions about him. I mean, I really
20
   don't want to go into detail with her because she's
21
   young or whatnot and she wouldn't understand, but
22
    she really loves him, and she told me to tell him
23
    that she really loves him.
24
                            Thank you.
              MS. JACKSON:
25
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727 (702) 455-3610

```
That's all we have, your Honor.
1
2
                     CROSS-EXAMINATION
3
   BY MR. STANTON:
             Do you know Big Deko's name?
5
             No, I don't.
        Α
6
                           Nothing further.
             MR. STANTON:
7
             MS. JACKSON: That's all, your Honor.
8
              THE COURT: You're excused.
 9
              MS. JACKSON: Miss Edwards.
10
11
                        JANE EDWARDS,
12
              being recalled as a witness on behalf of
13
   the Defendant, was previously duly sworn and
14
    testified as follows:
15
              THE COURT: You're still under oath.
16
17
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
18
    BY MS. JACKSON:
19
              Good afternoon, Miss Edwards.
         Q
20
              Good afternoon.
21
              You identified your grandson for us?
22
              Yes, Donte.
23
              THE COURT: Hold on a minute, ma'am.
24
    the clerk, would you state your full name?
25
                                          (702) 455-3610
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

```
Jane Edwards, E-D-W-A-R-D-S.
              THE WITNESS:
 2
              THE CLERK:
                           Thank you.
              MS. JACKSON: Thank you, your Honor.
                                                      I'm
 3
   sorry.
   BY MS. JACKSON:
              We all know there came a time in John's
 6
   life when you had custody of John or you had
   quardianship, I should say, over John and quite a
   few of your grandchildren?
10
         Α
              Right.
              Do you remember around '93 or '94,
11
   somewhere along in there, when John got into trouble
12
13
   for robbing a bank?
              Yes.
14
         Α
              Do you remember the probation officer
15
   coming to interview you about that?
16
17
              Yes.
         Α
              Do you remember them asking you if John
18
   was in school, if he was going to school?
19
20
         Α
              Yes.
21
              Okay.
              What did you tell them?
22
              That he wasn't going to school.
23
         Α
              And that was the truth?
24
25
         Α
              Yes.
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

```
Did they ask you did you have any control
1
   over John?
2
             I don't remember if they asked me.
3
             Okay.
        Q
             I'll read you this from State's Exhibit --
5
   this is State's Exhibit 216. It says here that you
   stated that "She" -- and "she" being you -- "stated
   that the minor -- that she had no control over him.
   She states he is difficult, uncooperative in the
   home and will not go to school."
10
              Yes, at that time.
11
        Α
              That sounds like something you would say
1.2
        Q
   if it's the truth?
13
              Um-hmm.
        Α
14
              Okay.
15
        0
              Do you remember asking them or them asking
16
   you if he was in a gang?
17
              Well, they might have asked me that but I
18
        Α
   did not know if he was in a gang or not.
19
        Q
              Okay.
20
              It says here that you acknowledged that he
21
   was in a gang but you're not sure if he was using
22
   drugs or not.
23
              Would this report probably be more
24
   accurate than what you can remember now?
```

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```
1
         Α
              Yeah.
                      That sound like it.
                                            I don't
 2
    remember.
 3
              And it says here that, lastly, "The
         Q
    minor's grandmother stated that the minor is acting
    like an adult so he should be tried as an adult."
 6
         Α
              Yes,
 7
         0
              You said that?
 8
         Α
              Yes.
              And you meant that?
 9
         Q
10
         Ά
              Yes.
              You had other kids to worry about?
11
12
              Yes.
13
              Do you know why you're here, ma'am?
14
         Α
              Yes.
15
              What do you want to say to the jury about
   how do you feel about your grandson?
17
        Α
              Well, now John was -- when I had John,
18
   John was in the choir and singing, and he was good,
19
   you know. He used to do things, you know.
20
   at first, was minding me and doing what I wanted him
21
   to do because he was just good.
22
              He was a good boy?
23
             I love him, and I hate for him to be
24
   caught all up, you know.
25
              We understand.
        Q
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

```
1
              MS. JACKSON: Thank you, Miss Edwards.
 2
              That's all I have, your Honor.
 3
              THE COURT:
                         Hold on a minute, ma'am.
                           Judge, we have no questions.
              MR. DASKAS:
 5
              THE COURT: Roy, come help her off the
   stand. She almost fell last time.
              MS. JACKSON: Your Honor, we have one
   final two-minute witness, Allen White, and we're
   done with the family.
              THE COURT: Come on.
10
11
              THE BAILIFF: Who is it?
12
              MS. JACKSON: Allen White, the minor
13
   child.
14
                        ALLEN WHITE,
15
16
              being recalled as a witness on behalf of
   the Defendant, was previously duly sworn and
   testified as follows.
1.8
19
20
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
21
   BY MR. WHIPPLE:
22
             Hi, Allen. How are you?
        Q
23
        Α
             Fine.
24
        Q
             Thanks for coming back.
25
             Allen, do you remember at lunch when we
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

243

```
were talking briefly about your grandfather and how
   he passed away?
 3
         Α
              Yeah.
              And how it made you feel?
 4
 5
         Α
              Yeah.
              How did it make you feel when your
 6
   grandfather passed away?
 8
              Sad.
         Α
 9
              And why?
         Q
              Because he died.
10
         Α
11
              Okay.
              Now, I want to talk to you for just a few
12
13
   minutes about your daddy. Okay?
14
         Α
              Okay.
              How do you feel about your daddy?
15
16
         A
              I feel fine.
              Do you love your daddy?
17
              Yeah.
18
19
              How many daddies do you have?
              One.
20
         A
              How important is your daddy to you?
21
         Q
22
         Α
              Real important.
              Why is he really important to you?
23
              Because -- well, he's important to me
24
         Α
25
   because he's my real dad.
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

```
1
         Q
              Do you love him?
 2
         Α
              Yeah.
 3
              You want to be able to talk to him in the
         Q
    future?
 4
 5
         Α
              Yeah.
 6
         Q
              You want to be able to write him letters
 7
    once in a while?
         Α
              Yeah.
              Will that make you feel better?
 9
         Q
10
         Α
              (Inaudible response.)
11
              How does it make you feel when you get
12
    letters from your dad?
13
              It make me feel happy.
14
              MR. WHIPPLE: Nothing further, your Honor.
15
              MR. DASKAS: Nothing, Judge.
              THE COURT: All right. You can step down.
16
17
              MS. JACKSON: Thank you, Judge.
18
              That completes our witnesses for today,
19
   and thank you so much, your Honor.
20
              MR. WHIPPLE:
                            Thank you, your Honor.
21
              THE COURT: Folks, we'll take our recess
22
   now.
23
              Like I said before, don't read any
24
   newspaper articles, listen to any radio shows or
25
   reports or television news casts or anything about
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

```
the case in the media. To do so would be a
    violation of your duty, and I know you all are going
    to follow the oath.
 3
              Also, don't express any opinion on the
    case to anyone, and don't do any research on your
 5
          Don't let anyone talk to you about this case.
    own.
 7
              We'll see you Monday morning at 9:00 a.m.
 8
              THE BAILIFF: All rise.
 9
               (Evening recess taken at 5:07 p.m.)
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF NEVADA)
3	:SS COUNTY OF CLARK)
4	
5	
6	I, SONIA L. RILEY, CERTIFIED COURT
7	REPORTER, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I TOOK DOWN IN
8	STENOTYPE ALL OF THE PROCEEDINGS HAD IN THE
9	BEFORE-ENTITLED MATTER AT THE TIME AND PLACE
10	INDICATED, AND THAT THEREAFTER SAID STENOTYPE NOTES
11	WERE TRANSCRIBED INTO TYPEWRITING AT AND UNDER MY
12	DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION AND THE FOREGOING
13	TRANSCRIPT CONSTITUTES A FULL, TRUE AND ACCURATE
14	RECORD TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY OF THE PROCEEDINGS
15	HAD.
16	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO
17	SUBSCRIBED MY NAME IN MY OFFICE IN THE COUNTY OF
18	CLARK, STATE OF NEVADA.
19	1
20	
21	
22	Dona & Tyley
23	SONIA L. RILEY, CCR 727
24	
₹5	

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

1	ORIGINAL FILED
2	2005 MAY -2 - A 11: 16
3	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
4	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
5 6	STATE OF NEVADA)
7) Plaintiff,)
8) CASE NO. C153154 vs.) DEPT. NO VIII
9	DONTE JOHNSON,
10	Defendant.)
11	
12 13	ORDER TO PREPARE TRANSCRIPT
14	IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that SONIA L. RILEY, CCR
15	727, prepare a transcript in the above-captioned
16	matter heard on <u>May 2, 2005</u> , 2005.
17	FURTHER ORDERED, that said transcript shall
18	be prepared pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 250 and
19 20	at State's expense with cost and fees assessed according to NRS 3.370.
21	DATED THIS
22 RECEIVED	DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
7 5	Sta

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR 727 455-3610

	DISTRICT COURT				
1	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 2005 MAY -3 / A 8: 45				
2					
3	ORIGINAL CHERK				
- 1	THE STATE OF NEVADA,				
6	PLAINTIFF,)				
1) CASE NO.: C153154				
	DONTE JOHNSON,				
8	DEFENDANT,)				
9					
10	REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT				
11	OF .				
12	TRIAL BY JURY				
13	(VOLUME X)				
14					
15 16	BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUDGE LEE A. GATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DEPARTMENT VIII				
¥ 17					
5 18					
() 7-19	DATED MONDAY, MAY 2, 2005				
2 20					
520 621	FOR THE PLAINTIFF: ROBERT J. DASKAS, ESQ.				
22	DAVID STANTON, ESQ.				
23	FOR THE DEFENDANT: ALZORA B. JACKSON, ESQ. BRET WHIPPLE, ESQ.				
24	OCD NO 727				
-25	REPORTED BY: SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727				

```
APPEARANCES:
1
      FOR THE PLAINTIFF:
2
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3
                         DAVID STANTON, ESQ.
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4
                          Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
5
                          (702) \overline{4}55-4711
6
. 7
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 8
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                          SPECIAL PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE
 9
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10
                          Second Floor
                          Las Vegas, Nevada 89155
11
                          (702) 455-6265
12
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                          Las Vegas, Nevada
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15
16
17
18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25
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	SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727 (702) 455-3610

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2 4				
25				

```
PROCEEDINGS
1
2
3
             THE COURT: Be seated.
4
             (Jury present.)
5
             JUROR: Our notebooks.
6
             THE COURT: They will get them.
7
8
        DEFENSE'S EVIDENCE IN MITIGATION (RESUMED)
9
10
             THE COURT: Let the record reflect the
11
   presence of all the parties, all the attorneys, all
12
   members of the jury.
13
              Miss Jackson, call your next witness.
14
              MS. JACKSON: Thank you, your Honor.
                                                     The
15
   defense calls George Austin Cotton.
16
              THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.
17
              (Oath administered.)
18
              THE WITNESS:
                            I do.
19
                          Thank you. Please have a
              THE CLERK:
20
    seat. State your full name spelling your last name
21
    for the record.
 22
               THE WITNESS: George Austin Cotton,
 23
    C-O-T-T-O-N.
 24
    1////
 2.5
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

```
GEORGE AUSTIN COTTON,
1
             being called as a witness on behalf of the
2
  Defendant, was first duly sworn and testified as
3
   follows:
                            May I proceed, your Honor?
             MS. JACKSON:
5
             THE COURT: Yes.
б
7
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
8
             Good morning, Mr. Cotton.
        Q
9
              Good morning, Miss Jackson.
        Α
10
              You recall about a year or so ago you
11
   received a subpoena from me.
12
              Do you remember my name?
13
              Yes ma'am.
         Α
14
              Before you received that subpoena, did you
         Q
15
   have any idea why you were being subpoenaed into
16
    court?
17
              No.
         Α
18
              Did anyone from my office contact you in
         0
19
             shape, form or fashion?
    any way,
20
               No.
         A
21
               Did anyone that Mr. -- do you know the
 22
    gentleman seated over here with the --
 23
               Yes, I do.
          Α
 24
               -- braids (indicating)?
          Q
 25
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

```
Yes.
        A
1
             You're going to have to let me finish,
        Q
2
   because otherwise, she'll get very upset with both
   of us.
             Do you know my client?
5
              Yes, ma'am.
        Α
6
              What is his name?
        Q
7
              Donte.
        Α
 8
              Where do you know him from, sir?
         Q
 9
              Clark County Detention Center.
         Α
10
              Okay.
         Q
11
              Did Donte Johnson or anyone on his behalf
12
   contact you prior to or any time regarding your
13
    testimony in this matter?
14
              No, ma'am.
         Α
15
              Has anyone threatened you or coerced you
         Q
16
    in any fashion --
17
               No, ma'am.
18
               -- to get you to testify in a certain way?
          Q
19
               No, ma'am.
 20
               You're obviously in custody, Mr. Cotton?
 21
               Um-hmm.
          Α
 22
               I presume you are a felon?
          Q
 23
               Yes, ma'am.
          Α
 24
               Probably multi- -- many times over?
          Q
 25
                                            (702) 455-3610
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

```
Pretty much.
       Α
1
           You are, I understand, serving -- is it 50
2
  years?
3
             Sixteen to 50.
             Sixteen to 50 in the Ely Maximum Security
5
  Penitentiary?
             Yes, ma'am.
        Α
7
             Have I or anyone on my behalf or any
8
   staff's behalf offered to assist you in any way with
   your litigation in exchange for your testimony?
10
             No, ma'am. My case is over.
11
              Okay.
        Q
12
              I'm going to take you back to
13
   February 24th of 2001, Mr. Cotton.
              Do you recall that time frame?
15
              Yes, I do.
         Α
16
              Where were you housed?
17
              I was housed in the Clark County Detention
         Α
18
            Fifth Floor, C Wing, Cell 15.
    center,
19
               Is that Unit 5C?
         Q
20
               Yes, ma'am.
          Α
 21
               Does that also have another slang in the
          0
 22
     jail?
 23
               Is that commonly called "The Hole"?
 24
               Yes, ma'am. It is the "Hole."
          Α
 25
                                           (702) 455-3610
          SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727
                                                           10
```

```
It is The Hole.
        Q
1
             Why were you there?
             I was maxed out there at that time for an
        Α
3
   assault.
             For misbehaving?
        Q
5
             Yes, ma'am.
        A
6
             Your room was No. 15?
        0
7
             Yes, ma'am.
        Α
 8
             Okay.
        Q
             MS. JACKSON: Court's indulgence. I need
10
   an exhibit.
11
              I'm going to approach the witness with the
12
   Court and Sergeant Jacoby's permission.
13
   BY MS. JACKSON:
              I'm going to show you what's been entered
15
         Q
   into evidence in these proceedings as Defense
16
   Exhibits double-Q, double-R and double-S,
17
   Mr. Cotton. I want you to take a look at these
18
   exhibits, and don't say anything, just listen,
19
   please.
20
              Indicate to me if one or more of these
21
    exhibits depict the room or the area in which you
    were housed February of '01, sir?
23
              Okay. The closest one would be this one
24
         A
    here (indicating). I'm next door to this here
25
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

11

```
(indicating), this 16. I was in 15.
            Give me a second, Mr. Cotton.
2
            You've indicated that SS indicates, to
3
  some degree, where you were housed.
             Your room number, sir?
5
             Fifteen.
        Α
             Okay.
        Q
7
             So, looking at this exhibit -- can you see
8
   it better if I bring it to you?
9
             If you would go up from where the man is
        Α
10
   standing -- if you would go to that top walk next to
1.1
   Cell 16, that's where my room is, directly in front
12
   of that 5C door (indicating).
13
              Right over in this direction (indicating)?
         Q.
14
              No. Right there where the 5C door is.
         A
15
              Oh, I see.
         Q.
16
              My room is directly upstairs up over that.
17
              In the area that I'm indicating here
         Q
18
    (indicating)?
19.
              To the left on this side (indicating).
         Α
20
               Further?
         Q
 21
               On this side -- right there (indicating).
          Α
 22
               On the other side of C. I got you.
          Q
 23
               But it's directly in front of that brown
 24
    door that says "5C" (indicating).
 25
                                           (702) 455-3610
          SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727
```

```
I see. Very good, sir.
       Q
            Taking you back to February 24th of that
2
  year, do you recall an incident with an inmate by
  the name of Oscar Irias?
             Yes, ma'am.
        Α
5
             What happened -- the first thing that you
        Q
6
7
   saw?
             The first thing that I saw was I was
        Α
8
   laying on my bunk, and I heard somebody hollering
   "Help, help." I got up and went to the door.
10
   I went to the door, my first thing was to look out
11
   into the day space and where The Bubble --
12
              When you say, "day space," are you
13
   referring to (indicating) --
              The day space --
         Α
15
                          Excuse me. Where is the
              THE COURT:
16
    pointer, the electronic pointer?
17
                            Thank you, your Honor.
              MS. JACKSON:
18
              THE WITNESS: When I say the "day space,"
19
    I'm saying right there (indicating), the little
 20
    space right inside this first -- inside the
 21
    second -- the first door here (indicating).
 22
    BY MS. JACKSON:
 23
               So, one would go through the door that's
 24
    propped open that says 5- --
 25
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```
That's day space.
       Α
             Okay.
       Q
2
             And inside that door on the other side is
3
  the day space?
             Yes.
        Α
5
             Very good, sir.
        Q
6
             And then what did you see or hear?
7
             The first thing I did when I looked out, I
        Α
8
   looked out, and Mr. Irias was standing right there
9
   (indicating).
10
              You're indicating on the top tier?
11
              Top floor right in front of Room 21.
12
              All right.
13
              Mr. Johnson had started up the steps --
14
   Reggie Johnson had started up the steps, and Irias,
15
    like I said, was standing right here (indicating).
16
    He didn't know to go this way (indicating) or that
17
    way (indicating); he was just in limbo.
18
               Okay.
         Q
 19
               Mr. Johnson -- Deko, the defendant -- was
 20
    on this side (indicating) of the room coming up the
 21
     steps on this side (indicating).
 22
               Okay.
          Q
 23
               He never made it over here where none of
 24
     the action was. He was standing right here
 25
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(indicating) between 16 and 17 when the man went
  over the rail right here (indicating).
            Okay.
            When he went over the rail, Mr. Reggie
  Johnson had just made it up to the top of the steps.
  It was more like the man tried to jump off the rail
   than actually being carried off.
7
             Now, Mr. Cotton, you recall testifying in
        Q
8
   this courtroom about this time last year?
9
             Yes.
        Α
10
             And I asked you what did you see, and at
11
   that time, you indicated that the first thing you
12
   heard was a bunch of rumbling, and you heard someone
13
   holler "help"?
14
              Um-hmm.
         Α
1.5
              Now, you did not give the background about
16
    going up the stairs that you're giving this morning.
17
              You didn't give me -- you didn't ask me
18
    about none of this here.
19
              Very well, sir. Fair enough.
 20
               Now, after you saw Oscar coming off the
 21
    top floor, what, if anything, did you observe?
 22
               Like I said, when he came over that rail,
          Α
 23
    he came over sideways, hanging. He came over, his
 24
 25 arm hit the top of the rail like this (indicating).
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He caught hisself, fell up against the railing,
  dropped down on his feet, fell on his butt, jumped
  up and ran in his cell, which is right there
  (indicating).
             okay.
        Q
5
             Now, did you have occasion to observe the
6
   officer who was on duty that day, Mr. Cotton?
7
             Yes, I did.
        Α
8
             And did you recognize that officer?
        Q
9
             Yes.
        Α
10
              Who was it?
        Q
11
              It was -- I can't think of his name --
        Α
12
   Rodriguez.
13
              A Hispanic?
         Q
14
              Yes.
         Α
15
              Would "Gonzalez" sound correct?
         Q
16
              Gonzalez, yes.
         Α
17
              Now, you testified when Mr. Oscar Irias
         Q.
18
   hit the floor that he jumped up?
19
               He came down like this (indicating).
 20
    arm was up like this (indicating) on the top rail
 21
    which is right there (indicating).
               Yes, sir.
          Q
 23
               He hung by the rail; his body hit flush
 24
     like this (indicating) up side the rail. He landed
 25
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                                                           16
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```
on his feet, fell on his butt, jumped up and ran in
  his cell.
            All right.
       0
            And then what, if anything, did the
4
  officers do?
5
             The officers -- it was four officers in
       Α
  The Bubble, which The Bubble would be right up in
7
   this area here (indicating).
             Okay.
        Q
9
             They don't have a picture of The Bubble
10
   sitting there, but it's right this side of the 5C
11
   door (indicating). The officers -- it was four of
12
   them in there. Gonzalez was at the computer playing
13
   a game. The other officers -- one was sitting on
   the F and G side, and one was sitting on this side
15
    (indicating). They was all sitting there talking to
16
    each other --
17
              Okay.
         Q
18
              -- and looking toward the other side of
 19
    the unit on this side (indicating), F and G door.
 20
    Okay. Everybody's back was to this side here
 21
    (indicating). Like I said, they did not even hear
 22
    the man hollering, because the man was hollering, I
 23
    know for a good two minutes before he even came off
 24
    of that rail.
 25
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```

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So, when you looked out and you saw the
        Q
1
  person hollering, the officers were not reacting?
             No.
        Α
3
             And then based upon their non-reaction,
4
  you were able to determine that they did not hear
   this individual?
             I know they didn't hear it.
        Α
7
             Alrighty.
        Q
8
              It's your testimony that my client was not
 9
   involved in that incident?
10
              No, he wasn't.
         Α
1.1
              MS. JACKSON: I pass the witness, your
12
                                      . ,
   Honor.
1.3
14
                      CROSS-EXAMINATION
15
    BY MR. DASKAS:
16
              Mr. Cotton, good morning.
17
               Good morning. Good morning.
 18
               I noticed when you walked in a moment ago,
 19
    you winked at Donte Johnson; is that right?
 20
               Um-hmm.
          Α
 21
               Is that "Yes"?
          0
 22
               Yes.
          Α
 23
               Tell me why you did that.
 24
               Because that's my partner.
 25
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                                                            18
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```
Your partner?
        Q
1
             Yes.
        Α
2 .
             You want to help out your partner, don't
        Q
3
  you?
             If you mean would I lie for my partner --
5
6
   no.
             No; I mean, you just want to help him out?
        Q
7
              Yeah.
        Α
8
              Okay.
         Q
9
              Miss Jackson asked you about your
10
   convictions.
11
              You're convicted for two counts of robbery
12
   with a deadly weapon, correct?
13
              um-hmm.
14
               "Yes"?
15
               Yes.
         Α
16
               You're serving a minimum of 16 years in
17
    prison?
18
               Sixteen to 50.
         Α
19
               And a maximum of 50 years, correct?
20
               Yeah.
          Α
 21
               Now, Miss Jackson reminded you that you
 22
    testified about a year ago about this incident,
 23
     correct?
 24
                Um-hmm.
          Α
 25
```

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```
I need you to answer out loud.
       Q
1
             Yes.
        Α
2
             You would agree when you testified about a
3
  year ago, you never said anything about seeing Donte
  Johnson walking up the stairs, correct?
             Correct, but number one, nobody ever asked
   me where Mr. Donte Johnson was or where Mr. Reggie
7
   Johnson was at the time. The only question that was
8
   asked is where was the inmate that came off of that
 9
   rail.
10
              You don't recall being asked, and I'll
11
   quote at line 14, "What did you see, if anything?
12
   Do you recall?" Correct?
13
              Um-hmm.
14
              "Yes"?
15
              Yes.
         Α
16
              Now, this morning, I don't remember
17
    Miss Jackson asking you specifically where Donte
18
    Johnson was, but you seem to think she did ask you
 19
 20
    that.
                                   That's what I just
               She didn't ask me.
         Α
 21
    said. She did not ask me, and you didn't ask me.
 22
               She didn't ask you this morning either,
          Q
 23
     did she?
 24
          Α
               No.
 25
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1		i
1	Q You just volunteered where Donte was?	
2	A You know why I volunteered that?	
3	Q Why? Why?	
	A Because, number one, when I was here last	
4	year on May 13th, didn't nobody question me about	
5	where the presence of anybody was but the man that	
6	came off the rail. Okay? Number one, the only	-
7	came off the rail. Okay. Same	
8	thing that was done when I was here the last time	١
9	was the pictures was showed to me of where my unit	
10	was, where my housing unit was. That's the only	
11	question that was really asked of me.	
12	Q What I heard you say on direct examination	١
13	was that you believe Oscar Irias went over the	١
14	railing on his own.	
15	Is that what you think?	1
16	A Yes, sir.	-
17	Q So, if somebody pled guilty to throwing	
18	as the mailing, you wouldn't agree with that,	
19		
2 (- 37 -	
2:	Detayed he jumped over on his own?	
	Parausa of the fact that when I seen him,	
2	there with their hands on him when he was	
2		
2	ve spection he actually fell from the	
2	0.010	
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```
second tier onto the first tier.
             You would agree with that?
2
             I know automatically he was, because I was
        Α
3
   standing at my door. Just like I am looking at you
   now, I was looking at him.
             Let me make sure I understand what called
6
   your attention to this incident.
7
             You heard someone hollering for help,
8
   correct?
9
              Um-hmm.
        Α
10
              "Yes"?
         Q
11
              Yes.
         Α
12
              What's the first thing you did when you
         Q
13
   heard that?
14
              I jumped up and ran to the door.
         Α
15
              And what's the first thing you saw?
16
              I looked out, and when I looked out, I
17
    looked for the voice. The voice was standing right
18
    there in front of Cell 21, right there (indicating).
1.9
              When you say "the voice," you mean Oscar
20
    Irias?
 21
               Yes.
 22
               At that moment, you hadn't looked to see
          Q
 23
    where the guards were?
 24
                    That was my next step is looking to
               No.
          Α
 25
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see where the guards were. It's an automatic
1
  reaction.
             From the time you heard someone
3
  hollering --
             Um-hmm.
5
             -- until you looked to where the voice was
6
   coming from, you don't know what the guards were
   looking at, do you?
             Not -- well, I'll put it like this:
        Α
 9
   I looked out my door and seen that man over there
10
   hollering, he was running back and forth across the
11
   walk. When I looked to see where the guards was,
12
   which is a split second later, yeah, I knew what
1.3
   they was doing. Gonzalez was on the computer; the
14
   other four guards -- I mean, the other three guards
15
    was facing towards F and G Wing.
16
              Before that -- before you looked to where
17
    the guards were --
18
              Um-hmm.
         Α
19
              -- you don't know what they were looking
20
    at, correct?
 21
               No.
         Α
 22
              What does it mean to be a snitch?
         Q
 23
               A snitch --
          Α
 24
               MS. JACKSON: Your Honor, objection.
 25
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That's beyond the scope of my direct.
1
             MR. DASKAS: It has everything to do with
2
  his bias towards testifying today.
3
             THE COURT: Approach --
4
             THE WITNESS: What?
5
                         -- the bench.
             THE COURT:
6
             Excuse me. Hold on a second.
7
             (Sidebar conference outside the presence
8
   of the court reporter.)
             THE COURT: Sustained.
10
             MR. DASKAS: Judge, we'll pass the
11
   witness.
12
              Thank you, Mr. Cotton.
13
              MS. JACKSON: No further, your Honor.
14
   Thank you.
15
              THE COURT: Thank you, sir.
16
              MS. JACKSON: Mr. Lytle, Termaine Anthony
17
    Lytle, to be exact.
18
              Thank you for coming down, sir.
19
              THE BAILIFF: Remain standing and face the
20
    clerk.
21
                           Please raise your right hand.
               THE CLERK:
22
              (Oath administered.)
 23
                             Yes, ma'am.
               THE WITNESS:
 24
               THE CLERK: Thank you.
 25
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Please have a seat. State your full name
1
  spelling your last name for the record.
             THE WITNESS: My name is Termaine Lytle,
3
  last name is spelled L-Y-T-L-E.
4
             THE CLERK: Will you please spell your
5
  first name also?
6
             THE WITNESS: My first name is spelled
7
   T-E-R-M-A-I-N-E, middle initial is A.
8
9
                      TERMAINE LYTLE,
10
             being called as a witness on behalf of the
11
   Defendant, was first duly sworn and testified as
12
   follows:
13
14
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
15
    BY MS. JACKSON:
16
              Good morning, Mr. Lytle.
         Q
17
              Good morning, ma'am.
         Α
18
              Do you remember me?
         Q
 19
              Yes, ma'am, I do.
         Α
 20
               And do you remember testifying in this
 21
    very courtroom -- Mr. Cotton said it was about
 22
    May 13th of last year?
 23
               Yes, ma'am.
          Α
 24
               Regarding the incident at 5C in February
 25
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                                                          25
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of '01?
            Yes, ma'am, I do.
       Α
2
             Now, let's talk about your custody status.
       Q
3
             You're obviously in prison?
4
             Yes, ma'am.
        Α
5
             Where?
        Q
6
             I'm currently at High Desert, but I'm
        Α
7
   stationed at Ely.
8
             You're only in High Desert, because I
        Q
9
   subpoenaed you down to court -- yes?
              Yes, ma'am.
        Α
11
              Okay.
        Q
12
              And you are a convicted felon many, many,
13
   many times over?
14
              On this -- the charge that I'm in Ely for
15
    right now that I'm up there, yes.
16
              Suffice it to say, you're serving quite a
17
   bit of time. You told me last time two lives
18
    without, two lives with and a whole bunch of stuff
19
   behind?
 20
               Yes, ma'am.
         Α
 21
               Is that a fair statement?
          Q
 22
               Yes, ma'am.
          Α
 23
               So, you have no expectation, absent some
          Q
 24
    appellate court deciding otherwise, of ever getting
 25
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out of Ely State Prison?
             No, ma'am.
2
             Now, prior to May of -- February --
3
  actually, May of last year, had anyone in my office
  ever contacted you regarding this incident or
   telling you what to say here in court?
             Are you talking about the time when I came
        Α
7
   down from Ely, or are you talking about the time
8
   after I came down to High Desert from Ely?
9
             I'm just asking you to tell this jury that
10
   I or anyone on my behalf -- did we tell you what to
11
   say?
12
              No, ma'am.
         Α
13
              Do you know my client, Donte Johnson?
         Q
14
              Yes, I do.
         A
15
              And how do you know Mr. Johnson?
16
              I know Mr. Johnson from the County.
17
    a good friend of mine.
18
              And that was when you were housed in 5C?
         Q
19
               Yes, ma'am.
         Α
 20
               Okay.
         Q
 21
               Now, you said he's a good friend of yours?
 22
               Yes.
 23
          Α
               Would that motivate you to come in here
          Q
 24
     and lie on his behalf?
 25
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```
No, ma'am.
        Α
1
             Now, when we first contacted you, were you
2
  surprised to be transported?
             Yes, ma'am.
4
             Did you have any idea why you were even
5
   being moved from what has now become your home, Ely
   State Penitentiary?
7
             No, ma'am, I didn't have no idea.
        Α
8
              Did anyone on behalf of Donte Johnson or
         Q
 9
   anyone, period, threaten you or coerce you or make
10
   you any kind of promises for testifying a certain
11
   way in these proceedings?
12
              No, ma'am.
         Α
13
              I'm going to take you back to
14
    February 24th of 2001.
15
              You indicate you were housed in 5C?
16
              Yes, ma'am.
         Α
17
               Do you recall your room number?
         Q
18
               I believe it was 7 at the time of the
         Α
19
    incident.
 20
                             I'm sorry. Bret, would you
               MS. JACKSON:
 21
    put QQ back on the overhead, please?
 22
     BY MS. JACKSON:
 23
               Do you believe it was No. 7?
          Q
 24
               Yes, at the time of the incident you're
          Α
 25
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```
1 talking about.
            Are you able to see your former cell in
2
  this exhibit, I think this is QQ?
             Actually, my room is blocking from the 5C
   door. It's directly behind the 5C door from this
5
   angle (indicating).
             Okay. No. 7?
        Q
7
             Yes, ma'am.
        Α
8
             Actually, there appears to be a 7 that's
 9
   showing through?
10
             Oh, yeah, the door, through the window.
11
              Do you see that 5, 7?
12
              Yes.
         Α
13
                         Where is the pointer?
              THE COURT:
14
              MS. JACKSON: It's right in front of you,
15
    your Honor. You will probably need to show him how
16
    to use it.
17
              THE WITNESS: This one. Okay. Thank you,
 18
    sir.
 19
               I can see it right there (indicating).
 20
     That's my room (indicating).
 21
     s:
 22
               All right.
          Q
 23
               Were you inside your room on February 24th
 24
     of 2001 when there was an incident, sir, that caught
  25
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                                                          29
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```
your attention?
            Yes, ma'am, it was.
             What happened on that day that drew your
3
  attention, Mr. Lytle?
4
             I heard a commotion outside of the tier,
   sound like someone was yelling.
             Now, when you say "outside of the tier,"
        Q
7
   would you take your pointer and indicate what you
8
   consider to be outside of the tier?
9
             Anything that's not inside my room, ma'am,
10
   this area right here (indicating), all out here
11
    (indicating).
12
              Could you make out what the commotion was?
13
   Could you distinguish human voices, for example?
14
              Yes, ma'am, I could.
15
              What did you hear, sir?
16
              Just yelling, "Help, help" and "No," "Ah,"
17
    "Ooh," "Eeee" -- that type of stuff.
18
              Alrighty.
         Q
19
              Did there come a time when you
20
    investigated, from your standpoint as best you could
 21
    from your room, what was going on?
 22
                    I could only hear until the person
          Α
 23
     came over the railing.
 24
               So, tell me in your own words what you
          Q
 25
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saw.
1
             From my room right here (indicating), I
2
  can't -- the incident had to happen up here
   (indicating), because the person came from this
  direction (indicating) on down right in front of me.
             Okay.
        Q
6
             And his name was Oscar, and he fell, and
7
   he was bleeding all over. He got up, walked to his
8
   room -- which is his room right here (indicating).
9
             His room was No. 6, it appears?
        Q
10
              Yes.
        Α
11
             Right next to yours?
12
              He was right next door to me.
         Α
13
              Okay.
         Q
14
              He was in this room right here
         Α
15
    (indicating) as you can see the little number.
16
    used to be able to prop our door, because we only
17
    get one hour for tier time.
18
              Okay.
         Q
1.9
              He had his door propped open, and as he
 20
    got up, he went inside his room. As I said, I'm
 21
    right -- right next door to him. I could hear what
 22
    he was doing inside the room. It was thin walls.
 23
     They don't pay too much for the building.
 24
     got up after he sat down and went over there and
 25
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closed his door.
            So, he went into his room?
2
            Sat down for a minute.
3
            Sat down for a second, and there was some
  hesitation?
5
             I would say about a minute or two.
        Α
6
             A minute or so?
7
             Yeah.
        Α
8
             And then you heard his door close?
9
             Yeah. I heard him get back up and close
        Α
10
  his door.
11
             You could hear him actually making the
12
   getting up sound?
13
              Yes.
14
              And the room door was then closed by
         0
15
   Mr. Irias.
16
              Did you see any guards in or about the
17
    area during the time Oscar Irias came tumbling down
18
   from that top tier?
19
                    I didn't see any guards come to this
              No.
 20
   door right here (indicating), the 5C door. They did
 21
    not come in, they came to that door right there
 22
     (indicating) after he was in his room.
 23
               Okay.
          Q
 24
               And you had testified -- do you recall
 25
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testifying here in May of last year?
            Yes, ma'am.
       Α
2
             You indicated that there were a lot of
       0
3
  guards you thought?
             Five.
        Α
5
             More than -- around five?
        Q
6
                                          I remember
             It was five guards, ma'am.
        Α
7
   that.
8
             Okay.
       . Q
9
             And did you have occasion to observe the
10
   guards' behavior, what were they doing when you
11
   looked to see what they were doing?
12
              As I say, as you can see my room from
13
   right here (indicating), I have a clear view. From
14
    this view (indicating) coming all the way back as
15
    you're coming off the screen would be what we call
16
    "The Bubble" or what they call the "Command Post."
17
              That's where the officers were?
         0
 18
              That's where the officers are stationed
 19
    at, and on the opposite side of the Command Post is
 20
    another classification unit called 5E, -F.
 21
               Yes, sir.
 22
               They were facing the 5E, -F side during
 23
     all the commotion. They didn't -- like I said, they
 24
     didn't figure out that he was getting hurt until he
 25
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1 came over the tier, and like I said -- and by the
 time he got in his room and closed the door, that's
3 when he was at the door.
             So, your testimony is that these officers
  didn't even -- after Oscar went to his room, sat
  down, got back up, closed the door, still the
   officers had not made it over to the area of where
   the commotion was?
8
             No, ma'am.
        Α
9
             And based upon what you observed and what
10
   you heard and what you saw, did the officers even
11
   see what happened?
12
              No, ma'am.
13
              MS. JACKSON: Thank you. That's all I
14
   have.
15
              THE COURT:
                          cross?
16
              MR. DASKAS: Thank you, Judge.
17
18
                      CROSS-EXAMINATION
19
   BY MR. DASKAS:
 20
              Let me start with the same question Alzora
 21
    did.
 22
               Do you remember me?
 23
               Yes, sir, I do.
          Α
 24
               How do you know me?
          Q
 25
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I know you as a prosecutor, sir.
       A
1 .
             That prosecuted your case?
        Q
2
             Yes, sir.
3
             Correct?
4
             Yes, sir.
        Α
5
             You're serving a life without parole
        Q
6
   sentence consecutive to a life without parole
   sentence, correct?
8
              Yes, on an illegal constitutional deal.
        Α
9
              I'm sorry?
        Q
10
              On an illegal plea agreement on a
11.
   constitutional deal the way my rights were -- direct
12
   appeal.
13
              Let's talk about that.
14
              MS. JACKSON: Objection as to relevance,
15
    your Honor.
16
             MR. DASKAS: You just opened the door to
17
    it, Judge.
18
               THE COURT: Sustained.
 19
               You know, you can ask him what he was
 20
    convicted of --
 21
               MR. DASKAS: I will do that, Judge.
 22
               THE COURT: -- the date and that sort of
 23
     thing.
 24
     11111
 25
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```
BY MR. DASKAS:
            You've been convicted of First-degree
       Q
2
  Murder, correct?
3
             Yes, sir.
4
             With Use of a Deadly Weapon?
5
             Yes, sir.
6
             The victim was 65 years --
        Q
7
             MS. JACKSON: Your Honor -- objection --
8
   BY MR. DASKAS:
.9
             -- of age or older, correct?
10
              THE COURT: Sustained.
11
             MR. DASKAS: That's part of the
12
   conviction, your Honor.
13
              THE COURT: The conviction is -- what is
14
   the charge? You can ask him what the charges are --
15
              MR. DASKAS: Judge, that's what I'm doing.
16
              THE COURT: -- when did it occur.
17
                   You were saying if he was -- was the
18
    victim 65 years of age or older?
 19
              MR. DASKAS: That was part of the
 20
    enhancement, Judge.
 21.
                           Well, you should say, "Were
               THE COURT:
 22
    you convicted of First-degree Murder of a Victim 65
 23
     Years of Age or Older?" That is the charge.
 24
     that's what he was convicted of, that's what you ask
 25
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him.
1
  BY MR. DASKAS:
             Is that what you were convicted of?
        Q
3
             THE WITNESS: Can I answer it a little bit
4
5 better so he won't have to ask any more questions?
                               There's a certain way
                        No.
             THE COURT:
6
  he's supposed to ask it, so he needs to ask it
   correctly.
8
              THE WITNESS: Okay. Sorry, sir.
9
   BY MR. DASKAS:
10
              You've been convicted of First-degree
        Q
11
   Murder?
12
              Yes, sir.
         Α
13
              With Use of a Deadly Weapon, Victim 65
1.4
   Years of Age or Older?
15
              Yes.
         Α
16
              You've been convicted of Robbery, Victim
         0
17
    65 Years of Age or Older, correct?
18
              Yes.
         Α
19
              You've been convicted of First-Degree
 20
    Kidnapping, Victim 65 Years of Age or Older,
 21
    correct?
 22
               Yes.
          Α
 23
               Among other convictions, correct?
          0
 24
               And all that is because my co-defendant
 25
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testified against me.
             And a jury convicted you?
2
                  Without him saying I did it, I would
             No.
3
  not be here.
             Did a jury convict you?
5
             Because my co-defendant testified against
6
7
   me.
              THE COURT: Sir, that only requires a
8
   "yes" or "no" answer.
9
              THE WITNESS:
                           Yes.
10
   BY MR. DASKAS:
11
                    All right.
              Yes.
         Q
12
              Let's talk about the incident at the jail.
13
              If I understand it correctly, what you're
14
    saying is the first thing you heard was a commotion
15
    and someone hollering for help, correct?
16
              Yes.
         Α
17
              And you looked toward the direction of the
18
    commotion; is that correct?
 19
               I'm looking out my window, so I'm looking
 20
    directly out from this room, sir (indicating).
 21
               And that's when you see Oscar Irias land
 22
     on the first floor where you were?
 23
               Yes, sir.
          Α
 24
               He had fallen from the second floor,
          Q
 25
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correct?
            Yes.
       Α
2
            The first thing you did was looked in his
3
  direction; is that true?
             I have to look in his direction. It's
  directly out my door, sir.
             Which is a different direction than the
7
   direction where The Bubble where the guards were
   looking?
9
                  It's not same direction.
                                            It's
             No.
        Α
10
   directly from this direction right here
11
                  My room is directly right here
   (indicating).
12
   (indicating). I can look from any one of these
13
   glasses, and "The Bubble" would be the outside part
14
   right here (indicating). I can see everything
15
    that's my room that's called the "Point Room."
1.6
              After you first heard the commotion --
17
    after you first heard the commotion --
18
              Yes, sir.
         Α
19
              -- what did you see first, Oscar Irias
 20
    land or the guards?
 21
               I seen Oscar land, and I could see the
 22
    guards at the same time. I'm looking in the same
 23
     direction.
 24
               And how many guards did you see?
 2.5
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Five, sir, in The Bubble.
       A
            Now, when you initially heard the
2
  commotion and someone yelling for help, did you see
  what the guards were doing?
             Yes, sir.
             So, at that moment when you heard someone
        Q
6
   yelling for help, you looked toward the direction of
   the guards?
8
             Yes, sir.
        A
9
             What did you see?
        Q
10
             Them looking at 5E, -F direction. They
11
   faced the opposite direction from our unit.
12
             And who were the guards in The Bubble?
13
              I remember Gonzalez and -- it was another
14
   guard that I didn't like, that's why I remember both
15
    of them, but I can't remember the other names.
16
              You say there was another guard you didn't
         Q
17
    like.
18
              Does that mean you didn't like Gonzalez
 19
    also?
 20
                    I didn't like him because of what he
               No.
 21
    tried to say that we did. He's a known liar.
 22
               Who is?
          Q
 23
               Gonzalez, sir.
          Α
 24
               Officer Gonzalez is a known liar?
          Q.
 25
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Officer Gonzalez is a known
            Excuse me.
       Α
1
  liar.
2
             And this is your testimony?
3
             Yes, sir.
        Α
             Now, what you just told us on direct
5
   examination was you saw Oscar Irias land on the
   ground in front of you, correct?
7
             Yes, sir.
        Α
8
             So, you wouldn't have looked up to see him
 9
   coming over the railing, would you?
10
              I cannot see over the railing, sir.
        Α
11
              Okay.
         Q
12
              So, if you testified to that at a previous
13
   hearing, that would be incorrect?
14
              I have never testified to that, sir.
                                                      I
15
    have not said that at all.
              MR. DASKAS: May I approach the witness,
17
    Judge?
18
                           Yes.
               THE COURT:
 19
              MR. DASKAS: Page 81.
 20
    BY MR. DASKAS:
 21
               Mr. Lytle, let me show you a transcript of
 22
    your previous testimony.
               Do you see at line four where you say, "I
 24
    just seen the inmate coming over the railing"?
 25
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```
Um-hmm.
       Α
1
            Is that your testimony?
2
            Yes.
       A
3
             You're telling us now you didn't see him
4
  actually come over the railing, you just saw him
  land?
6
             Seeing him come over and seeing him land
7
   is the same thing, sir. You're using metaphors
8
   there.
9
             So, you're telling me that's the same
10
   thing?
11
              If I'm looking out my window, I can only
12
   see everything in front of me, so I'm seeing him
13
   come over, and I can see the guards, and I can see
14
   anything outs of my door. I can only see one
15
    direction. There's only -- that room right there in
16
    the corner sir (indicating), and it's a stair part
17
    like a cement part on the top right there under my
18
    room. I cannot see above; I can only see out.
19
    cannot see up. I cannot see anything up; I can only
 20
    see out.
 21
               Since you can't see up, you don't know how
         Q
 22
    he got over the railing, do you --
 23
               No.
          Α
 24
               -- based on what you saw?
          Q
 25
```

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No.
       Α
1
             You don't know if someone threw him over
2
  the railing, correct?
             I don't know that at all.
4
             You don't know if he jumped over the
5
   railing?
6
             I do not know.
        Α
7
             You can't tell us because you can't see
8
   whether Donte Johnson through him over the railing?
9
             That's correct, sir.
        Α
10
              MR. DASKAS: Thank you, sir.
11
              I have nothing further.
12
              MS. JACKSON: Nothing further, your Honor.
13
   Thank you.
14
                          Thank you very much, sir.
              THE COURT:
15
                             Mr. Reginald Johnson. He's
              MS. JACKSON:
16
    our next witness, your Honor.
17
              THE BAILIFF: Mr. Johnson, remain standing
18
    and face the clerk.
19
               THE CLERK: Raise your right hand.
20
               (Oath administered.)
 21
                             Yes.
               THE WITNESS:
 2.2
                                        Please have a
               THE CLERK: Thank you.
 23
            State your full name; spell your last name
 24
    for the record.
 25
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```
THE WITNESS: Reginald Johnson,
1
  J-O-H-N-S-O-N.
2
             THE CLERK: Thank you.
3
4
                     REGINALD JOHNSON,
5
             being called as a witness on behalf of the
6
   Defendant, was first duly sworn and testified as
7
   follows:
9
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
10
   BY MS. JACKSON:
11
              Good morning, Mr. Johnson.
         Q
12
              Good morning.
         A
13
              Sir, you're obviously in custody?
14
              Yes, ma'am.
         Α
15
              Is it fair to say you are a convicted
16
    felon many times over?
17
              That's true.
18
              As a matter of fact, at your last hearing,
 19
    you told us that you have no expectation of ever
 20
    getting out absent some drastic action by an
 21
    appellate court -- no expectation of ever getting
 22
     out of Ely State Prison alive?
 23
               That's correct.
          Α
 24
               Do you know this man (indicating)?
 25
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Yes, I do.
        Α
1
             Who is that?
        Q
2
             Donte.
3
             Let me back up.
4
             What have you been convicted of, sir?
   What are you serving time for? Let's get that on
   the record right now.
7
             Attempted murder, robbery, attempt
        Α
8
   robbery, assault, vandalism, burglary. I think
9
   that's it.
10
              It could be more?
11
              It could be.
         A
12
              I was asking you about my client.
         Q
13
              Do you know that young man (indicating)?
14
              Yes, I do.
         Α
15
              Who is that?
         Q
16
               That's Donte -- Donte Johnson.
         A
17
               Is he related to you, sir?
         Q
18
               No.
         Α
19
               He just happened to have the same last
          Q
20
    name?
 21
               That's right.
 22
               As a matter of fact, you are aware that
          Q
 23
     "Donte Johnson" is actually not his true name?
 24
               Yeah, I know that's true.
          Α
 25
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Do you know his true name?
       Q
1
             Yes, I do.
       Α
2
             What is that?
        Q
3
             John -- John White.
        Α
4
             John. Okay.
        Q
5
             Last time we were here, you testified that
6
  my client is your friend?
7
              Yes, he is.
        Α
8
              Is that still true today?
        Q
9
              That's true.
        Α
10
              As a matter of fact, you told this Court
        Q
11
   that it was fair to say that you care very deeply
12
   about my client. You called him, as a matter of
13
   fact, "little brother"?
14
              Yeah, he is.
         A
15
              Because of your relationship with my
16
    client, would that cause you to come in here and
17
    testify falsely under oath, sir?
18
               No, ma'am.
         Α
19
               Has anyone from my office or on my behalf
 20
    contacted you now, or even last year, respecting
 21
    your testimony in this matter?
 22
               No, ma'am.
          Α
 23
               Has anyone on behalf of my client, his
 24
     family or anyone put money on your books or anything
 25
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of that nature to influence your testimony?
1
            No, ma'am.
2
             I'm going to take you back to
3
  February 24th of 2001, Mr. Johnson.
             Where were you housed at that time, sir?
5
             Five C, -D.
6
             And look at the monitor there. You see an
7
   exhibit on board. It's Defendant's QQ.
8
             Do you recognize that area as being the
9
   module known as 5C?
10
             Yes, ma'am.
        Α
11
             Commonly called "The Hole"?
        0
12
              That's correct.
         Α
13
              Why were you in The Hole?
14
              I was maxed out from booking. They never
15
    gave me a reason. They said, "high profile case."
16
    I never got a chance to go to general population;
17
    so, I was there initially for -- just because they
18
    said I had a high profile case.
              So, you never got a chance to actually
20
    take a shot, if you will, at being in the regular
 21
    part of the institution?
 22
               No.
         Α
 23
              As a matter of fact, you asked that I not
          0
 24
    put you there awaiting these proceedings because
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they don't treat you very well there?
             Yes, that's true. I gave them reason.
2
             Okay. I appreciate your candor,
3
  Mr. Johnson.
             Did there come a time on February 24th of
5
  2001 when you did something on that day that caused
6
   you to sustain yet another conviction?
7
             That's true. Well, I have two convictions
        Α
8
   in 5C, -D for assaults.
9
             Okay.
        Q
10
             Directing your attention to February 24th
11
   of '01, did you assault someone on that day?
12
              Yes, ma'am.
        Α
1.3
              Who did you assault?
14
              Oscar -- Oscar Irases (phonetic). I think
         Α
15
    that's how you pronounce his last name.
16
              What did you do, sir?
         Q
17
              I assaulted him and helped him over the
         Α
18
    tier.
19
              You helped him over the tier?
         Q
20
              Yes, ma'am.
         Α
 21
              There's a pointer in front of you.
         Q
 22
               MS. JACKSON: Mr. Bailiff, if you could
 23
    show Mr. Johnson how to use that device, we would
    greatly appreciate it.
 25
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You want me to push it?
             THE WITNESS:
1
  BY MS. JACKSON:
             Yes, push it, and I want you to indicate
        Q
  for the jury -- tell them from the beginning to end
  how it is that you came to -- I think you said "to
  help Mr. Oscar over the tier." What happened?
             Why did you do that, first of all?
7
             I don't like child molesters,
        A
   Miss Jackson. I alerted CCDC to this, you know.
   Now, I understand that we all are in prison, but I
10
   just don't tolerate child molesters.
             You do not tolerate child molesters?
12
              Yes.
        Α
13
              As a matter of fact, CCDC did something as
14
    a result of your alerting them to your dislike, if
    you will, to child molesters.
16
              Do you see this (indicating)? Can you
17
    recognize this as being a blue card?
18
              A blue card.
         Α
19
              Do you see the name up top?
         Q
20
              I see it.
         Α
 21
              It's Oscar's blue card?
         Q
 22
               Right.
         Α
 23
               Now, this designation down here says
          0
 24
     "DNHW" -- "do not house with" is what the officer
 25
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says that means, and they have down here, "Do not
  house with Reginald Johnson."
             Is that you?
3
             That's me, yes, ma'am.
             And it's because you made them aware that
5
   you do not like child molesters?
6
             Yes, ma'am.
        Α
7
             And they also have a "do not house" with
        Q
8
   two other people.
9
              Can you see those names?
10
              I don't know who those are.
        Α
11
              Is it fair to say neither one of them is
         Q
12
   my client?
13
              That's correct.
14
              It doesn't say "Donte Johnson"?
         Q
15
              No, ma'am.
         Α
16
              It doesn't say "John White"?
17
              No, ma'am.
         Α
18
               But it clearly down here says, "Do not
         Q
19
    house with Reginald Johnson"?
 20
               That's correct.
          Α
 21
               You didn't make any secret about that, did
          Q
 22
    you?
 23
               I never made any secret about anything in
          Α
 24
     the County, which is another reason why I'm really,
 25
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for lack of a better word, pissed off that they
 brought me down here, because I don't understand why
  the D.A. would drop charges against Donte --
             Okay. We're going to get there.
  going to get there in just a moment. Let me slow
  you down a little bit.
             Okay. After you threw Oscar over the
7
   railing or you helped him off the railing, to quote
   you, you were charged with that offense?
9
             Yes, ma'am.
        A
10
             And what were you charged with, sir?
        Q
11
             Conspiracy to commit murder and attempted
12
   murder.
1.3
              And you were charged in conjunction with
14
   someone else?
15
              Yes, ma'am.
16
              Who did they charge you in conjunction
17
    with?
1.8
              Donte.
         Α
19
              And was there a preliminary hearing set in
         Q
2.0
    that matter?
21
              Yes, ma'am, that I recall.
         Α
22
              And even before the preliminary hearing,
         Q
 23
    did you take some steps or efforts to try to alert
 24
    your attorney and others that Mr. Donte Johnson was
 25
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not involved in this?
            Yes, ma'am. I wrote a statement and gave
       A
  it to Miss Gloria Navarro and asked her to please
  get this to his attorney and see if we could get the
  matter resolved, because I didn't want to go to
  trial, and they refused.
             Okay.
        Q
7
             Now, you knew at the time that my client
   would be facing a resentencing for his very life?
 9
   You knew that?
1.0
             Then?
        Α
11
              Yes.
        Q
12
                  No.
              No.
        Α
13
              So, that was not your motivation to
14
   indicate --
15
                   At that particular time, all I knew
              No.
         Α
16
    is he was on death row. I didn't know he was going
17
    to receive a new sentencing.
18
              As a matter of fact, the hearing that came
19
    down giving him a new sentence was pursuant to the
 20
    Ring decision. Do you know?
 21
               The what?
         Α
 22
               The -- Ring vs. Arizona.
          Q
 23
               MR. STANTON: Your Honor, can we approach?
 24
               THE COURT: No. No, no, no.
 25
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MS. JACKSON: I can rephrase.
1
             THE COURT: Go on.
2
  BY MS. JACKSON:
3
             As far as you know, Mr. Donte Johnson
   received a new penalty hearing sometime in the
   latter part of 2002?
             Well, I'm aware now, but I didn't know at
   that time -- 2001 -- I had no idea that this would
   be a new sentencing; I just -- you know, I really
  felt like -- that it was a waste of time for them to
10
   charge him when I was already telling them that I
11
   did it, and they knew I did it.
12
             And you're saying at that time in '01 that
13
   my client had already been convicted and was on
1.4
   death row, and you didn't have a crystal ball that
15
   allowed you to see into the future to know that his
    conviction would be overturned?
17
              That's correct.
         Α
18
              And obviously, you're not some kind of
19
    legal scholar that you could see the law was headed
20
    in a certain direction?
2.1
              No, ma'am.
22
              So, there came a time now -- when was it
 23
    that you finally was able to prevail upon the
 24
    prosecution, if you will, to present you with a
 25
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satisfactory negotiation in this matter?
1
             I don't think any of it was satisfactory.
2
             Okay.
        Q
3
             I just got tired of wasting time.
4
             Okay.
        0
5
             They waited until we picked the jury.
6
   They waited until the day of trial, and then they
7
   said we're willing to let Reginald plead guilty to
   attempted murder as well as conspiracy to commit
   murder.
10
             Now, when you entered those pleas, sir --
11
   and I assume that you did --
12
              Yes, ma'am.
        Α
13
              The Judge gave you a thorough canvass,
14
    correct?
15
              That's true.
         Α
16
              When the Judge asked you who did you
         Q
17
    conspire with, what did you say?
18
              They said "another." They worded as
1.9
    "another." I conspired with Officer Gonzalez.
20
    just want to be real about the whole situation. I'm
21
    not trying --
 22
               What do you mean you "conspired"?
         Q
 23
               There was a conspiracy. I conspired with
          Α
 24
    Officer Gonzalez.
 25
                                           (702) 455-3610
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727

```
How so?
1
             I didn't know that Oscar was a child
2
  molester.
3
             How did you find out?
        0
             Officer Gonzalez told me that Oscar was a
  child molester as well as a couple of other guys
  that I attacked here in this county jail.
   officers know me very well, and they know my
   history. If you check, Miss Navarro has copies of
   my disciplinary history and Donte's disciplinary
10
   history. It doesn't take a rocket scientist, but
11
  this man was in the County in general population
12
  which I never had a chance to be from '98 to 2001
13
  without one fight, and now they get here and say you
14
   can't give him life because he's going to kill
15
   again? Three years in general population without
16
   one fight. That's literally impossible. Prison is
17
   a violent place. The county jail is a violent
18
   place, especially if you're a gang member.
19
   years without one fight, you know. Now, I have a
20
    total of 17 assaults and two attempted murders.
21
    They knew I did this, you know.
22
              As a matter of fact --
         Q
23
              Excuse me --
         Α
24
              Go ahead, sir.
         Q
25
```

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```
-- for being like that, but they knew.
1
             I just wanted to make sure that we move
2
  along pursuant to questions.
3
             So, the jury was about to be empaneled,
   and you took a deal?
5
             Yes, ma'am.
        Α
6
             You also indicated at that time that you
7
   would take that deal under one condition, and that
   was that Mr. Johnson be cleared?
             Drop charge with prejudice.
        Α
10
             Okay.
        Q
11
             And Miss Navarro explained to me that
        Α
12
   means they can't bring the charge back up.
13
              And that was your understanding?
14
              That's what I -- is that -- isn't that
15
    what it means?
16
              Yes, sir.
17
              With prejudice.
18
              And you were very -- you're a little
19
    irritated today, fair to say?
20
              Irritated with courtrooms, period. I've
21
    always admitted to what I've done. I'm not up here
22
    pretending to be a saint. I've done some things for
 23
    which I deserve to be in prison. I'm not one of
 24
    these nice guys; I'm not going to sit up here and
 25
                                          (702) 455-3610
```

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```
tell you I had remorse for what I did and I'm sorry
  and I found God. That just isn't the case.
             Yes, sir. As a matter of fact, after
   this, you entered a plea to conspiracy with another,
   and you said Gonzalez told you this guy was a
   molester.
             Now, isn't it true that during this -- on
   5C, you fellows are only supposed to be let out one
8
   at a time?
             Well, I was, specifically. I'm not trying
        Α
10
   to orchestrate this or nothing, but --
11
             Go ahead, sir.
        Q
12
             I was what you call a "Phase I Inmate"
1.3
   which means that I'm out of my cell for 15 minutes a
14
   day, and I'm supposed to have belly chains on and
15
   leg shackles. I showered that way, with one hand
16
   free. Now, you tell me how was I let out with him
17
   and Oscar.
                How?
18
              Did the guards let you out that day?
19
              Gonzalez let me out, but I'm a Phase I
20
             If you check these things, they will tell
    Inmate.
21
    you, I was a Phase I Inmate. I'm out for 15 minutes
22
    a day by myself, full restraints every time I leave.
23
              Were you restrained in full restraints?
         Q
24
              I was in nothing. I was in nothing.
         Α
25
```

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```
And that's why you believe that there was
        O
  a conspiracy involving Officer Gonzalez?
             I don't believe; I know. Gonzalez was not
3
   a regular officer in 5C, -D.
             What do you mean, sir?
             He came -- he was not a regular officer.
6
   He did not work that module on a regular basis.
7
   came by my cell when he came on because CERT was out
   doing their little exercise or whatever they do.
   came past my cell and said, "Are you the guy who
10
   robbed the Treasure Island?" And I said, "Yes,
11
   that's me." He told me -- he said, "Do you know who
12
   that guy is, I think in 9 cell?"
                                     I said, "No.
                                                   Who
13
   is it?" He said, "That's Oscar. Do you know what
14
   he's in here for?" I said, "No, I don't know what
15
   he's in here for." He said, "He's a child molester,
16
   you know. Do you want to come out with him?"
17
   said, "I wouldn't mind." He said, "All right. Stay
18
   out of trouble" -- and let me out with Oscar, and
19
    that's the real deal.
2.0
              Was at this time, same day, Mr. Johnson --
21
              That same day, that same day.
22
    there's a log that Miss Navarro had, and it showed
23
    how long I was housed in there with Oscar Irias, and
    they had what you called "Information Only" that
25
```

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```
they keep in the computer. Don't take my word for
       They have a log here that have "for information
  only," and it will tell you everybody that I had a
   problem with or had an argument with or anything
   that they overheard. I never had a problem with
   Oscar, ever.
             Okay.
        Q
             until that day.
        Α
8
             All right.
        Q
9
             Let me ask you this: Now, subsequent to
10
   this incident where you threw him over the railing
11
   and you pled guilty to it, did you have an
12
   opportunity to get to Oscar Irias once again while
13
1.4
   you --
              They put me back in the holding cell with
15
         They put different officers, same conspiracy.
   They put me back in the holding cell. You show his
17
   blue card.
18
              Do you have a copy of mine?
19
              No, sir, I do not.
         Q
20
              You should, because Ms. Navarro had it,
21
    and I signed a waiver, so she should be able to give
22
    all of that to you.
23
              Okay.
         Q
24
              My blue card -- and you can get that,
 25
                                          (702) 455-3610
```

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```
because Miss Navarro has it -- my blue card makes
   that look like -- it has "Use extreme caution."
   Those cards are blue; mine is written in red -- "Use
   extreme caution. Do not house with several inmates
   as well as Oscar Trias," and they put me in there
   and said, "We made a mistake."
        Q
             Okay.
7
             Now, the second time that you got to
8
   Oscar, where did that take place, sir?
             In a holding cell on the way to court or
10
        Α
   back from court or one of those holding tanks.
11
             Do you have any idea or do you recall
12
        Q
   how -- between February 24th of '01 and the second
13
   time, what did you do -- you beat him up?
14
              Yes, ma'am, I attacked him the second
15
   time.
16
              How much time passed between the first
17
         Q
   time you assaulted him and the second time you beat
18
   him up?
19
              I'm not really sure.
         Α
20
              Was it less than a year?
         Q
21
              Oh, heck, I was only in the County six
         Α
22
   months.
23
              It had to be within a time frame of a few
24
   months?
25
```

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```
Yes, ma'am.
        Α
1
             They gave you access to Oscar, yet again?
        Q
             Yes, they did.
        Α
3
             Was my client part of that whole scenario?
        Q
             No.
        Α
5
             Was he anywhere around?
6
             No.
        Α
7
             And did you make it perfectly clear to
 8
   CCDC and those in authority that every time you got
   close to Oscar that you would beat him up?
1.0
             Not just Oscar, I wrote administration.
11
        Α
   This wasn't something that I was trying to glorify.
12
   No, I don't like child molesters, and I have
13
   problems -- disciplinary problems with a lot of
14
   people, but prison is a violent place; so, I deal
15
   with them the best way I know how, and that's with
16
   blood shed. However, I was trying to get out of The
17
   Hole -- I couldn't order commissary; I was in Phase
18
   I. I was trying to get out of those chains, so I
19
   wrote administration and told them, "Listen, I've
20
   had some problems with child molesters" -- I think
21
    there was four of them that I attacked, two of them
22
    that I'm convicted on, and I told them, "Please, to
23
    circumvent any further problems, keep me away from
24
    these individuals."
25
```

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```
So, you were actually trying to stay out
1
   of this situation so you could gain somewhat --
        Α
             Exactly
3
              -- more freedom and restraint --
4
             Exactly.
5
        Α
              -- inside this facility?
 6
             Exactly.
        Α
7
             And still, you were put in close proximity
8
   with Oscar and others, on at least these two
   occasions?
10
              Yes, ma'am.
11
        Α
              Now, you mentioned a waiver.
        Q
12
              As a matter of fact, do you recall
13
   executing a waiver of conflict September 22nd of
14
   2003 indicating that Miss Navarro, your then
15
   attorney, could release all of her file to me?
16
              Yes, ma'am.
17
         Α
              Miss Navarro defended you during this time
18
   frame?
19
              That's correct.
20
              And then she subsequently became a deputy
21
   in my office, the Special Public Defender?
22
              Yes, ma'am.
         Α
23
              That's why the waiver was necessary?
24
         Q
              Right, right.
25
         Α
```

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```
MS. JACKSON: That's all I have, your
  Honor. Thank you.
3
                     CROSS-EXAMINATION
4
  BY MR. STANTON:
             Mr. Johnson, I'd like to begin my
   questions to you to talk about your criminal
  history.
             You are housed currently at Ely State
10
  Prison?
             That's correct.
        Α
1.1
             And you made a statement about --
12
             Why didn't you take me to trial? If you
13
   felt he was guilty --
14
             MR. STANTON: Your Honor, there's no
1.5
   question before the witness.
16
              THE WITNESS: -- why didn't you take me to
17
           Why did you let me plead guilty --
18
              MR. STANTON: Your Honor --
19
              THE WITNESS: -- to attempted murder --
20
              THE COURT: Mr. Johnson.
2.1
              THE WITNESS: -- and conspiracy to commit
22
   murder --
23
              THE COURT: Mr. Johnson.
24
              THE WITNESS: -- and have me receive 30
25
```

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```
1 | years for a crime I told you I committed, and you
2 had me in here --
             THE COURT: I call a recess.
3
             THE WITNESS: -- in this man's death
4
  penalty phase. Why didn't you take me to trial?
5
                           Mr. Johnson, relax.
             THE BAILIFF:
6
             THE WITNESS: Why didn't you do that?
7
             THE BAILIFF: Relax, Mr. Johnson.
8
             THE WITNESS: Punk mother fucker.
                                                 Little
9
  bitch ass.
10
             THE COURT: Take the jury out.
11
             THE WITNESS: Fuck that punk.
12
             THE BAILIFF: Take the jury out.
13
             THE WITNESS: Bitch. Take me to trial,
14
           That's what you should have did, you should
15 bitch.
16 have took me to trial, punk. Bring me in here like
   you don't know what's going on, racist mother
17
   fucker.
18
              (Recess taken.)
19
              (Jury present.)
20
              THE BAILIFF: Be seated, come to order.
21
   Court is again in session.
22
              THE COURT: Let the record reflect the
23
   presence of the parties, the attorneys and all
24
   members of the jury.
25
```

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```
Let's bring the witness back on.
1
             MS. JACKSON: Mr. Stanton, will you need
2
  this exhibit, QQ?
3
             MR. STANTON: If I do, I will bring it up.
4
  You can go ahead and give it to the clerk.
             THE COURT: Are you going to use the
6
  pointer? Get the pointer.
7
             Proceed.
8
             MR. STANTON: Thank you, your Honor.
9
  BY MR. STANTON:
10
             Mr. Johnson, I want to go back to begin my
11
   cross-examination by discussing your criminal
12
   record.
13
             Would it be a fair statement to say that
14
   you have admitted to the criminal activities that
15
   you ultimately were charged with in courts?
16
              Yeah; it's true.
        Α
17
              You've pled guilty to all those offenses?
18
        Q
              That's true.
19
         Α
              And you have a 1992 conviction out of the
20
         Q
   State of Tennessee for aggravated robbery?
21
              That's true.
22
         Α
              Nineteen ninety-three, State of
         0
23
    Tennessee --
24
              MS. JACKSON: Your Honor, I'm going to
25
```

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```
object to anything that's more than ten years old
  pursuant to the law in this jurisdiction.
                           Well, it's relevant also as
             MR. STANTON:
3
  it was used as an aggravation for the habitual
   offender status in which the defendant ultimately
   was adjudicated on --
             THE COURT: Well --
7
             MR. STANTON: -- out of this event.
8
             THE COURT: Well -- sustained, unless you
9
   can show that he was on probation or parole within
10
   ten years.
11
                           Your Honor, I'm going to ask
             MR. STANTON:
12
   that the Judgment of Conviction and the charging
13
   document in this case be admitted into evidence and
14
   ask the Court to take judicial notice as
15
   self-authenticating documents as to the Information
16
   and the Judgment of Conviction arising out of this
17
  incident. In those documents, the State sought
18
   habitual offender treatment against Mr. Johnson.
19
   was adjudicated as a habitual offender.
20
              THE COURT: All right. You can ask him
21
   that, Counsel, but, you know --
22
   BY MR. STANTON:
23
             So, that would have been 1993, aggravated
24
   robbery as well out of the state of Tennessee?
25
```

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```
That's correct.
        Α
1
             Prior to you being sentenced in the case
2
        0
   involving Oscar Irias, you were convicted here in
   Las Vegas 2001, two counts of Robbery With Use of a
   Deadly Weapon?
             That's correct.
 6
             You had one count of Attempted Murder With
 7
   Deadly Weapon and then in a separate case, an
   additional Attempted Robbery With Use of a Deadly
   weapon; is that correct?
10
              That's correct.
11
             At the time that you were sentenced on the
12
        0
   robbery charges, do you recall what the sentence
13
   was?
14
                   A lot.
              No.
15
         Q
              A lot?
16
              Over a hundred.
         Α
17
              MS. JACKSON: Your Honor, I would object
18
   on the basis of relevance.
19
              THE COURT: Excuse me.
20
              MS. JACKSON: My objection was on the
21
   basis of relevancy as to what the sentence was on
22
    the robbery cases.
23
              MR. STANTON: Your Honor, it goes to bias
24
   of this witness relative to his previous testimony
25
```

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```
on direct. This witness testified that he pled
  guilty because he alone did that. The State is
  attempting to elicit facts that show a bias that
   would indicate that that's not a complete and
  accurate statement.
             THE COURT: What does that question -- I
   don't see how that question you asked has to do with
  bias.
             MR. STANTON: Because at the time that he
9
   pled in this case, he had no additional exposure to
10
   any other realistic prison time.
11
             THE WITNESS: I'm lost.
12
             THE COURT: Yes.
13
             THE WITNESS: I'm lost. I don't
14
   understand that.
15
             THE COURT: In 2001, were you under a
16
  sentence?
17
                           Yes. I had already been
             THE WITNESS:
18
   sentenced on my initial cases --
19
             THE COURT: Approach the bench.
20
             THE WITNESS: -- that I caught on the
21
22
   street.
              (Sidebar conference outside the presence
23
   of the court reporter.)
24
25
   11111
```

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```
BY MR. STANTON:
             Prior to you being sentenced ultimately in
3 this case, the Oscar Irias incident, you had been
   sentenced to a minimum of 64 years in the Nevada
   State Prison; is that about right?
             If that's what you say. I know it was a
   lot. I'm not sure how much it was.
             At that time when you entered -- all my
  questions for the next period of time, Mr. Johnson,
10 relates to the time frame when you entered --
             I'm not going to flip out, man. Just ask
        Α
11
  what you gon' ask. I'm cool.
12
             I know. I just want to give a foundation
        Q
13
  for this.
14
             At the time that you entered your pleas to
15
  the Oscar Irias incident, you had been sentenced to
16
   64 years, correct?
17
        Α
            Correct.
18
             In addition, you were waiting to be
19
   sentenced in another court for another felony
20
   matter, correct?
21
             Assault.
22
        Α
             And in addition, the State of California
23
   was seeking your extradition for multiple counts of
24
   robbery, correct?
25
```

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```
That's correct.
              Do you recall what offenses, what crimes
 2
        Q
   you pled guilty to in the case involving Oscar
   Irias?
              Conspiracy to Commit Murder and Attempted
 5
        Α
 6
   Murder.
              So, you pled to two felonies?
 7
        Q
              That's correct.
 8
        Α
 9
        Q
              And the conspiracy you pled to was that
   you conspired with Donte Johnson, correct?
10
              No.
11
        Α
              I understand what your testimony is today.
12
        Q
              No.
        Α
13
              Would it surprise you --
14
        Q
15
        Α
              That isn't what it says.
              That's not what it says?
16
        Q
              Read what it says.
17
        Α
18
        Q
              Okay.
              It says "conspiracy with another." Now,
19
        Α
   if it doesn't say that, then you got a false
20
   document. I know what I pled to. It says,
21
   "Conspiracy with another," and "another" was
22
   "Gonzalez." It doesn't say "Donte Johnson."
23
              THE COURT: What's the case number?
24
              MR. STANTON: The case number of that
25
```

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```
offense, your Honor --
1
                            It reads in black and white,
             THE WITNESS:
2
   "conspiracy with another."
3
                          C174692.
             MR. STANTON:
4
             May I approach, your Honor?
5
             THE WITNESS: You're as big a criminal as
6
7
  I am.
                            I need to see what he's
             MS. JACKSON:
8
   showing the witness.
             THE COURT: Right, right, right.
10
             Let me have a look at it.
11
             (Both counsel approached the bench.)
12
             MR. STANTON: Your Honor, may I approach?
13
              THE COURT: Yes.
14
   BY MR. STANTON:
15
             Mr. Johnson, would you look on that
1.6
   document?
17
              Do you recognize what that is?
18
   could read out loud line 21, that paragraph that
19
   starts "That Donte Johnson" --
20
              Is this the plea agreement?
        Α
21
              THE COURT: I think it's just the
22
   Information.
23
              THE WITNESS: Is this the plea agreement?
24
                            Could you go ahead and read
              MR. STANTON:
25
```

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```
that out loud?
             THE WITNESS: The reason why I'm asking,
2
  Judge, is he said the plea agreement.
             THE COURT: Did you sign one?
4
             THE WITNESS: Yes, I signed one, and it
5
   said "conspiracy with another," and his name was
  stricken from it, because they told me they wanted
   to reserve the right to file a habitual criminal on
   me because I had two prior convictions of Conspiracy
   to Commit Murder and Attempted Murder.
                                           It had his
10
                        This is not a plea agreement.
   name nowhere on it.
11
             THE COURT: Hold on.
12
                           Hold on a minute.
             MS. JACKSON:
13
             THE WITNESS: He said this was a plea
14
15
   agreement.
             MS. JACKSON: He doesn't have it, but I
16
   do. Okay?
17
              THE WITNESS: He wants me to read this so
18
   his name could be on the record, and this is not a
19
   plea agreement. That is not what I signed.
20
              MS. JACKSON: Reggie, I got the plea
21
    agreement. Just calm down. I have it.
22
              Actually, I have the original in my file.
23
              THE COURT: All right. Here is the
24
    agreement. She can let you -- when he finishes,
25
```

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```
she's going to get a chance to explain everything.
              THE WITNESS: Okay.
 2
              You want me to read this, right?
 3
  BY MR. STANTON:
             Right, just the first -- on line 21 which
        0
  is the columns over the left-hand side, and could
   you read out loud beginning with that paragraph?
              "That Donte Johnson and Reginald Johnson,
 8
   defendants above-named having committed the crimes
 9
   of Conspiracy to Commit Murder, felony, and
10
   Attempted Murder, felony.
11
             On or about February 2001?
        Q
12
13
        Α
             Right.
             That's what you pled to?
14
             No.
15
        Α
             You believe it's something different?
16
17
             It's not a plea agreement, man.
        Α
18
             Okay.
        Q
              It's not a plea -- I know what that is,
19
        A
   and that's not a plea agreement.
                                      That's a
20
   Complaint. I didn't sign a Complaint; I signed a
21
   plea agreement, and I think you know that, and his
22
   name isn't on the plea agreement. I want to produce
23
   the plea agreement --
24
                                      Hold on a minute.
              THE COURT: All right.
25
```

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```
THE WITNESS: -- for what I signed.
 1
              THE COURT: Hold on.
                                    Excuse me,
 2
  Mr. Johnson. Your attorney is going to be able to
 3
  let you explain and produce the plea agreement.
              THE WITNESS: He asked me if that's what I
 5
   signed, and I didn't sign that. That's a Complaint.
 6
   You know I can't sign a Complaint.
              THE COURT: Is that what the question was?
 8
              THE WITNESS: That's what he asked me.
 9
             MR. STANTON: I didn't ask him that.
10
             THE WITNESS: Repeat it.
11
             MR. STANTON: May I move on to my next
12
13
   question, your Honor?
              THE COURT: Yes, go ahead.
14
              THE WITNESS: That would be wise.
15
16
   BY MR. STANTON:
             Mr. Johnson, I was the one that prosecuted
17
   you for the incident involving Oscar Irias?
18
             Are you saying what?
19
              I said you made some statements before a
20
   recess that I was the one that prosecuted you for
21
   the incident involving Oscar Irias.
22
              Do you remember that?
23
              I don't recall saying that, man.
24
              Pardon me?
25
        Q
```

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```
I don't recall saying that.
 1
             So, was I the one that prosecuted you for
 2
 3 | that offense?
             No, I don't think you were. I don't
        Α
   really remember who it was, but I don't think it was
   you. I prosecuted myself. I pled guilty.
             Now, you indicated in your direct
 7
        Q
  testimony that on the date Oscar Irias was thrown
   over the second tier at CCDC, you were the person
   that did that, correct?
10
             That's correct.
11
             Is it your testimony today that you did
12
        Q
   that alone and not with anybody else?
13
             That's correct.
14
        Α
             Now, sir, do you know what the penalty for
15
   perjury is for lying under oath?
16
             No, I don't.
17
             It's ten years in the Nevada State Prison.
18
        Q
             That wouldn't make much deal to you, would
19
20
  lit?
             MS. JACKSON: Your Honor, objection --
21
             THE WITNESS:
                           That's stupid.
22
                           -- argumentative, that last
             MS. JACKSON:
23
24
   question.
              THE COURT: Sustained.
25
```

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```
BY MR. STANTON:
             Do you have any other felony convictions
  as you sit here today that arose after the
   conviction involving Oscar Irias?
             Yeah. I don't remember how many. I have
        Α
   two for weapons possession, one for battery by a
  prisoner with a deadly weapon and -- I don't know,
        I've been in a lot of trouble, man.
             MR. STANTON: Court's indulgence one
 9
10
  moment.
             No further questions, your Honor.
11
             THE COURT: Miss Jackson.
12
             MS. JACKSON: Thank you, your Honor.
13
14
                    REDIRECT EXAMINATION
15
   BY MS. JACKSON:
16
             Mr. Johnson, during the time frame
17
   February 24th of '01, the prosecutor asked you how
18
   much time you were serving.
19
             You were serving a lot of time, weren't
20
   you?
^{21}
             Yes, ma'am.
22
        Α
             Now, listen to my question.
23
             In terms of who was better off, my client
24
   in terms of his situation was far worse than yours?
25
```

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PLEADING CONTINUES IN INTERIOR OF THE SECONDARY OF THE SE

```
The inmates call it "The Bubble"?
        Q
1
        Α
              Yes.
2
             Where is that on any of these photographs,
3
  if you can point that out to me?
              It's not on there.
        Α
5
        Q
              Okay.
6
              Do you know from what angle, looking here,
7
   that these photographs were taken?
              That's inside the 5-Charlie in the inner
 9
10
   day room.
              Um-hmm.
        0
11
              Same -- they're all taken in the same
12
   location.
13
        Q
              Okay.
14
              And they depict the big -- there's what
15
   appears to be a column or pole in the middle of
16
   these photographs?
17
              That's correct.
18
              Okay.
         Q
19
              And what is that?
20
              I believe it's a support pole to support,
         Α
21
   maybe, beams. I don't know.
22
              Does that obstruct your view -- and your
23
         Q
   testimony is that on the date that this happened
24
   that you were inside The Bubble?
25
```

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```
Are you asking me if that obstructed my
        Ά
1
   view?
2
                  I'm asking you where were you?
3
             I was inside the module --
        Α
             You were inside the --
 5
             -- by the front door.
        Α
 6
             Okay.
 7
        Q
             To the right of that pole.
        Α
 8
             To the right of this pole (indicating)?
 9
              MS. JACKSON: Okay. Your Honor, I would
10
  move for the admission of QQ, RR and SS.
11
              MR. STANTON: No objection.
12
              THE COURT: All right. Admitted.
13
              (Defense Exhibits QQ, RR, SS was admitted
14
   into evidence.)
15
              MS. JACKSON: I'm done, sir.
16
              Thank you, your Honor.
17
              THE COURT: I have a question.
18
              What happened to Mr. Irias?
19
                            Mr. Irias -- after he was
              THE WITNESS:
20
   thrown over, he crawled to his room, and then we got
21
   him medical attention.
22
              THE COURT: So, what was wrong with him?
23
              THE WITNESS: I believe he was bleeding
24
   from his elbow and just shooken up.
25
```

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```
Just scraped and no injuries
              THE COURT:
   other than a scrape?
             THE WITNESS:
                            No.
             THE COURT: All right.
 4
5
                    REDIRECT EXAMINATION
 6
             MR. STANTON: Can I have this marked next
   in order?
   BY MR. STANTON:
             For the record, I've shown Defense Counsel
10
   Exhibit 254.
11
              Counsel showed you a series of incident
12
   reports involving Inmate Oscar Irias.
1.3
              Do you recognize that incident report in
14
15
   254?
              Yes.
16
        Α
              Who authored that report?
17
        Q
              Myself.
18
              And is that your report regarding the
19
   incident that you previously testified to?
20
              Yes.
        Α
21
              MR. STANTON: Move for 254 into evidence,
22
   your Honor.
23
                            Submit it, your Honor.
              MS. JACKSON:
24
              THE COURT: What does that mean -- no
25
```

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```
objections or objections?
              MS. JACKSON: I think it's probably
 2
   admissible under the circumstances.
 3
              THE COURT: All right. Admitted.
              (State's Exhibit 254 was admitted into
   evidence.)
  BY MR. STANTON:
              Is that the report that you prepared as a
   result of the incident that you observed on that
10
   day?
11
             Yes.
12
             And did you prepare that report on that
   date of the incident?
13
        Α
             Yes.
14
             MR. STANTON: Your Honor, at this time,
15
16
   I'd like to have Mr. Gonzalez, with the Court's
   permission, come down to the floor equipment here to
17
18
   point out some items on the photographs that Defense
19
   Counsel just admitted.
              THE COURT: Can't he do it from there?
20
21
   Don't you guys have a pointer?
22
             MR. STANTON: Sure. I just want to --
              THE COURT: Where is the pointer?
23
             MR. STANTON: Oh, the laser pointer? Yes,
24
25
   we do, your Honor.
```

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```
MR. DASKAS: It's the bottom button.
1
   BY MR. STANTON:
             For the record, this is Defendant's
 3
 4
   Exhibit QQ.
             Can you see that okay, Officer?
 5
             Yes.
 6
        Α
 7
        0
             Okay.
             What are we looking at there (indicating)?
 8
             That's just 5-Charlie, the outside, the
   outer day room (indicating), and that's the inner
10
   day room (indicating).
11
        Q
             And -- okay.
12
             And for the record, you're pointing to the
13
   left quarter when you say "inner day room"?
             Correct.
        Α
15
             Do you see in this photograph any of the
16
   cells or rooms inside?
17
              Yes.
18
        Α
             And where -- could you point out where
19
   they are and any notifiable item on the cells
20
   themselves?
21
              Yes. Those are the rooms (indicating), 4,
22
        Α
   5, 6, 7.
23
              So, the large numbers other than 5C on the
24
   door to the front of the photograph, those are the
25
```

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```
actual cells (indicating)?
 2
              Correct.
 3
              And where is The Bubble in relationship to
 4
    the glass wall where the door 5C is located?
 5
         Α
              It's back this way more (indicating).
 6
         0
              Would you --
 7
              Back, like, this way more (indicating).
 8
         Q
              To the right of that photograph?
         Α.
              Right.
10
              Now, where is the Bubble in relationship
    to that actual wall? Is it at the same level as the
11
   wall or is it closer? In other words, is The
12
13
   Bubble -- when you're standing there, are you
14
   standing on the other side of this glass
15
    (indicating) as far as the distance from the inside
16
   tier?
17
        Α
              The Bubble?
18
        Q
              Yes.
19
        Α
              The Bubble is probably, I would say a few
   more feet this way (indicating).
2.0
21
        Q
              Okay. So, this is what you're looking
22
   through (indicating) when you see the tier, correct?
23
        Α
              Correct.
24
              And do any of these photographs depict the
25
   tier on where Oscar Irias was being thrown over?
```

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```
Yes, From this angle (indicating) -- you
        Α
1
   can't see it, but it's right about there
2
   (indicating) --
3
        Q
             Okay.
4
             -- in that upper tier right in that area
5
   (indicating).
6
             This is not the angle from where you were
7
   standing; is that correct?
             That's correct.
        A
             So, this post in this exhibit, QQ
10
   (indicating), was not in your way when you were
11
   looking up to that tier?
12
             No, it wasn't.
        Α
13
              This is the glass that you were looking
        Q
14
   through (indicating)?
15
              Correct.
        Α
16
              MR. STANTON: Nothing further.
17
              THE COURT: Anything else?
18
              MS. JACKSON: Court's indulgence.
19
              Nothing further, your Honor. Thank you.
20
                                       Thank you very
              THE COURT: All right.
21
22
   much, Officer.
              Come and get your pointer. They tend to
2.3
24
   disappear.
              MR. DASKAS: Yeah, they tend to disappear.
25
```

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```
THE COURT: Who is next?
 1
 2
              MR. STANTON: Court's indulgence one
 3
   moment.
              THE COURT: All right.
 5
              MR. DASKAS: Judge, can we approach on
   this next witness, please?
 7
              THE COURT: Yes.
 8
              (Sidebar conference outside the presence
   of the court reporter.)
10
              MR. DASKAS: Your Honor, the State calls
   Jim Buczek, please.
11
12
              THE CLERK: Sir, please remain standing
13
   and raise your right hand.
14
              (Oath administered.)
15
              THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes, ma'am, I do.
              THE CLERK: Thank you. Please have a
16
17
   seat.
          State your full name spelling your last name
18 I
   for the record.
              THE WITNESS: My name is James Buczek.
19
20
   It's B-U-C-Z-E-K.
21
              THE CLERK: Thank you.
22
23
                       JAMES BUCZEK,
24
             being called as a witness on behalf of the
  State, was first duly sworn and testified as
25
```

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```
follows:
1
2
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
3
   BY MR. DASKAS:
             Mr. Buczek, by whom are you employed?
5
             I'm employed by the Las Vegas Metropolitan
6
   Police Department as a detective.
             How long have you been with Metro?
             I've been with Metro just over 16 years
10
   now.
              Back in August of 1998, what was your
11
   assignment?
12
              I was assigned to the homicide section.
        Α
13
              And who was your partner in August of
14
15
   1998?
               Detective Tom Thowsen.
16
              You and Detective Thowsen were assigned
17
   the quadruple homicide that occurred at 4825 Terra
18
19 h
   Linda?
              Yes, that is correct.
20
              At my request, at some point did you
21
   become familiar with the testimony from the trial of
22
    Donte Johnson of Sergeant Robert Honea, H-O-N-E-A?
23
              Yes, I did.
24
         Α
              I just want to ask you a few questions
25
```

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```
about Sergeant Honea's testimony.
 2
              First of all, who was Sergeant Honea
 3 l
   employed with?
 4
         Α
              He's employed with the Nevada Highway
 5
   Patrol.
 6
         Q
              And was he employed with the Highway
 7
   Patrol back on August 17th of 1998?
 8
         Α
              Yes, he was.
              Am I correct that the defendant was
   arrested at the Everman home on the 18th of August?
10
11
         Α
              Yes.
12
              So, I want to talk to you about Sergeant
   Honea's involvement in this case from August 17th,
13
14
   the night before.
15
              What is your understanding of Sergeant
   Honea's contact with Donte Johnson?
16 I
17
              Sergeant Honea had conducted a traffic
   stop on US-95 right adjacent to the Charleston exit
18
19
   ramp.
20
              That car was stopped for speeding,
21
   correct?
22
        Α
              That is correct.
23
              And did Sergeant Honea testify that he
        Q
   approached the car and saw a driver and passenger?
24
25
        Α
             Yes, he did.
```

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```
Who did Sergeant Honea identify as the
        Q
1
   driver of that car?
2
             The person identified himself as Donte
3
  Fleck.
4
             Did Sergeant Honea, in court, identify the
5
   defendant, Donte Johnson, as the driver of that car?
             Yes, he did.
        Α
7
             And was there a passenger that Sergeant
8
   Honea identified?
             Yes, there was.
10
              Who was that?
        0
11
              That was Red or Terrell Young.
12
              Did Sergeant Honea testify to what Donte
13
   Johnson and Terrell Young did after Sergeant Honea
14
   approached the car?
15
                    They fled the vehicle, and there was
              Yes.
         Α
16
   a brief foot pursuit, and he lost them in the area.
17
              I should ask you, I suppose, maybe the
18
   obvious question. Was Sergeant Honea in a marked
19
   patrol car?
20
              Yes, he was.
         Α
21
              He was in uniform?
22
         Q
              Yes, that is correct.
23
         A
              Were either Donte Johnson or Terrell Young
24
    apprehended the night of the 17th?
25
```

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```
No, they were not.
        Α
 1
             Was a search performed of the car that
 2
 3
   Donte Johnson was driving?
             Yes, there was by the sergeant himself.
             What, if anything, did Sergeant Honea
 5
   locate in the car?
7
        Α
             He located a short-barreled shotgun
   underneath, I believe it was the passenger's seat.
             MR. DASKAS: Your Honor, with the Court's
 9
  permission, I asked the bailiff to clear this
10
11
   weapon.
             THE WITNESS: Thank you. I'll have to
12
   correct that to a short-barreled rifle. Excuse me.
13
  BY MR. DASKAS:
14
             Is there an exhibit number on that item, a
        Q
15
   red sticker, if you will?
16
             Yes, there is. It would be State's
17
        Α
   Exhibit 196.
1.8
             And is State's Proposed Exhibit 196
19
   consistent with the description provided by Sergeant
20
   Honea of the gun he found in the car driven by Donte
21
   Johnson on August 17th, 1998?
22
             Yes, it is.
        Α
23
             MR. DASKAS: Judge, I would move for its
24
25
   admission.
```

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```
MS. JACKSON: No objection.
 2
              THE COURT: Admitted.
 3
              (State's Exhibit 196 was admitted into
    evidence.)
 4
   BY MR. DASKAS:
         Q
              Did Sergeant Honea testify, in fact, that
    that gun that's now been admitted was loaded when he
    found it in the car?
              Yes, he did.
              And do you recall how many rounds were in
10
         Q
11
   the clip?
12
         A
              Twenty, I believe.
13
              In addition to the gun being loaded with
   ammunition, was there an additional clip found
   during the search of the car driven by Donte
15
16
   Johnson?
              I believe there was, yes.
17
18
              And that additional clip also had
19
   ammunition in it as well, correct?
        Α
20
              Correct.
21
              MR. DASKAS: May I have the Court's
   indulgence please, under --
22
23
              THE COURT: Yes.
24
             MR. DASKAS: May I approach the witness,
25
   your Honor?
```

```
1
              THE COURT:
                         Yes.
    BY MR. DASKAS:
 3
              Detective Buczek, let me hand you what's
    been marked as State's Proposed Exhibit 197.
              First of all, what is in that baggie?
 5
 6
         Α
              There are two magazines containing
 7
    cartridges,
              You used the term "magazines."
         Q
              Is that synonymous with my term when I say
    "clip" or "clips"?
10
11
              That's correct, yes.
              Are those magazines or clips and the
12
13
    ammunition contained in those consistent with a
14
   description provided by Sergeant Honea about what he
   found in the car driven by Donte Johnson on
15
   August 17th, 1998?
16
17
              Yes, they are.
18
              And in fact, is that what Sergeant Honea
19
   testified to in an earlier proceeding?
20
        Α
              Yes, he did.
21
              MR. DASKAS: Judge, I move for the
22
   admission of 197.
23
              MS. JACKSON:
                            No objection, your Honor.
24
              THE COURT: Admitted.
25
              (State's Exhibit 197 was admitted into
```

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```
evidence.)
 2
              THE COURT: Cross-examination?
 3
              MS. JACKSON: Your Honor, we don't have
   any cross on this area, but there's another area
   concerning the trial. We wanted to re-call
   Detective Buczek this afternoon, if he's available.
              THE COURT:
                         All right.
             Sir, you are to return back this
   afternoon.
10
              THE WITNESS: I don't have the ability to.
11
   I have to pick up my child from school.
              THE COURT: What time do you pick her up
12
   from school?
13
              THE WITNESS: I pick her up at -- I have
14
   to be there at 3:11 over by Anthem.
15
16
              THE COURT: Can you do it Monday?
17
             MS. JACKSON:
                            Sure.
18
             THE COURT: Come back Monday.
19
             MS. JACKSON: We'll get you in and
   out, Detective.
20
21
             THE WITNESS: Thank you.
22
             MS. JACKSON:
                           Thank you, your Honor.
23
             THE COURT: What time do you want him here
   Monday?
24
25
             MS. JACKSON: We're going to start at
```

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9:00, your Honor.
                         Right.
             THE COURT:
2
                           So, we'll get you in and
             MS, JACKSON:
3
   out.
4
                         You want to take the recess
             THE COURT:
5
  now?
6
             MR. DASKAS: Yes, sir.
7
             THE COURT: We're going to take our lunch
8
           We'll come back at approximately
   1:00. o'clock.
10
             During this break, you're admonished not
11
   to discuss this case with anyone. Don't read any
12
   newspaper articles, listen to any radio reports,
13
   television reports or any commentary or let anyone
14
   talk to you about the case, and we'll see you back
15
   here at 1:00 o'clock.
16
              THE BAILIFF: All rise.
17
              (Outside the presence of the jury.)
18
                           Judge, can we address one
              MR. DASKAS:
19
   matter before we take our break?
20
              THE COURT: Yes.
21
              MR. DASKAS: Miss Jackson, Mr. Whipple.
22
              MS. JACKSON:
                           Yes?
23
              MR. DASKAS: As you know, Judge, we
2.4
    addressed the issue yesterday of which disciplinary
25
```

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```
infraction reports were admissible. Miss Jackson
    and I agreed that in lieu of calling an officer who
   is prepared to testify about those reports, we would
   agree to the admission of certain infractions.
   have removed from the documents that I have those
   that Miss Jackson had a concern with.
 7
              THE COURT:
                          Okay.
 8
             MR. DASKAS:
                           Again, it's my position they
   were admissible. I understand the Court's ruling or
10
   at least the stipulation, I should say, we entered.
              THE COURT: All right.
11
12
             MR. DASKAS: I'm going to ask Miss Jackson
13
   to look these over at the lunch hour, and then we
14
   would move to admit those when we return.
15
             MS. JACKSON: Very well, your Honor.
16
             MR. STANTON:
                           Logistically, your Honor,
17
   the ones that we -- photocopies so that they weren't
18
   highlighted --
19
             THE COURT: Right.
20
             MR. STANTON: -- was the Court going to do
21
   that?
22
             MS. JACKSON:
                           As a matter of fact, your
23
   Honor, I would join in that request.
24
   inadvertently forgot to copy those.
25
             THE COURT: Can you do that?
```

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```
THE CLERK:
                         Do what?
1
             THE COURT: Xerox those (indicating).
2
             MS. JACKSON: He wants to not have the
3
   originals because they're highlighted.
             THE CLERK: I will try to get it without
5
  it being black.
6
                           Thank you so much.
             MS. JACKSON:
7
             THE COURT: Anything else?
8
                          No, sir.
             MR. DASKAS:
 9
             THE COURT: All right.
10
             We're in recess. See you guys after
11
   lunch.
12
              (A lunch recess was taken.)
13
             THE BAILIFF: All rise. Court is again in
14
   session. Please be seated and come to order.
15
              (Outside the presence of the jury.)
16
             MS. JACKSON: Good afternoon, your Honor.
17
   Your Honor, Mr. Daskas was kind enough to give me
18
   the stack of CCDC records that he intended to
19
   introduce on Donte Johnson over the lunch hour, and
20
   I and my colleagues have had a chance to go over
21
         Essentially, we would want the record to
22
    them.
   reflect even though this is a penalty hearing, and
23
   traditionally, hearsay has been admissible, we would
24
    object to these on the basis of the entire packet --
25
```

under the basis of <u>Crawford v. Washington</u>. I have that citation. I was handed this over the noon hour.

The Crawford case that comes down talks about the right of confrontation. I know you're familiar with it. It's our belief that Crawford may arguably expand the penalty hearings especially in this context where the issue is whether or not someone gets the death penalty, and we have items in here such as two or three references to him getting clothing that are too big, he gets what they call CAB'd or written up for getting a 3x and he's supposed to have a large. He's getting written up for having an extra suit. He's getting written up on another occasion he calls an officer a mother fucker, and oftentimes these documents are containing disrespect which we believe is the officer's opinion, and because we don't have a chance to confront and cross-examine these individuals, we believe that under Crawford, this entire packet would be a violation of his due process right and the sixth amendment right to counsel and his right to confront and cross-examine witnesses.

10

11

1.2

13

14

15

1.6

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

However, in the alternative, if the Court

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```
feels inclined to let these in, we would at least
  want the opportunity to cross-examine the one
  Officer, Young, who has a kike in here that talks
  about he discovered a threatening letter that
  Mr. Johnson was writing and that he, my client,
   snatched it, tore it into small pieces; and
   therefore, we think that that is such a nature we
   would like to confront and cross-examine that
   officer in reference to that --
             THE COURT: Is he around?
10
             MS. JACKSON: Officer Young -- I don't
1.1
   know.
12
             MR. DASKAS: And in responding --
13
             THE COURT: Is he around?
14
             MR. DASKAS: I can try to track him down.
15
   If I can respond firstly, Judge.
16
             THE COURT: Go on.
17
             MR. DASKAS: As the Court knows, we
18
19 noticed the defendants twice about intending to
   introduce these records back in '99 and again in
20
   2004. As the Court knows, I redacted the infraction
21
   they objected to because they said they weren't
22
   prepared to address those. I did not have to do
23
   that, in my opinion, but I did.
24
              THE COURT: Mr. Daskas, that's not the
25
```

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issue now.
1
             MR. DASKAS: It's the same thing.
             THE COURT: The issue here is she's making
3
   an objection based on Crawford.
4
             MR. DASKAS: I'll address that right now.
5
             THE COURT: As I understand it, that's
6
   what she's -- her objection is mostly geared toward.
             MR. DASKAS: Through Alex Gonzalez,
8
   Ms. Jackson admitted the exact type of information,
   the exact type of report for Oscar Irias.
                                              They were
10
                                  These are business
   admitted as business records.
11
             That is an exception to the hearsay rule,
   records.
12
   so Crawford is inappropriate. What's good for the
13
   goose is good for the gander. If they can do it, we
14
   can do it.
15
                         That is not true. How many
             THE COURT:
16
   times do I have to tell you that? You are the State
17
   of Nevada, and as prosecutors, you have different
18
   responsibilities than the defense lawyer, but that
19
   is not the issue anyway. That has nothing to do
20
   with whether or not -- the issue is whether or not
21
   Crawford applies to a penalty hearing. And first of
22
   all, is it testimonial; second, does it apply to a
23
   penalty hearing? Those are the only two issues.
24
   Everything else I don't think is of any import at
25
```

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this point.
                Now, as I understand it, I haven't seen
   anything in Crawford.
                           It applies to preliminary
   hearings; it applies to trials, and it applies to
   evidence that's testimonial. That's the only thing
   you look at. If it's testimony, you don't need any
   other analysis, but there is nothing -- is there
   anywhere in Crawford that says it applies to penalty
   hearings?
 9
             MS. JACKSON: Based upon my brief reading
   of this over the noon hour, I could not find
10
   anything specifically on point. Again, for the
11
12
   record, I talked to David Schieck, the head of our
13
   office who has been doing capital cases a lot longer
   than I have, and he advised me that I should make
14
15
   the record.
                I'm being very candid with the Court.
   I haven't sat down and studied or briefed this
16
17
   issue, and the record will so reflect. However, I
   don't think it's something that would be an issue on
18
19
   an IAC claim; however, I do want the record to say
20
   we raised it, and my response to Mr. Schieck was
21
   this was a penalty hearing. I understand hearsay is
22
   admissible, but in an overabundance of caution, I
   wanted the record to reflect that.
23
             THE COURT: All right.
24
25
             MR. DASKAS: Judge, may I address the
```

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```
Crawford issue specifically?
 2
              THE COURT:
 3
              MR. DASKAS: Crawford -- you're right,
   Judge, applies to testimonial evidence, and what
    that is defined in Crawford is statements or
   evidence intended to be introduced at trial.
                                                   That's
    the definition in Crawford, and I'm paraphrasing.
    These reports are created for use at the Clark
   County Detention Center so that they can safely
10
   house inmates. They're created for the members of
11
    the jail so they know who is a high-risk inmate.
   So, these are non-testimonial. Separate and apart
12
13
   from that, Judge, there's a separate hearsay
   exception for business records. They used it on
14
   cross-examination, and these are admissible as
15
   business records. They're non-testimonial.
16
17
   are admissible, Judge.
1.8
             MS. JACKSON: Your Honor, just briefly.
   Certainly they're testimonial.
19
                                    I've been trying
20
   cases since '84, and anyone who is facing any kind
21
   of substantial charges, as counsel is well aware,
   can expect, if they are in the Detention Center for
22
2.3
   any period of time, that these reports come in.
24
             THE COURT:
                          I know, but are the jailers
   taking those reports just for the purpose of
25
```

```
prosecution, because in 99 percent of the cases,
  they never even come in. But anyway, be that as it
  may, I don't think Crawford -- or at least there's
  no -- in Crawford, it doesn't say that you can't use
  hearsay in a penalty hearing for sentencing
5
   purposes, and of course, we had a bifurcated penalty
   hearing, and of course, at this juncture, it's just
  to decide upon the sentencing, and hearsay has
   always been allowable. And of course, Crawford
   didn't say it applied to this, it stated it applied
10
   to preliminary hearings and trials, even though your
11
   argument has merit, but the case law just doesn't
12
   support it at this point; so, the Court is going to
13
   deny the motion.
14
             MS. JACKSON: As to the one specific one
15
   regarding the threatening letters?
16
             THE COURT: Yeah. You can subpoena them
17
                 I don't know where he is. Subpoena
   or whatever.
18
19
   him.
              MR. DASKAS:
                          Okay.
20
             MS. JACKSON:
                           Okay.
21
                           Judge, I would just ask to
              MR. DASKAS:
22
   have this packet marked as one exhibit. It consist
23
   of several documents of infractions at the Clark
24
   County Detention Center, and I'd ask to have this
```

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```
marked and admitted as next in order, Judge.
1
             THE COURT: All right.
2
             MS. JACKSON: We would have the objection
3
  previously noted, your Honor.
                         Two fifty-six.
             THE CLERK:
5
             (State's Exhibit 256 was admitted into
6
   evidence.)
7
                           That would be all that we
             MS. JACKSON:
8
   have outside the jury's presence, your Honor.
             THE COURT: You better try to find -- when
10
   are you going to contact the officer? I'll give you
11
12 a couple of minutes to do that.
             MR. WHIPPLE: Your Honor, with the Court's
13
14 permission, I'll walk into the hall and do a brief
   phone call.
15
              THE COURT: Go on.
16
             We'll be in recess for a couple of
17
18
   minutes.
              THE BAILIFF: All rise.
19
              (Recess taken.)
20
              THE BAILIFF: All rise. Court is again in
21
              Be seated and come to order.
    session.
22
              (Outside the presence of the jury.)
23
              THE COURT: Who's on next.
24
              MR. DASKAS: Judge, we have the victim
25
```

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```
impact testimony, and that is the conclusion of our
    case.
 3
              THE COURT:
                          All right.
 4
              Are you ready?
              MR. DASKAS: We're ready as soon as the
 5
 6
    jury is here, Judge.
              (Jury present.)
 8
 9
                   VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS
10
              THE BAILIFF: Be seated, come to order.
   Court is again in session.
11
12
              THE COURT: Let the record reflect the
13
   presence of all the parties, all two attorneys and
14
   all the members of the jury.
15
             Call your next witness.
16
             MR. DASKAS: Judge, the State calls
17
   Juanita Aquilar.
              THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.
18
19
              (Oath administered.)
20
              THE WITNESS: I do.
21
              THE CLERK: Thank you. Please have a
22
   seat. State your full name spelling your first and
   last name for the record.
23
24
              THE WITNESS: My name is Juanita Aguilar,
   J-U-A-N-I-T-A, A-G-U-I-L-A-R.
25
```

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```
THE CLERK:
                         Thank you.
1
2
                     JUANITA AGUILAR,
3
             being called as a witness on behalf of the
4
   State, was first duly sworn and testified as
5
   follows:
6
7
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
8
   BY MR. DASKAS:
             You are the mother of Peter Talamentez?
10
             Yes.
        Α
11
             MR. DASKAS: Judge, for the record, I've
12
   shown Defense Counsel proposed 255, and if there's
13
   no objection to its admission, I would move to admit
14
15
   it.
              MR. WHIPPLE: No objection.
16
              THE COURT: All right. Admitted.
17
              (State's Exhibit 255 was admitted into
18
   evidence.)
19
                           Thank you, Judge.
              MR. DASKAS:
20
   BY MR. DASKAS:
21
              I'm going to display for the members of
22
    the jury, Exhibit 255.
23
              Can you tell me who is in that photograph,
24
   please (indicating)?
25
```

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```
It's Pete and myself and my other son
 2
    Daniel in the blue shirt.
              Other than Pete and Daniel, do you have
    any other children?
         Α
                   I have an older son named Robert.
 6
              Peter was how old at the time of his
    death?
 8
              Seventeen.
              Where is he in relation to your other
    sons, the oldest, the youngest, the middle?
11
              No; he's the youngest. They're all three
   years apart in age.
12
1.3
        Q
              Tell me why this photograph is special to
   you.
1.4
15
             We went to go see Splash, and it's really
16
   special, because it was almost near Pete's birthday.
17
             I want to talk to you a little bit about
18
   Pete and his goals and his dreams.
19
             Can you tell us a little bit about what
   Pete wanted to do with his life?
20
21
        Α
             Pete was young. He could have done a
22
   number of things that he wanted. He was very smart,
23
   very caring. He could have done just about anything
24
   he wanted to, but at 17, you don't really think too
25
   much about what you want to be in the future because
```

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101

```
you're still out having fun.
 2
              Can you tell us a little bit about how his
   death has affected your other sons?
             They carry a lot of anger and hostility
   around, a lot of guilt. It's very difficult for
   them to hear anything about this case or anything
   pertaining to the case, because they just get upset,
   and it's caused them to be a little bit unstable.
   It hurt them a lot. It hurt them a lot.
10
   the baby, and it hurt them a lot.
11
             Let me ask the same question of you.
12
             How has his murder affected you
13
   personally?
14
        Α
             I've never been able to go back to work
   after his death. I'm on medication. I suffer from
15
16
   severe depression. There's times when I can't get
17
   out of my bed or come out of my house for two or
   three weeks, because I don't want to see no one. I
18
19
   just can't function. There's not one day I don't
20
   think about my baby.
21
             It's been nearly seven years since he was
22
            Is it any easier for you today than it was
   killed.
23
   seven years ago?
24
             No, not at all. No.
                                    It will never be any
        Α
   easier, never. The holidays aren't the same --
25
```

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102

```
nothing is -- nothing. Everything in my life has
   changed because of his death -- everything.
             Without telling me what you want the
3
   sentence to be in this case, is there anything else
   you would like this jury to know about your son,
5
   Peter Talamentez?
             I know Pete wanted to be alive, to be with
  his brothers and his nieces and nephews that he
   never got a chance to see, and to be the first one
   to call me on Mother's Day, like he always used to.
10
             MR. DASKAS: I have nothing else, Judge.
11
              THE COURT: Anything?
12
             MR. WHIPPLE: Yes, your Honor.
13
1.4
                     CROSS-EXAMINATION
15
   BY MR. WHIPPLE:
16
              I'm sorry. I want to ask you just a few
17
   questions.
18
              You had two other sons in addition to
19
   Pete?
20
              Yes, I do.
21
              Are they still here in Las Vegas?
22
              No. One is in California and one is here
23
         Α
    in Las Vegas.
24
              Okay.
25
         Q
```

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103

```
How long did you live here in Las Vegas?
 2
              I just moved here two years ago. I was in
 3 Ventura County before that.
              Who was Pete living with when he was out
 5
   here?
             Pete lived with his dad.
                                         We were
 6
        Α
   separated, since then divorced, and he lived out
   here with his dad.
              Where did the other boys live at the time?
10
              Shortly after Pete -- well, before Pete
   was killed, both of my other sons moved out here as
11
   well, because they were very close and they all
12
13
   wanted to be together.
              So, the other boys were living here in
14
        Q
   Las Vegas at the time?
15
16
        Α
              Yes.
1.7
              MR. WHIPPLE:
                            Thank you.
18
             Nothing further, your Honor.
19
              THE COURT: Anything else?
20
             MR. DASKAS: No, sir.
21
              THE COURT:
                          All right, ma'am.
22
   excused.
23
              THE WITNESS:
                            Thank you.
              THE COURT:
                         Watch your step.
24
25
             Who is next?
```

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```
1
              MR. DASKAS: Marie Biddle, please.
 2
              THE CLERK: Raise your right hand.
 3
              (Oath administered.)
              THE WITNESS: I do.
 5
              THE CLERK: Thank you. Please have a
           State your full name spelling your last name
 7
   for the record.
 8
              THE WITNESS: Marie Biddle, the last name
   is spelled B, as in boy, I-D-D, as in David, L-E.
10
              THE CLERK: Thank you.
11
12
                        MARIE BIDDLE,
13
              being called as a witness on behalf of the
   State, was first duly sworn and testified as
14
15 follows:
16
17
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
   BY MR. DASKAS:
18
19
        Q
             Jeff Biddle is your son?
20
        Α
             Yes.
             How old was Jeff at the time he was
21
22
   killed?
23
        Α
             Nineteen.
              Do you have other children?
24
25
             Yes, I do.
```

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105

```
How many other children?
 1
             One.
             What is that child's name, and how old is
 3
   he or she?
              How old is he now?
        Α
 5
              Yes.
 6
        Q
              Greg is Jeff's brother, and he just turned
 7
        Α
   28 the end of November.
              So, Greg is Jeff's older brother?
 9
              That's right. They're just 22 months
10
11
   apart.
             Let me ask you about that, first of all.
12
        Q
              Tell us how Jeff's murder has affected
13
   your son Greg.
14
              I think it has -- it has left him with
15
   anger, a lot of anger. He's very upset that I'm
16
   going to court, but I told him I'm there to
17
   represent Jeff, and it's okay.
18
              So, because of Greg's anger, he hasn't
19
   been able to attend the courtroom proceedings?
20
              He prefers not to. He doesn't want to
21
        Α
   hear this horrible thing about his brother.
22
              Let me ask you about you and the rest of
23
24
   your family members.
              How has this crime impacted you and any
25
```

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1 other family members?
2 A It's been v

2.2

not wanting to leave the house. I usually stay home. My trip out for the week is usually just to go to the market and come back home. I don't care to go shopping. All the holidays are ruined. I think if it weren't for Greg, I wouldn't ever celebrate anything again. And I come from a big family, and I have several sisters and a brother back East, and I used to take the kids home every summer since they were babies; so, my family back there is -- they're feeling it as much as I am.

Q How about Jeff's father? How has the crime impacted Jeff's father?

keeps trying to leave town and just get away from the whole thing and not -- he loved Jeff very much, but it's really hard on him. Recently, I was going through some greeting cards, going through Jeff's things, and there was one birthday card to his dad, and he said, "Dad, happy birthday. What would you ever do without me?" It's just been very, very difficult. Since Jeff's death, my husband and I have separated, and Greg is about to go to Phoenix to go back to school.

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```
MR. DASKAS: Judge, I'm showing Defense
 1
   Counsel Proposed Exhibit 242. I think there's no
 2
   objection to its admission. I would move to admit
 3
   it.
             MS. JACKSON: That's correct, your Honor.
 5
             THE COURT: Admitted.
 6
              (State's Exhibit 242 was admitted into
   evidence.)
   BY MR. DASKAS:
             Ma'am, let me display for the jury what's
10
   been marked as or admitted as 242.
1.1
             Tell us about that photograph.
12
            Pardon me?
13
        Α
             Tell us about that photograph.
14
              I think it shows my great love for Jeff
15
        Α
   and that he cared very much for me too. We have a
16
   very special bond, and he was just such a wonderful,
17
   delightful person that he just --
18
             Can you tell us when that photograph was
19
   taken?
2.0
              That was taken on my birthday about seven
21
        Α
22
   years ago.
              Seven years ago. That's how long it's
23
   been since he was killed.
24
              Is it any easier for you today than it was
25
```

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when you found out? 1 It gets harder every day, and I find No. 2 myself sitting at the breakfast table and asking God 3 to just give me strength to get through each day. 4 take one day at a time. 5 What kind of things did Jeff like to do? 6 Q He was always a very good sportsman, and 7 Α he started out -- I tried to start the kids out with 8 a very solid upbringing with sports and summer camp, He liked to play soccer; he liked football, and he 10 liked to go skiing and snowboarding, and he was a 11 wonderful artist -- was a wonderful cartoon artist. 12 What were some of Jeff's goals? 13 Q Well, he started -- when he was about 14 Α ninth grade, we went to the police station in Idaho. 15 He wanted He wanted to talk to the chief of police. 16 to be a policeman, and of course, the chief said, 17 "Well, Jeff, you're too young." So, one of the 18 first things Jeff did when he came here -- we moved 19

first things Jeff did when he came here -- we moved here in '97 -- his dad took him for a security check, and he got a job with the Green Valley as a security officer. And he also -- he wanted to go in the Air Force and be a fighter pilot, and when he was in high school, he was selected to go to the

20

21

22

23

24

25

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presidential classroom in Washington, and when he

```
came back from there, he really wanted to be an FBI
 1
           He was so frustrated, because he was just so
 2
   young, and he had to be 21 to do a lot of these
 3
   things.
            He just wouldn't wait to be 21.
              Similar question I'll ask of you.
 5
        Q
             Without telling me what you want to see
 6
   happen in this case, is there anything else you
 7
   would like this jury to know about your son Jeff
 8
 9
   Biddle?
              He always tried to help people.
                                                He would
10
   do everything, and he had a wonderful gentleness
11
   about him with people and animals, and he just cared
12
   so much about everything. And you know, he wanted
1.3
   to, at some point in his life, get married and have
14
   a family, and so all of those goals will never be
15
16
   realized.
             MR. DASKAS: We'll pass the witness,
17
18
   Judge.
                     CROSS-EXAMINATION
19
   BY MR. WHIPPLE:
20
21
        Q
             Hi, Mrs. Biddle.
             Нi.
        Α
22
             Did you spend some time in Idaho before
23
   you came to Las Vegas?
24
25
        Α
              Yes.
```

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110

```
Where at in Idaho?
        Q
 2
             At Sun Valley.
             How old was Jeff when he came to
 3
        Q
   Las Vegas?
 4
              Eighteen.
 5
        Α
             So, he had been here about a year?
 6
 7
             Yes.
        Α
              You came as a family, I take it?
 8
              Yes. We originally lived in Los Angeles,
 9
   then we moved to Sun Valley in 1988, and then we
10
   came here in '96 and rented for about six months,
11
   and then March 1st of '97 we bought a house.
12
   had been living and working in Sun Valley, and then
13
   I begged him to come home for Thanksgiving, and
14
   that's how he was here. And then they rented their
15
   little house April 23rd, and he lived with us until
16
   April 23rd.
17
              So, he had only been out of the house for
18
   a short period of time, from April till August?
19
        Α
              Yes.
20
              Did he attend any high school here?
21
              No. He attended high school in Idaho, in
        Α
22
   Northern Idaho.
23
24
        Q
              Okay.
              Was he expecting -- was he planning to go
25
```

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111

```
back? Once he moved out of the house, was he
   planning to go back to Idaho or was he planning to
   stay in Las Vegas at the time he moved out?
             Well, he just -- his dad thought it would
 4
  be a good idea, you know, if he could be on his own,
 5
   so -- and that's what happened, but he did plan to
 7
   work and stay here, but Las Vegas wasn't one of his
   favorite places because it was just so hot and he
   just hated the sun, and he was really an outdoors
10
   person.
11
        Q
             Sure.
             And he loved Idaho, so that's why we
12
        Α
   buried him in Idaho. He's up there buried beside
13
14
   his grandfather.
                            Thank you very much.
15
             MR. WHIPPLE:
             THE COURT:
                          Anything else?
16
             MR. DASKAS:
                           No.
17
18
             THE COURT:
                         All right.
             You're excused, ma'am.
19
             Who's next?
2.0
             MR. DASKAS: Sandy Viau, please.
21
             THE CLERK: Raise your right hand.
22
              (Oath administered.)
23
              THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.
24
                          Thank you. Please have a
              THE CLERK:
25
```

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112

```
seat. State your full name spelling your last name
 2 for the record.
              THE WITNESS: My name is Sandy Viau.
 3
                                                     Мy
   last name is spelled V-I-A-U.
              THE CLERK: Thank you.
 5
 6
                         SANDY VIAU,
 7
             being called as a witness on behalf of the
   State, was first duly sworn and testified as
  follows:
10
11
1.2
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
   BY MR. DASKAS:
13
14
        Q
             Tracey Gorringe is your son?
             Yes, he is.
15
             MR. DASKAS: Judge, I've shown Defense
16
17
   Counsel 243, and I would move for its admission.
              THE COURT: Yes.
18
             No objections?
19
20
             MS. JACKSON: No, your Honor, no
21
   objections.
              THE COURT: All right.
                                      It will be
22
23
   admitted.
              (State's Exhibit 243 was admitted into
24
25
   evidence.)
```

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113

```
BY MR. DASKAS:
 1
              Tell us about that photograph.
 2
              This photo was taken the end of May of
 3
 4
          That's our extended family (indicating). You
   see myself, my husband Mark; Destiny and Brittany
 5
   are the two girls. On the back row starting at the
 6
   left is Shawn, my stepson; Spencer, my oldest boy;
   "Little Nick" is who we call him, he's my husband's
 8
   oldest boy, Little Nick is my youngest son; and
10
   Tracey is on the end.
             In terms of age or birth order, where was
11
        0
12
   Tracey in relation to everybody else?
13
             Tracey was the middle of my three boys.
        Α
             He was how old when he was killed?
14
        0
             He was 20.
15
        Α
             Tell us about some of Tracey's goals and
16
        0
17
   dreams.
18
             Well, Tracey was born on March 8th of
   1978, and they were all about two-and-a-half years
19
           We -- I was divorced in 1981, and I didn't
20
   apart.
   remarry Mark until 1996; so, I raised my sons all by
21
            Their father really had no involvement in
22
   myself.
   their lives. I tried to get them as involved in
23
   sports as I possibly could being a single parent.
24
25
   He was a great athlete. He played baseball, he
```

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snowboarded, he skied, he water-skied, he roller bladed, he rode motorcycles. 2 You mention that he snowboarded, and I 3 think you provided us with a photograph of your son 4 snowboarding; am I right? 5 He used to ski and water-ski with a doctor 6 that took a lot of photos of him, and I have a lot 7 of photos of him involved in the sports, which was 8 9 great. Tell us about the impact his murder has 10 had on all of his brothers and sisters. 11 Since I had just remarried in '96, I was 12 Α just starting to form relationships with the 13 extended family, and when this happened to Tracey, I 14 basically shut off anything to do with any of my 15 stepchildren. It's hard for me to form any kind of 16 an intimate bond with anyone. Spencer, my oldest --17 at the time of the murder, Spencer had moved here, I 18 think in January of '98, Tracey had moved here, I 19 think in May, and Nicholas was with me; so, we were 2.0 all together as a family. Spencer now has a hard 21 time coming back. He moved back. We were from 22 Idaho, and he has since moved back to Idaho. 2.3 come here once. I think he attended one of the 24

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25

trials and he did come for Thanksgiving last year,

```
but it's basically very hard for him to come here.
             My son Nick -- which was the fourth
2
  roommate in the house -- and he just happened to
 3
  have been out of town when this happened -- I know
   he never got to go back home. When we flew him back
 5
   into town, his home was a murder scene. He never
 6
   got to go get any of his stuff out of the house.
   husband and my oldest boy went and got both of the
   kids' belongings out of the house. Nick has a hard
   time dealing with life. He's got a lot of anger.
10
   He can't focus. I think he tries to hide a lot of
1.1
   stuff.
12
             I think Mark's children -- I don't know
13
   how this has affected them, because I basically shut
14
   off from them.
15
        Q
             What about you?
16
             It's hurt me professionally. I know
17
   before this happened I had entertained thoughts of
18
   going back to school, and I don't have any goals
19
   now. You know, it's one day at a time. You try to
20
   get up, and you try to live through one day.
21
             You mentioned goals.
22
        Q
             What were some of Tracey's goals?
23
             Tracey was a great cook. He started
2.4
   cooking when he was about ten years old. We used to
25
```

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```
call him Shay Tray, and he would make crepes.
 1
   worked at Jesse's Restaurant in Sun Valley for
 2
   probably three or four years as a prep cook.
 3
   he moved here, he was entertaining thoughts of
 4
   culinary school. When I was going through some of
 5
   his stuff, I found a resume that he had made, I'm
 6
   sure for his school project, and his goal there was
 7
   to become an electrical engineer and have his own
 8
 9
   company.
             MR. DASKAS: Judge, I've shown Defense
10
   Counsel Proposed Exhibit 240. I believe there's no
11
12
   objection to that either.
             MS. JACKSON: That's correct, your Honor.
13
             THE COURT: Admitted.
14
              (State's Exhibit 240 was admitted into
15
16
   evidence.)
   BY MR. DASKAS:
17
             Let me show you No. 240. You mentioned
18
   snow boarding and other sports he liked to do. Tell
19
20
   us about that photograph (indicating).
             In trying to support my kids, we moved
21
   around a lot. Whenever I had the opportunity to
22
   grow professionally, we moved, and I think that was
23
   taken probably in Northern Idaho. We lived in Couer
24
   d'Alene for a while and he skied Schweitzer Basin.
25
```

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```
Every winter we would ski and snowboard, and every
   summer we would water-ski and play softball and go
 2
   bike riding.
 3
 4
             What do you miss most about Tracey?
             He was angelic. You know, raising three
 5
        Α
   boys, there's always two fighting, and my two that
 6
 7
   fought were always the oldest and the youngest, and
   I always had Tracey being the intermediary and
 8
   trying to break things up, and I miss that. I just
   miss him saying, "Hi, mom."
10
             MR. DASKAS: We'll pass the witness,
11
12
   Judge.
             THE COURT:
                          Cross?
13
                            Thank you, your Honor.
             MR. WHIPPLE:
14
15
                     CROSS-EXAMINATION
16
   BY MR. WHIPPLE:
17
             Ma'am, I'm sorry, how do you pronounce
18
   your last name again?
             Vee-oh (phonetic).
20
             Miss Viau, just a couple of questions.
21
             Did Tracey know Jeff from Idaho?
22
23
   that --
              I believe they did, because we all lived
24
   in Sun Valley -- well, we lived in Ketchum, which is
25
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                                         (702) 455-3610
```

```
right next to Sun Valley. We moved there in 1987,
   and I think we moved to Couer d'Alene in 1990.
              How is it that Tracey decided to move to
 3
   Las Vegas? I take it you're still living in Idaho?
                   I moved to Las Vegas in 1994, and
 5
        Α
              No.
   actually, Tracey moved here with me at that time.
   He attended Green Valley High School for a while.
   He didn't like Las Vegas. My oldest boy was living
   back in Sun Valley, and I let Tracey go live back in
10
   Sun Valley with him, and Tracey attended Wood River
   High School and graduated from there up in Sun
11
   Valley.
12
13
        0
              At some point he came back to be closer
   with yourself here in Vegas?
14
15
        Α
             After my oldest boy moved here in January
16
   of '98, Tracey felt that he should come and join the
1.7
   family now that we had -- they lived their whole
18
   lives without a father, and Mark is a great guy and
19
   he wanted to get to know him.
2.0
             So, he moved back in May of '98?
21
        Α
             Yes.
22
        Q
             So, he had only been here a short period
23
   of time as well?
24
        Α
              Yes.
25
              Did he move right into the house with you?
```

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```
He moved into my house, and then when one
   of the roommates from the boys' house moved out,
   then he moved in there.
 3
        Q
             How long had he been living there at the
 4
 5
   time, do you remember?
             Two months, maybe.
        Α
 6
                            Thank you.
             MR. WHIPPLE:
 7
             Nothing further, your Honor.
 8
             MR. DASKAS: Nothing else, Judge.
 9
              THE COURT: All right. You're excused,
10
   ma'am.
11
             Call your next witness.
12
13
             MR. DASKAS: Jennifer Mowen.
              THE BAILIFF: Remain standing and face the
14
15
   clerk.
              (Oath administered.)
16
              THE WITNESS: Yes.
17
                          Thank you. Please have a
              THE CLERK:
18
          State your full name spelling your last name
19
   for the record.
20
                            Jennifer Mowen, M-O-W-E-N.
              THE WITNESS:
21
              THE CLERK:
                         I'm sorry?
22
              THE WITNESS: M-O-W-E-N.
23
                          Thank you.
24
              THE CLERK:
   11111
25
```

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```
1
                      JENNIFER MOWEN,
             being called as a witness on behalf of the
 2
   State, was first duly sworn and testified as
   follows:
 5
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
 6
7
   BY MR. DASKAS:
             Matt Mowen was your big brother?
8
             Yes, still is.
 9
        Α
             How old were you when he was killed?
10
        O
             I was 15.
11
        Α
             We've heard, of course, from some mothers
12
        Q
   of the other victims. You have a different
13
   perspective. That was your brother. Tell us about
14
   how his loss has affected you.
15
             I looked up to my brother for everything.
16
   No matter what I did, I always looked up to him, and
17
   he always gave me the comfort and the strength, and
18
   he always protected me and watched out over me.
19
   got my driver's permit two weeks before he died, and
20
   I was excited because I was going to get my license,
21
   and he was going to teach me to drive. I trusted in
22
   his opinion on everything.
23
             What kind of things would you and Matt do
24
25
   together?
```

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121

```
We did not really do a whole lot together
 1
   being we were four years apart. We would always
 2
   have family dinners, and Christmas of '97, he was
 3
   still living at home, and he actually told us that
   this is going to be the year that we start a family
 5
   night every weekend and told me how important a
 6
   family truly is.
 7
             Do you recall that in August of '98 at the
 8
   time of his murder that he had returned to Las Vegas
 9
   for a specific reason?
10
             Yes.
11
        Α
12
             Why?
             He came back home because my mom -- her
13
   cancer came back, so he rushed home to be back with
14
15
   her.
                           Judge, I'd move for the
             MR. DASKAS:
16
   admission of 244 which I've shown to Defense
17
18
   Counsel.
             MS. JACKSON: No objection.
19
              THE COURT: Admitted.
20
              (State's Exhibit 244 was admitted into
21
22
   evidence.)
                           Thank you, Judge.
              MR. DASKAS:
23
   BY MR. DASKAS:
24
              Jennifer, let me show you and the members
25
```

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122

```
of the jury No. 244.
 1
             Who is in that photograph?
 2
             That's my mom and my brother.
 3
             How has this crime impacted your mom?
             Very severely. It's impacted all of us.
 5
   We're all extremely depressed. My mom has a lot of
   quilt and a lot of regret and wished that she could
 7
   have brought her baby home and protected him.
   day she lives with guilt and anger because she
   wasn't there to protect him.
1.0
             It's been seven years since Matt was
11
        Q
   killed?
12
             Six-and-a-half, almost seven, yeah.
13
        Α
14
        Q
             Right.
             Any easier for you today than it was back
15
16
   when it happened?
             It never gets easier. It never gets
17
            In fact, it gets harder. You just have to
18
   easier.
   learn to deal with it, and I have to grow up without
19
20
   a brother.
             What do you miss most about your brother?
21
        Q
             Every time he would walk in the door, he
22
   would just light up the room, and he gave great
23
   hugs. Being 6'3, he would just give you a great big
24
   bear hug every time. He was so friendly, everybody
25
```

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```
loved him.
               He has impacted so many people's lives.
 1
 2
   His friends still don't stop coming around.
                                                  To this
 3
   day, they're still around because he's impacted so
 4
   many people.
 5
             MR. DASKAS: We'll pass the witness,
 6
   Judge.
 7
              THE COURT: Cross-examination?
 8
              MR. WHIPPLE: None, your Honor.
 9
              THE COURT: All right. You're excused.
10
   Thank you.
             Call your next witness.
11
12
             MR. DASKAS: David Mowen, please.
13
              THE BAILIFF: Watch your step. Remain
14
   standing and face the clerk.
              (Oath administered.)
15
16
              THE WITNESS:
                            I do.
17
              THE CLERK: Thank you. Please have a
   seat. State your full name spelling your last name
18
19
   for the record.
20
              THE WITNESS: David Mowen, D-A-V-I-D,
21
  M-O-W-E-N.
22
             THE CLERK: Thank you.
23
   11111
24
   1/1//
25
   11111
```

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124

```
1
                        DAVID MOWEN,
              being called as a witness on behalf of the
 2
   State, was first duly sworn and testified as
 3
 4
   follows:
 5
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
 6
   BY MR. DASKAS:
 7
              You are Matt Mowen's father?
 8
        Q
 9
              Yes, I am.
        Α
              Tell us a little bit about Matt.
10
              If I just told you a little bit, I would
11
        Α
   be here for several days. He was quite a young man.
12
13
   Like my daughter said, he affected a lot of people.
   He was one of those special individuals that, for
14
   whatever reason, he had that ability to connect with
15
16
   many, many different types of people. Everybody
   seemed to love him. Over 800 people at his funeral,
1.7
   and most of them couldn't make it because they were
18
19
   in college or working or what have you. It had been
20
   that way since he was born, since he was about a
   year-and-a-half, two years old. He had that special
21
22
   ability, quite a young man.
             Jennifer, of course, is your daughter who
23
        0
   just testified?
24
              Yes, she is, my beautiful little baby.
25
        Α
```

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1 I'm very proud of her, Yes. And Matt was your only son? 2 Yes. 3 Α Can you put into words, or try to, what it 4 means to lose your only son? 5 In answer to your question, there are no 6 I could not, after six-and-a-half years, 7 words. come up with any words that would truly describe the 8 I lost my dad in '93, five years before this, 9 and was very close with him. It's extremely 10 difficult. It took me about six months to kind of 11 come back around. It was my son who welcomed me 12 back to the family finally when I got my head kind 13 of back in the game, I guess, and to lose your son 14 in comparison to an adult parent is incredibly 15 Every single day of your life, it goes 16 difficult. I've had six-and-a-half years to live 17 on and on. this and think about this stuff. It just hit me the 18 other day what it's like. I remember the movie 19 Ground Hog Day with Bill Murray, and he had the same 20 day over and over, and I realize that's my life. 21 It's the same pain, the same misery, the same 22 angriness that you have every single day. 23 doesn't get better. Some days I manage it a little 24 bit better. The pain is still there. I've had to 25

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```
go on a lot of medication, 16 tablets of these and
 1
 2
   16 of these and five of those to get through a day
             I was never on pills before. That's what
 3
   anymore.
   it takes sometimes just to get me through a day.
             MR. DASKAS:
                           Judge, I'd move for the
 5
   admission of 242. I believe there's no objection.
 6
             MS. JACKSON: That's correct, your Honor.
 7
 8
              THE COURT: All right.
 9
             Admitted.
             (State's Exhibit 242 was previously
10
   admitted into evidence.)
11
             MR. DASKAS: Thank you, Judge.
12
   BY MR. DASKAS:
13
             Tell us about that photograph
14
15
   (indicating).
             It's June of '97. Matt, in his senior
16
   year, had a health challenge. He had some -- we
17
   were told by doctors some heart problems, and they
1,8
   couldn't find out what it was, and it wasn't until
19
20
   February of his senior year that we realize it was
   some medication he had taken for a little bit of
21
   light acne that affected his heart, and it was like
22
   one day in February, he just made a miraculous
23
   turnaround. He didn't get any credits for his
24
   senior year, and we had quite a special
25
```

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127

```
relationship. We would jazz each other and play
1
   games on each other and -- just quite special.
2
   came to me and said, "Dad, if I graduate on time,
3
   can I have a bunch of friends over and have a keg?"
   And I'm not a drinking person, and I was already
5
   told by the schools it ain't going to happen.
   said, "Sure, Matt." Friday before they were all
7
   supposed to graduate, he was a half a credit short.
   The schools were proud of him, we were extremely
 9
   proud of him, and he just sat at that desk and
10
   listened to everybody at that school talk about how
11
   great he was and everything that you came so close,
12
   you got to finish it up this summer, and he just
13
              And they got done talking, and he said,
1.4
   listened.
   "I've got a test scheduled tomorrow morning with a
15
   teacher, and if I pass that, I get my credits."
16
17
   aced it, went through it, graduated on Tuesday, and
   I had to eat my words. I'm sure damn glad that I
18
         Quite a special time. Like I said, I'm not --
19
   did.
   don't approve of that kind of thing, but we watched
20
   over the kids, and we all had a great time.
21
             And that's the graduation present?
22
        Q
             Yep. He never had a chance to graduate
23
   from any college or anything. We received his
24
   enrollment package for the education, but we buried
25
```

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12B

```
him.
 1
             What do you miss most about Matt?
 2
             I guess I miss life. It's been 2,451
 3
        Α
   days -- just one day at a time. All the things we
 4
   used to do together as a family, the things that him
 5
   and I had done special together doesn't mean
 6
              From the time Matt was very young, he had
 7
   anything.
   a natural ability with sports. He loved it from the
 8
   age a year and a half throwing a little sandbag.
   either refereed or coached him in basketball,
10
   football, baseball, soccer, wrestling, taekwondo --
11
   you name it, he did it. We did it together.
12
   was a football in the back of his car.
13
   haven't been able to pick it up. It's just a nice
14
        All these things we used to do a lot together,
15
   kind of guy things, and I'm able to do some things
16
   with Jenny and with my wife, but it's different with
17
           I lost my son, lost my best friend. I hope
18
   a guy.
   like hell you never have to go through this pain.
19
             MR. DASKAS: I'll pass the witness, Judge.
20
21
                     CROSS-EXAMINATION
22
   BY MR. WHIPPLE:
23
             Mr. Mowen, just a couple of questions.
24
        Q.
              Yes, sir.
25
        Α
```

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1 The pictures of Matt there, what school 2 did he go to? Matthew went to Green Valley through his 3 Α senior year. Like I said, he didn't get any 4 credits. He enrolled in the -- I can't even think 5 of what it's called right now, but like an 6 alternative school. 7 8 Sure. He had ordered classes from Utah and I 9 think another state that was accredited where he 10 could quickly gain those credits that he needed and 11 12 has a high school diploma from Clark County schools, not a GED. 13 Was he living with you when he was going 14 through high school for the most part? 15 Matt moved out six months before he was 16 He moved out basically on his birthday, 17 killed. February. He had been out of the house six months. 18 He moved into an apartment with a couple of friends 19 20 that some of them weren't taking care of their share of responsibilities. A couple of friends had this 21 house down there, and he decided to move down there. 22 2.3 He spent about six weeks down at that house out of the 12 weeks he was there. We know what it's like 24 to work hard and often, my wife and I, so we allowed

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130

2.5

```
him to go on the road and enjoy some music for a few
   months, and I'm so glad I did. He had a fabulous
 3
   time.
             From the time of the homicides from the
   time he graduated, how much time was in between?
 5
             From the time that he died until the
        Α
 6
 7
   homicide?
             No, no, no, I'm sorry. From the time that
   he graduated from high school until the time of the
 9
10
   homicides.
             Matthew graduated in June of '97.
                                                 He was
11
   murdered on August 14th of '98. He had gone to ITT
12
   for a short period of time, and when he had to go up
13
   there and correct the professor on how to do some
14
   geometry, he had had enough of it and decided to go
15
   elsewhere. He wanted to go into medicine.
16
17
        Q
             Okay.
             And now my daughter has carried on his
18
        Α
   desires of being able to be a doctor. She's a
19
   massage therapist, and that's what he was going to
20
   start with.
21
             Were you the owner of the house at Terra
22
           Who owned the house at Terra Linda?
23
   Linda?
             I have absolutely no idea. I own my house
24
   that we all lived in. He was invited down there to
25
```

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131

```
come down there and live down there for a short
 1
 2
   period of time.
 3
         Q
              Do you know how long he had been living
 4
   there?
 5
        Α
              He was in his apartment approximately
   three months. He had been out of the house about
 6
 7
    six months; so, he was there approximately three
 8
   months.
 9
        Q
              Okay.
10
              Out of that time, about six to eight weeks
11
   of that time he was back East enjoying his music.
12
   He spent about a week and a half or two weeks with
13
   all of our family, my wife and I. We have been
14
   married since 1976, and have known each other since
15
   '69. We have a lot of family and friends together,
16
   and he had the opportunity to go back and visit a
17
   lot of his friends before he was killed.
18
              MR. WHIPPLE: I understand.
                                            Thank you
19
   very much.
20
              THE COURT: Anything else?
21
             MR. DASKAS: Nothing else, Judge.
22
              THE COURT:
                          All right.
23
             You're excused, sir.
24
              THE WITNESS:
                            Thank you.
25
              THE COURT:
                          Who is next?
```

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```
MR. DASKAS:
                           Judge, with the exception of
 1
   admitting the records that we discussed at the
 2
 3
   break, the State rests.
              THE COURT: All right.
 4
 5
              Approach the bench, Counsel.
 6
              (Sidebar conference outside the presence
 7
   of the court reporter.)
 8
              THE COURT: We're going to take a
 9
   ten-minute recess. You're admonished not to read
10
   any newspaper articles, listen to any radio reports,
11
   television reports or discuss this case with anyone.
12
             Ten minutes.
              THE BAILIFF: All rise.
13
14
              (Recess taken.)
15
             THE BAILIFF: All rise. Court is again in
   session. Be seated and come to order,
16
17
             THE COURT: All right.
18
              (Outside the presence of the jury.)
19
             MR. DASKAS: Judge, just real quick before
20
   they step in.
21
             For the record, there was an issue about
   number of victim impact witnesses and duration.
22
23
   the record, we called a total of five victim impact
   witnesses, and I think the shortest one was up there
24
   for --
25
```

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```
MR. STANTON: Started at 1:50 and
 1
   concluded at 2:38.
 2
             MR. DASKAS: So, less than an hour,
 3
   certainly for five witnesses. We just make that for
 4
   the record, Judge.
 5
              THE COURT: Of course, the Court didn't
 6
   give you a specific time limit.
 7
             MR. DASKAS: No, I understand, Judge.
 8
              THE COURT: All right.
 9
             Anything else?
10
             MR. DASKAS: No.
11
             MS. JACKSON: No, sir.
12
              THE COURT: All right.
13
              (Jury present.)
14
              THE BAILIFF: Be seated, come to order.
15
   Court is again in session.
16
              THE COURT: Let the record reflect the
17
   presence of all the parties, the attorneys and all
18
19
   members of the jury.
              Miss Jackson, call your witness.
20
21
              DEFENSE'S EVIDENCE IN MITIGATION
22
              MS. JACKSON:
                            Thank you, your Honor.
23
              Your Honor, the defense calls Miss Keonna
24
   Bryant to the stand, please.
25
```

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```
I'm sorry, it's Keonna Atkins. She got
 1
 2
   married last year. That's my mistake.
              THE CLERK: Please remain standing and
 3
   raise your right hand.
 4
 5
              (Oath administered.)
              THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.
 6
              THE CLERK: Thank you. Please have a
 7
 8
   seat. State your full name spelling your first and
   last name for the record.
              THE WITNESS: First name is Keonna,
10
   K-E-O-N-N-A; last name is A-T-K-I-N-S, Atkins.
11
              THE CLERK: Thank you.
12
13
14
                       KEONNA ATKINS,
             being recalled as a witness on behalf of
15
   the Defendant, was resworn and testified as follows:
16
17
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
18
   BY MS. JACKSON:
19
             Good afternoon, Miss Atkins.
20
             Good afternoon.
21
             You had a chance to testify earlier this
22
   week or last week, I forget which, but you had a
23
   chance to address this jury, correct?
24
25
        Α
             Correct.
```

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135

```
You had a chance to share with them in a
1
        Q
   very specific way what it was like growing up in
2
   your neighborhood?
3
        Α
              Yes.
 4
              You gave us some details about John in
 5
   your life in the shack and things of that nature?
 6
              Yes, I did.
 7
        Α
              However, there were some things that I
        Q
 8
   had -- you left out at that time because it wasn't
 9
   appropriate to talk about those things.
10
        Α
              Uh-huh.
11
              In particular, the issue of gangs.
12
         0
              Right.
13
         Α
              We want to talk about that this afternoon.
14
         Q
15
   Okay?
              Okay.
16
         Α
              In the neighborhood that you grew up in,
17
   what is your first memory of being aware that there
18
   were gangs in or about your neighborhood?
19
              We were living on 43rd and Ascot.
20
              So, this would be after Miss Edwards came
21
   and retrieved you kids from the foster care?
2.2
              Right.
         Α
23
              Alrighty.
         O.
24
              About how old were you then?
25
```

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136

```
Maybe about 11, 12.
 1
         Α
              So, that would make John about how old?
 2
         Q.
              He was about eight or nine.
 3
         Α
              What were your first observations or what
 4
        Q
 5
   was it that first made you aware that there was such
   a thing as gangs in your neighborhood?
 6
 7
              Well, there were a lot of guys who used to
   hang out in the neighborhood, some right around the
 8
             We lived right on the corner on 43rd and
            It was like the second house on the corner,
10
11
   so the gangs right around the corner were Bloods,
12
   and then we also had Crips that stayed around the
   other side of the corners.
13
14
        Q
              Okay.
              So, you had the Crips and Bloods.
15
              Are they friends with each other or what
16
   is their relationship with each other?
1.7
              They don't get along with each other at
18
        Α
19
   all.
              They're rival gangs?
20
        0
21.
        Α
              Right.
              And as a result of their being rival
22
   gangs, was there violence in connection with that
23
2.4
   rivalry?
              All the time. We usually would see, like,
25
        Α
```

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```
quys running down the street with guns in their
   hands, you know, going to shootouts and stuff like
 2
 3
   that.
             What, if anything, did your grandmother
        What efforts did she take to try to shield you
 5
   kids from that type of situation, the guns and so
 7
   forth?
             Basically, she would just make us stay in
   the yard and not have get-togethers like with family
   members, you know, to keep us sheltered. She would
10
   keep the family together either in the yard or in
1.1
   the backyard with, you know, some type of function,
12
   you know, to keep us on a positive note.
13
             Now, there would, of course, be times when
        Q
14
   you would have to go to the market or to school.
15
   Describe for the jury what the typical go to the
16
   store to pick up a candy bar or something -- what
17
   was that like?
18
              It was -- it was horrible, actually,
19
   because, umm, it was always guys hanging out at the
20
   store, you know, shooting dice, gambling, you know
21
    that nature -- also harassing us.
22
              What type of harassment?
23
         0
              One guy, umm -- one guy told me -- I don't
24
    know if I can say this.
25
```

```
Just take your -- would you like some
 1
        Q
 2
   water?
                   One guy told me that I would suck his
              No.
 3
   penis the way my mom did.
 4
              This is the type of things you had to be
 5
        Q
   subjected to when you went to the store?
 6
              Every day.
 7
        Α
              Okay.
 8
        Q
              This was over on 43rd -- on 43rd and
 9
10
   Ascot?
11
              Right.
        Α
              Okay.
12
        Q
              Now, during that time, was John old enough
13
   to have any pressure from the gangs?
14
              No. He was too young at that time.
15
         Α
              Did he know about the type of things that
16
        Q
   you just said?
17
              It was -- it was all around us.
                                                 I mean,
18
   it's hard to not know it when they're out there.
19
   You know, they're shouting it out. Basically, if he
20
   was walking with me, I'm sure he heard a lot of the
21
    stuff they said to us.
22
              Did there come a time when you moved from
23
         0
    the 43rd and Ascot address?
24
25
              Yes.
```

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```
Where did you move to?
 1
        Q
              Sixtieth and Normandie.
 2
        Α
 3
              Okay.
              And during that time frame, was John still
 4
   with the family?
 5
              Yes, he was.
        Α
 б
              About how old would John be at that time?
 7
              I'd say about 13, maybe 14.
 8
        A
              And during that time frame, did John begin
 9
   to try to take a different role within the family to
10
   try to do something to shield you folks from -- you
11
   girls in particular from the type of comments that
12
13
   you just --
              Right.
14
        Ά
              -- told us here?
15
         Q
              What would he do?
16
              A lot of times he would stand up for us,
17
   you know, because he was the only male that we, you
18
   know, really had around us. We had my grandfather,
19
   but he worked a lot and he drank a lot, and a lot of
20
   times he would be fussing at us, so we really just
21
   had each other, you know.
22
              Now, John is your cousin?
23
         Q
24
         Α
              Right.
              Your first cousin?
25
```

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140

```
Right.
 1
        Α
              Is the relationship that you had growing
 2
   up with John, was it a cousin relationship or was it
 3
   closer?
 4
              He was like my little brother.
        Α
 5
              Was that because you guys all grew up
 6
        Q
 7
   together?
              We're all very close, We're all -- I
 8
        Α
   mean, we're cousins, but you know the relationships
 9
   that we have together are so close, you know, you
10
   can't find one without the other, and that's
11
   normally how we are.
12
              There came a time you said when John began
         Q
13
   to take on a role of protector of the family.
14
              Would that be a fair characterization?
15
              Yes.
16
         Ά
              Especially of you girls?
17
              Right.
18
         Α
              Did you have a particular problem over on
19
         Q
   60th and Normandie with a high ranking gang member?
20
              His name was Baby Sonny.
21
         Α
              Baby Sonny.
22
         Q
              What type of problem did you have with
23
   Baby Sonny?
24
              He used to -- sometimes if I walked to the
25
```

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141

```
store, him and a friend, they would come running
 1
 2
   toward me, you know, and I would have to run around
 3
   cars to get away from them. And sometimes I would
   be in the store, and one of them would grab me, and
   the other one would grab my butt and one grabbed my
 5
   arm, you know. It was just hard, because I -- like
 6
   right now, I can't imagine my daughter going through
 8
   something like that.
 9
             And this was a regular occurrence?
10
             Yes.
11
             Did there come a time when you witnessed
        Q
   Baby Sonny do something to Donte?
1.2
13
        Α
             Yeah.
                     It was one morning I saw John down
   the street, him and my cousin Cornelius, and I saw
14
1.5
   Baby Sonny standing with him, and the next thing I
16
   knew, he socked him and kind of dazed him a little
   bit. So, my first reaction was to run out the house
17
18
   and, you know, try and help him, but, you know, by
19
   the time I came down the street, he was, like, you
   know, "Don't worry about it. I got this, you know.
20
21
   Don't trip." So, basically, he wanted us to back
22
   away from the situation so that we wouldn't get
23
   involved.
             Did there come a time when you found out
24
25
   that there was a threat made against you that caused
```

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```
John to do something in reference to the gang?
 1
 2
              Yeah.
         Α
 3
              What happened, Keonna? Just take your
 4
   time.
 5
              My cousin told me that the reason why he
 6
   became a gang member is because they threatened to
 7
   rape me.
              Who threatened to rape you?
 8
         0
 9
              Baby Sonny.
10
              This is the same Baby Sonny who had been
11
   charging toward you when he would see you in the
12
   streets?
13
         Α
              Yeah.
14
              This is the same Baby Sonny who grabbed
15
   your private parts in public, him and his friends?
16
              Yeah.
17
              Did you believe that they would rape you?
18
              Yeah.
         Α
              Did John have reason to believe they would
19
20
   rape you?
21
              Yes.
         Α
22
              After John -- did there come a time when
   you found out that John had been what we call "beat
23
24
   up" or "jumped" by the gang?
25
              Yes.
```

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```
1
         Q
              Do you know the name of that gang?
 2
              I call them "Six Deuce Brims."
 3
              After John was -- became part of the gang,
    was he allowed to stay at home and just be part of
    the family?
              A lot of times when they used to come
   over, they come early in the morning around time for
   us to get ready for school.
         Q
              They show up for John?
10
              Yeah.
11
              What would happen?
12
              Basically, he would get dressed like he
13
   was, you know, on his way to school, and they say
14
   they were dropping him off, but I don't think they
15
   were taking him to school.
16
        0
              How often -- did you begin to see John
17
   less and less during this time?
18
              Sometimes he wouldn't come home, so that's
19
   how we begin to know something was going on.
20
        Q
              Do you remember an incident when you told
21
   me that John was -- one of his friends -- after he
22
   became a member of this gang, that John would try to
23
   keep this away from you all?
24
        Α
             Right.
25
             Can you tell the jury about the incident
        SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727
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```

where one of John's friend's brought it to your home, so to speak? Can you tell the jury about that? There was a time when we were all at home, and John had came to see us. We hadn't seen him for a little while, so he came in and gave everybody their hugs and their kisses, and, you know, we were telling him how much we missed him and everything, and we wanted him to stay home, but you know, he was with his friends and everything. So, you know, we 10 were like, "Well, hurry up and get back home." So, 1.1 they were leaving out the door, and as they were getting toward the end of the driveway, the police 13 swooped up on them, and the first thing John did was 14 he just stopped, you know. He stood there and he 15 just waited for them to do whatever they wanted to 16 do, but one of his friends -- he ran back in the 17 house and, you know, I'm, like, "What are you 18 doing?" you know. "This is not where you're 19 supposed to be. This is our house." So, I pushed 20 him out, and then the police came, and he made all 21 of us come out the house. 22 Q Okay. 23 What was John's reaction to his friend 24 running into the home where his family lived? 25

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```
He just looked at him and said, "Man,
1
        Ά
   what's wrong with you? What are you doing?
  my family."
             After John joined the gang and was one of
   them, did you still have to run from Baby Sonny?
             It didn't stop. It never stopped, and it
 6
        Α
   became more than just Baby Sonny. It was too many.
 7
        Q
             Qkay.
 8
             Did John's joining the gang provide you
 9
   some protection?
10
             Yeah, it did.
        Ά
11
             What about when you guys moved into an
12
   area -- you moved away from the Six Deuce Brims
13
   neighborhood, you moved into a neighborhood that was
14
   another gang neighborhood. Do you recall that?
15
              That would be sixty-eighth and Broadway.
        Α
16
              Okay. And that was -- tell me what type
17
   of neighborhood was -- what gang hung out in that
18
   area?
19
              I think they were 66 and 67 they called
20
   themselves.
21
              And were they a gang that was friendly to
22
   John's group?
23
              They were Crips, so....
24
         Α
              And that means that John is a Blood?
25
```

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```
Α
              Right.
 1
              Excuse me.
 2
        Q.
              Was there -- come a time when John was
 3
   attempting to visit with you all and something
 5
   happened?
              Him and my cousin had came over one night
 6
        Α
   and they were standing outside and everybody was
 7
   inside, and when we came out to see him, he said,
   "Well, I have to go." We're looking at him like,
 9
   you know, why, you just got here. He said, "Well,
10
   you know, the guys just came by here and they told
11
   me today they will give me a pass but next time I
12
   come through here, they're not going to give me a
13
   pass."
1.4
             What does that mean that they were going
15
   to give him a pass?
16
             Basically, they would let him sit there,
17
   you know, for the time being and visit with the
18
   family but he needed to make it quick and make sure
19
   he doesn't come back again.
20
        Q
             Okay,
21
              And based upon your growing up in South
22
   Central L.A. when a gang member gives another one a
23
   pass, that means there will be no consequences this
24
25
   time?
```

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```
Α
              Right.
              What would normally happen if a Blood is
 3
    caught in a Crip neighborhood?
              He wouldn't make it out.
         Α
 5
         Q
              After that confrontation, what was the
    frequency or any visits at all from John?
 7
         Α
              We would have to find him. We would have
   to go to his neighborhood and look for him.
         Q
              And did you guys care enough about him to
10
   do that?
11
              Yes, we did.
        Α
12
        Q
              You know, you talked about in your earlier
13
   testimony that your grandmother sacrificed some
14
   things for the family and saved up money so that you
15
   could be allowed to go to a different school?
16
        Α
              Right.
17
              Where was that school located?
18
        Α
              It was in Hawthorne, California.
19
             And was that outside of your neighborhood?
20
              Yes, it was. I had to be bussed.
        Α
21
        Q
             Okay.
22
              Do you think that your experiences in
23
   going to that different school and having a chance
   to venture outside of your neighborhoods, do you
24
   think that has helped you to make good choices in
25
```

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```
1
   your life?
              Yes, it has.
              How has it affected you taking care of
 3
   your siblings? You testified that you took one baby
 4
   straight from the hospital and another one there and
   another one there.
              Basically, I just look at it as taking
 7
   care of my own, you know. My grandmother, she did
   it for us, and if we don't look out for each other,
   who will.
10
             Miss Atkins, you realize that your little
11
   cousin sits here convicted of four counts of capital
12
   murder, and you've known that for a long time now?
13
             Yeah.
14
        Α
             Have you maintained a relationship with
15
        Q
   John?
16
              Yeah, I try to as much as possible.
17
              Have the actions that John engaged in
18
   caused you to love him any less?
19
              That's my cousin. How can you love him
20
        Α
21
   less? He's family.
              And you were taught to stand by family no
22
        Q
   matter what?
23
        Α
              No matter what.
24
              Will you maintain a relationship and
25
```

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```
support John and make sure that he knows -- your
   children know who he is if he's allowed to live in
2
  prison?
 3
             We talk about him a lot, and they always
 4
   ask me is he coming home, and they always ask me why
5
   he is where he is, and it's still hard to tell my
   kids why my cousin is locked up. It's not something
7
   you want to tell your kids. That's not something
 8
   you want to go through.
             I understand.
                            I understand.
10
             It's not something you want your kids to
11
   grow up and have in their mind, you know.
12
             Sure. Sure.
        0
13
             It's very hard.
14
             Do you maintain telephone and written
15
   communication contact with your cousin?
16
             We write. We write.
        Α
17
             And even maybe on occasion, maybe get out
18
   to Ely to see him maybe once or twice a year to see
19
   him every now and then?
20
              Well, we can't visit him in the prison
21
   because it's too far. It's hard to come out here
22
   and visit him like that.
23
              I understand.
        0
24
              When is the last time you saw him before
25
```

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```
seeing him this time?
1
              I haven't seen him in about -- maybe two
2
3
   or three years.
             The last time you were here for court?
 4
        A ·
             Right.
5
             MS. JACKSON: That's all I have, your
 6
 7
   Honor.
              THE COURT: Counsel, cross-examination?
 8
              MR. STANTON: Yes, please, briefly, your
 9
10
   Honor.
11
                      CROSS-EXAMINATION
12
   BY MR. STANTON:
13
              I'm just a little bit confused,
14
   Miss Atkins, if you can clear up for me.
15
              You said there was a time period where
16
   your cousin -- you couldn't find him and he was
17
   living in another neighborhood?
18
              Right. We were on 68th and Broadway.
        Α
19
20
        Q
              Okay.
              And he was in our old neighborhood.
21.
         Α
              That would be the Ascot or the Normandie?
22
              Normandie.
23
         Α
              Normandie.
         Q
24
              You were under the impression that your
25
```

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```
cousin couldn't come back to your neighborhood?
 1
             He couldn't.
 2
             That was because of the gang activity?
 3
        Q
             It was because of the gang activity.
             Okay.
 5
        Q
             What year was that, do you recall?
 6
              It was maybe about '94, '95. I'm not
 7
 8
   sure.
        Q
             Okay.
              Were you aware that your cousin had been
10
   arrested and convicted for an armed robbery?
11
12
        Α
             No.
              MR. STANTON: Thank you.
13
             Nothing further.
14
             MS. JACKSON: Nothing further, your Honor.
15
   Thank you.
16
              THE COURT: All right. You're excused.
17
              Call your next witness.
18
              MR. WHIPPLE: Johnnisha Zamora.
19
              THE BAILIFF: Remain standing and face the
20
   clerk.
21
              THE COURT: You're already sworn in.
22
  1////
23
  1////
24
25 /////
```

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```
JOHNNISHA ZAMORA,
1
             being called as a witness on behalf of the
2
   Defendant, was previously duly sworn and testified
3
   as follows:
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
5
   BY MR. WHIPPLE:
6
              Johnnisha, we had an opportunity to talk
7
        Q
   at lunch today?
8
              Yes.
        Α
              And you told me about all the things that
10
   are going through your mind right now?
11
              Yes.
        Α
12
              This has been a very difficult time for
        0
13
   you?
14
              Yes.
        Α
15
              Did you start a brand new job?
         Q.
16
              Yes.
         Α
17
              Why don't you tell the folks about what
18
   job you just started.
19
              MV transportation.
20
              What you do and the fact that you're on
21
   probation?
22
              Transporting elderly people back and forth
         Α
23
    to the doctor and to the market.
24
              And you just started your job, so --
25
         Q
```

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```
Yes, and I'm still on probation.
        Α
1
              So, how long have you been on your job?
2
        Q
              A month.
 3
        Α
              So, that's something in the back of your
        Q.
 4
 5
   mind?
              Yes.
 6
         Α
              And obviously, you have some children?
 7
         Q
              Yes.
 8
         Α
              How many children do you have?
 9
         Q
              I have three. I have one here with me,
10
   and I also have a three-year-old and a
11
   five-year-old.
12
              And where is your three-year-old and your
13
    five-year-old?
14
              They're with my mother-in-law.
15
         Α
              So, you're obviously thinking about them
         Q
16
   as well?
17
              Yes.
1.8
         Α
              And then the other thing, of course, is
19
    why we're here.
20
              My brother.
         Α
21
               You mentioned to me about how difficult it
22
    is knowing where to look.
23
               Do you remember that?
24
               Yes.
         Α
25
```

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```
What did you mean by that? Why don't you
        Q
1
   tell the folks what you meant.
2
                            When I see my brother, I
             I don't know.
3
   smile because I'm happy to see him, and then I see
   the family, and I -- I don't know what to say to
5
   them. I don't know if I should look at you guys.
6
   It's just a lot going on in my head.
7
             Is it fair to say you're very scared and
        Q
8
   nervous, Johnnisha?
9
        Α
              Yes.
10
             But you're here -- why are you here?
11
              To support my brother.
12
              I want to talk a little bit about the
        0
13
   issue of gangs that's come up in this phase of the
   proceeding, and I want to bring to your attention
15
   the name of Big Deko.
16
              You've heard that name before?
17
              Yes.
         Α
18
              Who is Big Deko?
19
              It would be the person who always come and
20
   get my brother.
21
              If you would, please, just describe him
         Q
22
   physically, the size and what he looks like?
23
              He was about 6'3. He weighed about 250.
         Α
24
              And when do you remember first hearing the
25
         Q
```

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```
When did you remember first hearing
   name "Deko"?
   that name?
2
             Him knocking on my door and me asking him
3
   who he is and him asking for my brother.
4
             How did he act when he knocked on your
        0
5
   door?
6
             He just asked for my brother.
7
             Now, I want to stop right there and back
   up a little bit in time, okay, as to why he was even
9
   at your door. Okay?
10
        Α
             Um-hmm.
11
             Do you feel comfortable with that?
12
        Q
             A little.
13
        Α
              Now, this is when you were at 60th and
        Q
14
   Normandie when this occurred?
15
        Α
              Yes.
16
              What was the environment like at the 60th
17
   and Normandie?
18
              It was a lot of traffic.
19
              Tell us, if you would, just about the gang
20
   environment, I mean, how it affected you and what
21
   are the things that you saw?
22
              Guys hanging out, seeing them going back
         A
23
   when we were going to school, seeing them hanging
24
   out, hang in front of the house.
25
```

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```
How did they treat you back before Big
1
   Deko came into the picture? How did they treat you
2
   and how did they treat your brother?
3
             They treated us -- they picked on him;
 4
        Α
   they picked on me.
 5
              So, before Big Deko came in the picture,
 6
   if you would, just kind of describe what it was like
 7
   living at 60th and Normandie.
 8
              It was hard. It was hard. You had to
   worry about them messing with you, messing with my
10
   brother and hanging in front of our house.
11
   won't move. They would be telling to, and they act
12
   like they own everything.
13
             How did they treat you girls?
14
             Like we was just a piece of meat, like we
15
   was just something -- just there.
16
             And after Big Deko came in and started --
17
   tell us, when Big Deko came to your house, what
18
   would happen to your brother?
19
              He would leave.
20
        Α
              And what time of day would Big Deko show
21
        Q
22
   up?
              Days, nights, whenever he felt like it.
23
        Α
              And what would happen when he showed up?
24
        Q
              My brother would put his shoes on and then
25
         Α
```

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```
leave.
1
              Every time?
 2
              Every time.
 3
        Α
              And how long would your brother be gone
        Q
 4
 5
   for?
              Sometimes days, sometimes weeks.
        Α
 6
              Now, after Big Deko came into the picture,
 7
        Q
   did you notice that the people around your
 8
   neighborhood treat you any differently?
 9
              It stopped a little.
10
              When you say "it stopped," how would you
11
   describe to these folks how they treated you before
12
   versus after?
13
              They stopped harassing us. It wasn't that
14
15
   much harassing.
              From what you saw and you heard, why did
1.6
   your brother become involved with the gangs?
17
              To protect his family.
1.8
              Did it work?
19
         Q
              Yes.
20
         Α
              How do you know?
         Q.
21
              Because you don't have nobody bothering
22
         Α
    you anymore.
23
                                       How old was he
              THE COURT: Excuse me.
24
    when he became affiliated with that gang?
2.5
```

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158

```
THE WITNESS: He had to be about 13, 14.
1
   BY MR. WHIPPLE:
2
             And you mention Big Deko is about 6'3,
3
        Q
   over 200 pounds I think you said?
 4
             Yes.
 5
        Α
             How old was Big Deko?
 6
             He was older. He had to be at least in
 7
        A
 8
   his 30s.
              How did he treat your brother?
 9
        Q
             Like he was his kid but not teaching him
10
   positive things.
11
             Now, I want to talk just for a few minutes
12
        Q
   about -- you said he didn't teach him positive
13
   things?
14
              Yes.
15
        Α
              You mentioned earlier about growing up
16
   basically just the three of you?
17
18
        Α
              Yes.
              Do you remember that?
        Q
19
              Did you have a father in your home at any
20
   time?
21
              He would be in and out -- no.
22
      A
              You mentioned at lunch the fact that he
23
   recently moved into the same neighborhood as
24
   yourself?
25
```

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```
Yes.
1
        A
             How does he treat you now?
             He don't. When I speak to him, he will
3
   walk up, say "Hi," and say he will come to the house
4
   and hurry and speeds away.
5
              You mentioned the Thanksgiving where your
6
   brother came to see -- were here and your father was
7
   at the Thanksgiving and your brother showed up to
8
   see his dad.
              What happened?
10
              My father left.
11
        Α
              How soon did he leave?
         0
12
              As soon as we got there.
13
              Did you ever see your brother have any
14
   interaction with his father?
         Α
              No.
16
              Who was the person that John could look up
         Q
17
18
    to?
              Big Deko.
19
             Now, we heard stories about you were taken
20
   away from your mother, right?
21
              Yes.
22
              How old were you when you were taken away
23
    from your mother?
24
              About four or five.
25
         Α
```

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```
So, you were living with your grandmother,
1
2
   correct?
        Α
              Yes.
3
              And during this time when Big Deko came
        0
   by, how many kids were in that house?
5
              It was ten, then two more end up coming.
        A
6
              And --
 7
        Q
              Two, maybe three.
8
              And how many adults were in that house at
9
        Q
   that time?
10
        Α
              It was two.
11
12
        0
              Who is that?
             My grandmother, my grandfather and one
13
        Α
   more -- my auntie.
14
              Did you see your brother -- how much
15
   interaction was he able to spend with your
16
   grandparents?
17
                     It was too many of us.
              None.
18
              You said there was too many of you.
19
   mean, did you ever see him have the opportunity one
   on one to spend some quality time?
21
        Α
              No.
22
              Now, I want to talk about your
23
   relationship with your brother and your sister.
24
   It's fair to say you're very close?
25
```

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161

```
Yes.
 1
        Α
              Why is that?
 2
              Because it's just us three.
                                            He's my big
 3
   brother and that's my younger sister.
 4
              When you think about the relationship that
 5
        Q
   you have with your brother, your big brother and
 6
   your younger sister, how do they contrast? Explain
 7
   the difference in relationship?
              My sister is younger, so it's kind of
 9
   harder to talk to her about certain things.
10
   brother older; I can talk to him about anything.
11
              Before you got married, who was the most
12
        0
   important -- who was the person you were closest to
13
   in this world?
14
              My brother.
        Α
15
              What type of things did you talk about?
16
        0
              Anything we wanted to talk about.
17
        Α
              Did you ever fight with your brother?
18
        Q
19
        Α
              No.
              Why didn't you ever fight with your
20
        Q
              Isn't that natural?
   brother?
21
              That's my brother. Not with me it's not
22
        Α
   natural.
23
              You never had any problems with him?
24
         Q
              No.
25
         Α
```

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```
You told me at lunch that you only saw him
1
   be violent one other time.
2
              Do you remember telling me that?
 3
              Yes.
        Α
              Why don't you tell me the one time you saw
 5
        Q
   him being violent.
 6
              When I told him one of my cousins touched
 7
        Α
 8
   me.
              Which cousin was that?
 9
         Q
              Cornelius.
10
         Α
              And is that while you're living at the
11
12
   same place?
         Α
              Yes.
13
              On 60th and Normandie?
14
              Yes.
         Α
15
              Why don't you tell the folks how your
16
   cousin touched you and where he touched you?
17
              He touched me on my private.
         Α
18
              How did he touch you on your private?
19
         Q
              With his hands.
20
         Α
              What were you doing when he did that?
21
         Q
              Laying down on the couch.
         Α
22
              Were you asleep at that time?
         Q
23
         Α
              Yes.
24
              Did his touching wake you up?
25
```

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```
Yes.
        Α
1
              What did you do as soon as you woke up
2
   immediately and found your cousin touching you
3
   inappropriately?
              Told my brother.
5
              What did your brother do?
6
        Q
              He pushed him.
7
        Α
              What did you see him do?
8
        Q
              Pushed him.
9
        Α
              Pushed him where?
10
        Q
              In the window.
        Α
11
              Did your cousin ever touch you
12
        Q
   inappropriately again?
13
        Α
              No.
14
              Did your brother take care of you while
15
   you were growing up?
16
17
              Yes.
              Did he keep your cousins and other people
18
   off of you?
19
              Yes.
20
         Α
              Did he keep the gangs off of you?
21
              Yes.
22
         Α
              Now, do you have a favorite photo?
23
   mentioned -- I asked you if you had seen some
24
25
   pictures.
```

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```
Do you remember the first time you
1
   testified?
2
        A
             Yes.
3
             MR. WHIPPLE: If I could grab those
4
5
   photos.
              If I may approach, your Honor.
6
              THE COURT: Yes.
7
   BY MR. WHIPPLE:
             Johnnisha, I'm showing you some different
9
   photos, and I'm not sure which the favorite one was.
10
             Is that it?
11
             Um-hmm.
12
        Α
             That's State's Exhibit HH, excuse me,
13
   Defense Exhibit HH.
14
              Johnnisha, why is that your favorite
15
   photo?
16
              It was my brother birthday. We both was
17
        Α
           Everybody there was happy.
   happy.
18
              When you think back, Johnnisha, how many
19
   times do you remember being happy?
20
        A
              Not many.
21
              Did your brother bring happiness to you?
22
        Q
              Yes.
        Α
23
              And how does he bring happiness to you?
         0
24
              He stayed, the conversation, just being
25
```

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```
there, basically.
1
              Today, do you feel any differently about
2
   your brother today than you did --
3
        Α
              No.
4
              -- back then?
5
        0
        Α
              No.
6
              Why not?
7
        Q
              Because that's my brother, and I love him.
        Α
8
              You've heard these -- you've heard some of
9
        O
   the horrible things?
10
              Yes, I have.
        Α
11
              How does it make you feel?
12
         Q
              It hurts me.
         Α
13
              Why does it hurt you?
         Q
14
              Because I don't like to hear bad stuff
         Α
15
   about my brother.
16
              Do you communicate with your brother?
17
         Α
              Yes.
18
              Why?
19
         Q
              Because I love him.
         Α
20
              How important is that?
21
         Q
              It's very important.
22
              Now, you have more than just three
23
    children living with you?
24
                     I have his son.
              Yes.
25
```

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```
Whose son do you have living with you?
        Q
1
             My brother's.
2
             Why, of all the people -- why does he live
3
4
   with you?
              Because his mother gave him to me.
5
             MR. WHIPPLE: I'm showing, at this point,
6
   your Honor, Defense Exhibit KK.
7
   BY MR. WHIPPLE:
              Who are those kids in that photo,
 9
   Johnnisha?
10
              That's my brother kids.
        A
11
              What are their names again?
        Q
12
              Anijah and Allen.
        Α
13
              How long has Allen been living with you?
14
              He's been with me straight for two years,
         Α
15
   but I had him off and on since he was one.
16 l
              What kind of grades is he getting in
         0
17
   school?
1.8
              He get good grades.
19
              What kind of grades does he get?
20
              He get straight As. They call them --
21
    they by numbers now.
22
              What does he talk about when he talks
23
    about his father?
24
25
         Α
              John.
```

```
What type of things does he tell you about
        Q
1
   his father?
2
             When he coming home.
        Α
3
             Does he communicate with his father to the
4
  best of his ability?
5
             Yes, he does.
 6
        Α
             What does he act like when he receives a
7
   letter of communication from his father?
              He be very excited.
              You've got a wonderful husband taking care
10
   of him as well -- yes?
11
              Yes, thank God for him.
        Α
12
              Does he act like his father?
         0
13
              He do the best he could.
14
         Α
              Who is Allen's father?
         Q
15
              John.
         Α
16
              Johnnisha, I'm showing you Defense
17
         0
   Proposed Exhibit double-Y -- YY.
18
              Is that the original letter that you had
19
   forwarded to my office some years ago?
20
         Α
              Yes.
21
              Is that the same way that you had sent it
         Q
22
    to us?
23
              Yes.
         Α
24
              MR. STANTON: We would have no objection
25
```

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```
to its admission, your Honor.
                            Thank you, your Honor.
             MR. WHIPPLE:
 2
              THE COURT: Are you offering it?
 3
             MR. WHIPPLE: I am, your Honor.
 4
              THE COURT: All right.
 5
              Admitted.
 6
              (Defense Exhibit YY was admitted into
 7
   evidence.)
 8
   BY MR. WHIPPLE:
              Johnnisha, I realize it's very difficult
10
   for you being here, but again, why are you here?
11
              To stand by my brother and to ask you guys
12
        Α
   to please don't take his life.
13
              MR. WHIPPLE: Nothing further.
14
15
                      CROSS-EXAMINATION
16
   BY MR. STANTON:
17
              It's Mrs. Zamora, correct?
        Q
18
         Α
              Yes.
19
              Mrs. Zamora, I want to ask you a couple of
20
   questions regarding this gentleman Big Deko.
21
              Your brother joined a gang at what age?
22
              I think he was about 14.
23
         Α
              And there came a time where you didn't see
24
   your brother anymore, he didn't come around and
25
                                          (702) 455-3610
```

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```
wasn't either in the neighborhood or wasn't even in
   Los Angeles.
             Do you remember that?
3
             Yes.
        Α
4
             How old was your brother at that point?
5
        Q
             Probably about 19. I'm not sure.
        Α
6
             You're not sure?
        Q
7
             About that age.
        Α
8
             Do you know how long after he joined the
9
   gang that it was that you didn't see him anymore --
10
   how many years had elapsed?
11
              It was at least about -- he did not leave
12
   until at least about four or five years after.
13
              Okay.
        Q
14
              So, four or five years you knew him to be
15
   in a gang and you were around him?
16
              Um-hmm.
         Α
17
              During that time period, how many times
18
   did you see Big Deko around your brother?
19
              Whenever he came to our house.
20
              So, that was a lot?
         Q
21
              Yes.
         Α
22
              Did he have any tattoos on him, Big Deko
23
    that is?
24
              I never looked at his -- I wasn't looking
25
         Α
```

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```
at him to see if he had tattoos.
1
             I'm sorry?
        Q
2
             I never paid no attention to his tattoos.
        A
3
             What is Big Deko's name?
4
        Q
             His real name?
5
        Α
             Yes.
        Q
6
              I would have no idea.
        Α
7
              You have no idea?
        0
 8
        Α
              Huh-uh.
 9
              MR. STANTON: Thank you. Nothing further.
10
                            Nothing further, your Honor.
              MR. WHIPPLE:
11
              THE COURT: Call your next witness.
12
                            Moises Zamora, please.
              MS. JACKSON:
13
              THE CLERK: Sir, remain standing and raise
14
   your right hand.
15
              (Oath administered.)
16
              THE WITNESS: I do.
17
                                       Please be seated.
                          Thank you.
              THE CLERK:
18
              THE COURT: I forgot to tell you, he's
19
   already sworn.
20
21
                        MOISES ZAMORA,
22
              being recalled as a witness on behalf of
23
    the Defendant, was resworn and testified as follows:
24
25
    11111
```

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```
May I proceed, your Honor?
              MS. JACKSON:
1
              THE COURT:
                         Yes.
2
                            Thank you, your Honor.
              MS. JACKSON:
 3
 4
                     DIRECT EXAMINATION
5
   BY MS. JACKSON:
6
              Good afternoon, Moises.
 7
              Good afternoon.
        Α
 8
              You testified at the first juncture of
 9
   these proceedings, and I had you -- actually,
10
   Mr. Whipple had you talk about your relationship
11
   with my client. Now, you have another relationship
12
   besides from being an in-law.
13
              You're familiar with gangs, aren't you?
14
              Yes.
15
        Α
              As a matter of fact, you're what they
16
   would call a Crip?
17
              Correct.
18
              He's a Blood?
19
        Q
              Right.
20
         Α
              However, that did not interfere with your
21
   relationship.
22
              You guys appeared to get along okay when
23
   he was living with you?
24
25
              Right.
         A
```

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```
Taking you back to where you grew up, sir,
1
        Q
   where did you grow up?
              South Central LA.
        Α
              How old are you?
        Q
              Now, at the time, 27.
5
        Α
              You're right around my client's age?
        Q
 б
              Right around there.
7
        Α
              The experiences that you had in South
8
        O.
   Central would probably be similar to his?
              Correct.
10
              Even though -- now, you described for the
11
   jury your ethnicity is -- your mother, I believe, is
12
13
   Mexican?
              My mother is white.
        Α
14
              Your mother is white and your father is
15
        Q
   Hispanic?
16
              Mexican, yes.
        Α
17
                       Okay.
              Mexican.
1.8
         Q
              Now, the area that you grew up in, how
19
   would you describe that neighborhood?
20
              Predominantly black.
         Α
21
              So, is it fair to say you were treated
22
   just like any other -- as if you were a young black
23
   man in South Central around that same time?
24
   you treated any differently when it came to the gang
25
```

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```
activity?
1
             Yeah, for the most part.
        Α
        Q
             Okay.
3
             And how did that go?
4
        Α
             Rough.
5
             Rough. Okay.
6
        Q
             Let's just back up a wee bit.
7
             You recall testifying a few years ago?
8
        Α
             Yes.
9
             And during that testimony, you talked
10
   about an experience that you and your brother had, I
11
   think at the elementary school age?
12
              Right. I believe I was about eight, and
        Α
13
   my brother must have been about five.
14
              What happened?
        Q
15
              There was a young man -- I wouldn't say
16
   young man, he was probably in his 18s, 19s --
17
   approached us on a bike on the way to school and
18
   drew a gun to my brother's face and demanded money
19
   or any type of valuables that we had.
20
              And this was your younger brother?
21
        Q
              Yes, my little brother, my only brother.
22
              Your only brother. Okay.
23
         Q
              This type of occurrence, would you say
24
   that's rare in South Central at the elementary
25
```

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```
school?
        Α
             It's not real rare, but it happens to
  others, yes.
3
             Were there other dangers such as that
   associated with going to elementary school in South
   Central LA during the time period you were there?
             I think gangs have gotten rough now, but
7
        Α
   back then -- I mean, it was rough, basically.
                                                    Ιf
8
   you had to walk to school --
             Um-hmm.
10
             -- or even if you had to drive to school
11
   sometimes, it was always constant, you know, you had
12
   to watch yourself or watch your surroundings. You
13
   had to make sure nobody was watching you or anybody
14
   preying on you.
15
             When this person assaulted you and your
16
        Q
   brother with a weapon, did you guys give him your
17
18
   money?
              I believe we didn't have anything.
19
   think the only thing I had at the time I think were
20
   lunch tickets.
21
              Did you give him those?
22
        Q
             He didn't take them.
23
24
         Q
              Okay.
              Did he take anything of value? Did you
25
```

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```
guys have anything to give him of value?
             No, nothing. We were, what, eight and
2
   five.
3
        Q
             Okay.
 4
             And he just left you guys alone?
 5
                     He put his gun back in his waist
 6
        Α
             Yeah.
   and pedaled off.
7
             Gave you guys a pass?
        0
 8
             If you want to call it that.
             Did there come a time when you began to
10
   come to the attention, if you will, of the gang that
11
   lived in your neighborhood? The term that gangs
12
   use I think is they call it their "turf"?
13
              Yeah.
        Α
14
              What turf did you live in?
15
              I stayed off of Gage and Broadway which is
16
   East Coast neighborhood, East Coast Crips.
17
              East Coast Crips.
1.8
              Now, because of your location, because of
19
   your living in that neighborhood, did that give the
20
   Crips some kind of dibs on you? How does that work?
21
              Well, basically, anybody in that
22
   neighborhood -- once you get to a certain age, they
23
   try to convince you to gang-bang or force you to
24
   gang-bang.
25
```

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```
You said two things there. You said two
  things there. You said they would try to convince
  you or they would try to force you?
             Um-hmm.
        Α
             Let's talk about those two things in turn,
 5
  because I notice that before you broke those down.
             When they tried to convince you, is that
 7
   called "courting"?
             Well, no; that would come into almost the
 9
   forcing part. Convincing you would basically
10
   consist of harassment, letting you know that look,
11
   you're either going to join our gang or we're going
12
   to harass you all the time. We'll be picking on
13
14
   you.
             Did that include picking on your family?
15
             Umm -- to an extent, maybe like my brother
16
   who would be out with me or anybody like my cousins
17
   that would walk around with me to the store or
18
   anything.
19 I
              From your understanding of being -- you're
20
   an East Coast Crip?
21
                   We're a click. Well, at the time we
              No.
22
   were a click off of in the East Coast neighborhood
23
   which was 67 Gangster Crips.
24
              So, that was the title of your group, the
25
```

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```
67 Gangster Crips?
1
             Right. That was the second click.
2
             Based upon your affiliation with that
3
   sect, how does one become a member of that
   particular gang as it existed when you were a young
   man around 13, 14 years old?
             Most of it was done by courting.
7
        Α
             And what does that mean, sir?
        0
 8
             Basically, you jump in individuals.
 9
        Α
   "Jumping in" means take three, four minute segments,
10
   get about four or five guys beat up on this one cat
11
   or one guy, and he would have to sit there and
12
   basically either get beat down or fight back, and
13
   after you're done, you basically took your
14
   punishment and you're hugged and welcomed in?
15
             Once you're in the gang, you're in?
16
             Yeah.
17
             You heard the phrase, "Putting in work
18
   with the gang." What does that mean in reference to
19
   being a gang member, "putting in some work"?
20
              "Putting in work" means -- basically, it's
21
   like putting in your time. You have to do -- you
22
   have to do what either you're asked to do or, you
23
   know, you have to perform duties that basically gain
24
   you rank or stripes.
25
```

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```
Are you allowed to refuse to put in your
1
2
   work?
             For the most part, no.
3
        Α
             Okay.
        Q
4
             What happens if one refuses?
5
             Then you get disciplined.
        Α
6
7
             Okay.
        Q
             Now, you've heard testimony because you've
8
   been in the courtroom about there being a Big Deko,
   someone about 6'3, 250 pounds, and then my client
10
   being given the moniker "Baby Deko."
11
             Are you familiar with what that
12
   relationship entails between a Big Deko and a Baby
13
   Deko. What does that mean in the gang world?
14
             It basically means Baby Deko has an OG,
15
        Α
   which is an older gangster than him which basically
16
   took him on, like a prodigy or project. There's
17
   cases where you have ones and twos and maybe even
18
   threes where a guy who has been there for a long
19
   time. I guess in this case, Big Deko would have a
20
   Baby Deko or Little Deko or Tiny Deko or whatever.
21
              Is it unusual for a gang-banger to be --
22
   your wife testified that she believed Big Deko to be
23
   in his 30s during this time frame. Does that
24
2.5
   sound --
```

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```
No, there's gang-bangers that still bang
   in their late 30s. I mean, those are gang-bangers
 2
   for life.
             And hence, the moniker "OGs"?
 4
             Yes.
 5
        Α
             Bow did you become a member of the sect
 6
   that you belonged to?
             We used to be from another click, which is
 8
                And the 67 Click that was in our
   Money Weed.
   neighborhood basically said, "You guys either turn
10
   Gangster Crips or you guys face the punishments of
11
   trying to run your own click in our neighborhood."
12
   So, we basically had to end up getting courted on by
13
   the Gangster Crips to become 67 to avoid any
14
   troubles with them and their click.
15
             Now, there's been a lot of talk in this
1.6
   case about choices, about one chooses to join a
17
18
   gang.
              Do you think that that's a true statement,
19
   that you choose to join a gang in your situation?
20
              You can -- it's almost a choice, but you
21
        Α
    almost feel obligated.
22
              What is involved in that process?
23
   makes the young man feel that he has to join a gang?
24
              Fear of the gang itself.
25
         Α
```

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```
Q
             Fear.
1
             Also, are there any other techniques that
2
   the gang would use to attract a poor young person in
3
   South Central that make it sound glamorous?
              They promise you benefits?
5
             Yeah, I mean --
        Α
 6
             What type of benefits, Moises?
 7
        Q
             Well, in most of the gangs, there's drug
8
   activity, selling of drugs and all that which brings
   in a large amount of currency.
10
             Okay.
11
              They promise you money, protection, cars,
1.2
   clothes, everything down to food, whatever.
13
        0
              Okay.
14
              And the neighborhood -- most of the
15
   neighborhoods in South Central, from what I
16
   understand it -- and I've been there -- and what I
17
   see on TV are relatively poor?
18
        Α
              Yes.
19
              And that would make these things seem even
20
   more attractive?
21
              Yes, because -- well, in that area?
22
        A
              Yes, sir.
23
        Q
              Everybody wants to have the stuff you see
24
   on TV, you know, the Westwoods and the Culver Cities
25
```

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```
and all that; so, you never want to grow up having
1
   to wear bummy clothes or bummy shoes, because you're
2
   going to get harassed about it. People will pick on
  you just because you don't have the nice things, so
   when you're growing up and you see that all the
5
   older kids around you or the gang-bangers around you
   have on Jordans and better --
             When you were growing up, what was the
 8
   average price of Jordans? By "Jordans," you mean
 9
   tennis shoes --
10
             When I was growing up?
11
             -- named after the legendary ball player
        0
12
   Michael Jordan?
13
             When I was growing up, a pair of Jordans
14
   could range anywhere from $80 to $140.
15
              Could the average family in South Central
        0
16
   who wasn't involved in the dealing of drugs -- could
17
   they afford a pair of shoes like that?
18
              Maybe a small percentage.
         Α
19
              There was a very small percentage?
         Q
20
              Very small.
         Α
21
              Would that serve to make the gang life
22
    somewhat attractive to young men like yourself?
23
              Well, the thing about it is it was easy
24
            It was fast money.
25
    money.
```

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```
Okay.
1
        0
             Now, what would happen if you wandered
2
   outside of your turf?
3
             In enemy turf?
4
             In enemy turf.
5
        0
             You would be lucky to come back.
6
        Α
             Did you have an experience where you found
        Q
   yourself in enemy turf without you placing yourself
   there?
        Α
            · Yes.
10
             What happened?
        Q
11
             Umm, it was -- I think it was around -- it
        Α
12
   was between '96 and '98. We were in our
13
   neighborhood, and there was an altercation between
14
15 me and some of my gang friends --
              Um-hmm.
         0
16
              -- some women that were there and some of
17
   their friends. One of our friends got jumped,
18
   things got heated. I ended up assaulting one of the
19
    females that was there.
20
         Q
              Okay.
21
              Were the police called?
22
              Police was outside.
         Α
23
              Okay. The police were outside. Alrighty.
24
         Q
              Were you arrested?
25
```

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```
At the scene, yes.
        Α
1
             What happened after that?
2
             They took me down to -- it was 30- -- it
3
   was like 30- -- I believe it's like 32nd and
   Central, which is about two to three miles from
   where I lived or where my hood was at.
             Enemy turf?
        Q
7
             Yeah, because that's Florence, Florencia
8
          It's a Hispanic gang which can't stand any
   Bloods or Crips. And they booked me into the
10
   station, held me for about 30 minutes to an hour.
11
             Um-hmm.
        Q
12
              They did a fingerprint check on me.
13
        Q
              Okay.
14
              Came back clean, and the head officer
        Α
15
   basically told me, all right, we're not going to
16
   book you in. We know that it was real heated at the
17
   time, so we're just going to let you go.
18
              So, you were set loose in enemy turf?
19
              Um-hmm.
20
              Did you have any money to make a phone
21
    call to have anybody to come pick you up?
              They kept my money.
         Α
23
              Do you think that was on purpose?
         Q
24
              For the most part, yeah, that's what I
25
```

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```
believe.
1
             People who are in your neighborhood and
2
   most South Central neighborhoods don't have much
3
   trust of the police officers, do they?
             Very, very little.
5
             Moises, obviously, you testified
6
   previously, and we've had a chance to observe you,
7
   and you say you finished high school?
              Um-hmm.
        Α
9
              You even have some college?
        Q
10
              Yes. A little less than a year.
        Α
11
              Okay.
12
        Q
              But you have some?
13
              Um-hmm.
        Α
14
              That counts.
         0
15
              Yes.
         Α
16
              Are you gang-banging now?
17
         Q
              Not anymore.
1.8
              Well, how did you get out?
         Q
19
              Basically had to run away.
         Α
20
              What does that mean, sir?
         Q
21
              You kind of leave under the cover of the
         Α
22
            You try to -- just -- you had to leave
   night.
23
    everything behind. I left my mom's home, my brother
24
    and my sister behind, and I just left to friend's
25
```

```
house as far as I could go and I stayed there.
             Did there come a time when you were able
2
   to return safely?
3
              Later.
        Α
              How much later?
        0
5
              About two or three months, but it wouldn't
        Α
6
   be for -- I wouldn't stay there.
              And you were able to successfully
        Q
 8
   extricate yourself from that type of lifestyle?
              Fortunately.
         Α
10
              Were you raised by both your parents?
         Q
11
              Yes.
12
         Α
              Your father was in your life?
         Q
13
              My father was in the home.
         Α
14
              Your father was actually in the home with
         Q
15
16
   you?
              Yes.
         Α
17
              Along with your mother?
         Q
18
              Yes.
         Α
19
              Were they addicts?
         Q
20
         Ά
              No.
21
              Were they alcoholics?
22
         Q
              No.
         Α
23
              Did they ever lock you in the closet and
24
         0
    tell you that they were seeing ghosts?
25
```

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```
No.
        Α
1
             Did you ever fail to get enough to eat on
2
   a regular basis?
3
             No.
        A
4
             Did you start school on time or did you
5
   start school two years behind everybody else?
              I started on time.
7
        Α
              Did you ever live in a shack?
        Q
8
9
        Α
             No.
             Did you ever see your father hit your
10
   mother?
11
              A couple times.
        Α
12
              Okay. Fair enough.
         Q
13
              Did you ever see him knock her teeth out?
14
              No, not to that extent.
         Α
15
              Did you ever see him beat -- do you know
16
   what a "beat down" is, being from South Central?
17
              I know what a beat down is.
18
              Did your father give your mother beat
19
   downs, that type of thing?
20
              Not to that extent.
21
              Did you ever see your father hang your
22
   mother over a banister about her neck?
23
              No, never.
         Α
24
              MS. JACKSON: That's all I have.
25
```

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```
THE COURT: Cross-examination?
1
2
                     CROSS-EXAMINATION
3
  BY MR. STANTON:
             Mr. Zamora, if I understand your testimony
        Q
5
   correctly, you claim 67 Gangster Crips?
6
             Yes.
7
        Α
             And when did you jump into that?
8
             It was in -- it was the early part of --
9
   no, actually, it was the later part of '96.
10
             MS. JACKSON: Your Honor, for the record,
11
   he didn't jump in; he was jumped in. There's a big
12
   difference.
13
             MR. STANTON: I asked the question and he
14
   answered it, your Honor.
15
             MS. JACKSON: The record should be
16
   correct.
17
                            The record is quite correct.
             MR. STANTON:
18
              THE COURT: When you get him on cross, you
19
   can ask him.
20
              MR. STANTON: Thank you, your Honor.
21
   BY MR. STANTON:
22
              And when did the last time,
23
   chronologically, would you consider yourself
24
25
   banging?
```

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```
It was early 2000, late '99.
        Α
 1
 2
        Q
              And did you have a moniker?
              Excuse me?
 3
        Α
              Did you have a moniker when you were
 4
5
  banging?
              By that you mean --
        Α
 6
              Street name.
 7
        0
        Α
             Yeah. I was Mo.
 8
              Mo?
 9
              M-O.
10
        Α
              Mr. Zamora, you said to me about this time
11
        Q
   the police at least arrested you or put you in
12
   custody?
13
14
        Α
              Yes.
              You're not a convicted felon?
15
        Q
              No.
16
        Α
              You don't have any felony convictions or
17
        Q
18 | misdemeanor convictions?
              I have misdemeanor convictions.
19
              MS. JACKSON: Your Honor, that's not a
20
   proper question for impeachment account.
21
              THE COURT: That's correct.
22
              MR. STANTON: I'm not trying to impeach
23
24
  him.
              THE COURT: If you asked him the question,
25
```

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```
so that's correct. Sustained.
 2
              The jury is ordered to disregard it.
              MR. STANTON: My reason for asking is the
 3
  question is not --
 4
 5
              THE COURT: It's already sustained.
             MR. STANTON: If the purpose is not to
 6
   impeach, your Honor --
 7
 8
              THE COURT: It's the same effect.
   sustained. I'm not going to argue with you.
   already told you. All right?
10
   BY MR. STANTON:
11
             Were you forced to do any criminal
12
13
   activity in that gang?
14
              I think we all were.
             What type of crimes that you were dealing
15
        Q
   in, Mr. Zamora?
16
              I must talk about them?
17
        Α
             Well, let me put it to you this way:
18
19
   they property crimes?
20
        Α
             It was theft and shootings.
21
        Q
             Okay.
             And you said that you knew an individual
22
   by the name of Big Deko?
23
              I heard of him here in the courtroom.
24
        Α
25
        Q
             Okay.
```

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```
You don't know who he is?
 1
              I don't know him specifically.
 2
        Α
             Have you ever seen him before?
 3
              I've never seen him.
 4
        Α
             So, you wouldn't know his name?
 5
              I wouldn't know his name, no.
             Now, how -- when do you recall seeing the
        Q
   defendant as far as friendship? When did that
   begin?
             I think, like, a couple months after I met
10
   his sister was when I saw him for the first time.
             Do you remember a month or year? I'm just
12
   looking for approximations.
13
             Let's see. I met -- it was maybe about a
        Α
14
15
   month.
             But do you remember what month and year
        Q
16
   that would have been?
17
             Oh, umm -- let's see. I met her in April,
18
   so it may have been around May, June of '97.
19
             And when was the last time you saw the
20
21
   defendant?
              It was right around May -- it could have
22
   been May or June of '98.
23
              And you indicated that on a question by
24
   Miss Jackson about wanting things, that gang members
25
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727 (702) 455-3610

```
wanted things, and you mentioned Westwood and Culver
 1
   City.
 2
             Do you remember that testimony?
 3
        A
             Yes.
 4
             Westwood and Culver City are cities within
 5
   the greater Los Angeles area, correct?
 6
 7
        Α
             They're on the outer border parts of South
   Central.
 8
             So, when you say people wanted to get
 9
        Q
   things that they have in Westwood and Culver City, I
10
   believe is your testimony, is that because they're
11
   nicer areas?
12
13
        Α
             Yes.
             MR. STANTON: Nothing further.
14
              THE COURT: Counsel?
15
16
             MS. JACKSON: No redirect, your Honor.
17
   Thank you.
              THE COURT: All right. You're excused.
18
19
              THE WITNESS:
                            Thank you.
              THE COURT: Who's next?
20
             MR. WHIPPLE: Your Honor, I have Martin
21
22 Jankowski here ready to testify.
23
              THE CLERK: Sir, please remain standing
   and raise your right hand.
24
              (Qath administered.)
25
```

SONIA L. RILEY, CCR NO. 727 (702) 455-3610

	1		IN THE SUPREME	COURT OF NEVADA	
	2	DONTE JO	HNSON,	CASE NO. 65168	
	3		Appellant,		
	4	vs.			
	5	THE STAT	E OF NEVADA		
	6		Respondent.		
	7				
	8		OPENING BRII	EF APPENDIX	
	9	<u>VOLUME</u>	PLEADING		PAGE NO
	10	7	ADDENDUM TO NOTICE OF		
OR	11 12		SUPPORT OF AGGRAVATING (FILED 04/26/2000)	G CIRCUMS I ANCES	1733-1734
ER R. ORAM, LTD. STREET! SECOND FLOOR S, NEVADA 89101 63 FAX. 702.974-0623	13	6	AFFIDAVIT OF JOSEPH S. SC OF THE MOTION TO CONTIN		
Jram,] f Secc ada 89 ax. 702.	14		(FILED 12/14/1999)	(OL	1428-1433
HER R. (STREE' AS, NEV 563 F.	15	19	AMENDED EX PARTE ORDE WITHDRAWAL OF ATTORN	EY OF RECORD FOR	
CHRISTOPHER R. ORAM, LTD. SOUTH 4 TH STREET! SECOND FLOO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101 702.384-5563 FAX. 702.974-0623	16		MATERIAL WITNESS CHARI (FILED 08/24/2000)	LA SEVERS	4585
CH 520 SOU 1 Tel. 70	17	7	AMENDED JURY LIST		1922
41	18	8	(FILED 06/06/2000) AMENDED JURY LIST		1823
	19	O	(FILED 06/08/2000)		2131
	20	3	AMENDED NOTICE OF MOT TO VIDEOTAPE THE DEPOSI		
	21		CHARLA SEVERS (FILED 10/08/1999)		659-681
	22	31	APPELLANT'S OPENING BRI	ŒF	
	23	10	(FILED 02/03/2006)		7174-7225
		19	CASE APPEAL STATEMENT (FILED 11/08/2000)		4651-4653
	2526	42	CASE APPEAL STATEMENT (FILED 03/06/2014)		8200-8202
		31	APPELLANT'S REPLY BRIEF	,	0200-0202
	28	-	(FILED 05/25/2006)		7254-7283

CERTIFICATE FOR ATTENDANCE OF OUT 1 OF STATE WITNESS CHARLA CHENIQUA SEVERS AKA KASHAWN HIVES 2 (FILED 09/21/1999) 585-606 3 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OF EXHIBITS (FILED 04/17/2000) 1722 4 19 CERTIFICATION OF COPY 5 **DECISION AND ORDER** 6 (FILED 04/18/2000) 1723-1726 DEFENDANT JOHNSON'S MOTION TO SET BAIL 7 (FILED 10/05/1998) 294-297 8 DEFENDANT'S MOTION AND NOTICE OF MOTION 6 TO SUPPRESS EVIDENCE ILLEGALLY SEIZED 9 (FILED 12/03/1999) 1340-1346 10 DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR CHANGE OF VENUE (FILED 11-29-1999) 1186-1310 11 DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR DISCLOSURE OF ANY 520 SOUTH 4TH STREET | SECOND FLOOR 702.384-5563 | FAX. 702.974-0623 12 POSSIBLE BASIS FOR DISQUALIFICATION OF **DISTRICT ATTORNEY** CHRISTOPHER R. ORAM, LTD. 13 (FILED 11/29/1999) 1102-1110 14 DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR DISCLOSURE OF EXCULPATORY EVIDENCE PERTAINING TO THE 15 IMPACT OF THE DEFENDANT'S EXECUTION UPON VICTIM'S FAMILY MEMBERS 16 (FILED 11/29/19999) 1077-1080 TEL. 17 DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE JURY VENUE OF ALL POTENTIAL JURORS 18 WHO WOULD AUTOMATICALLY VOTE FOR THE DEATH PENALTY IF THEY FOUND MR. JOHNSON GUILTY OF 19 **CAPITAL MURDER** (FILED 11/29/1999) 1073-1076 20 DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR INSPECTION OF 21 POLICE OFFICER'S PERSONNEL FILES (FILED 11/29/1999) 1070-1072 22 DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR JURY QUESTIONNAIRE 23 (FILED 11/29/1999) 1146-1172 24 15 DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL (FILED 06/23/2000) 3570-3597 25 DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR PERMISSION TO 5 26 FILED OTHER MOTIONS (FILED 11/29/1999) 1066-1069 27 DEFENDANT'S MOTION IN LIMINE FOR ORDER 28 PROHIBITING PROSECUTION MISCONDUCT IN **ARGUMENT** (FILED 11/29/1999) 967-1057

				ļ
	1	4	DEFENDANT'S MOTION IN LIMINE REGARDING CO-DEFENDANT'S SENTENCES (FILED 11/29/1999)	964-966
	2			70 11 -700
	3	4	DEFENDANT'S MOTION IN LIMINE TO PRECLUDE EVIDENCE OF WITNESS INTIMIDATION (FILED 10/27/1999)	776-780
	4	5	DEFENDANT'S MOTION IN LIMINE TO PROHIBIT	
	5		ANY REFERENCES TO THE FIRST PHASE A THE "GUILT PHASE" (FILED 11/29/1999)	1063-1065
	7	~		1005-1005
	8	5	DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO ALLOW THE DEFENSE TO ARGUE LAST AT THE PENALTY PHASE (FILED 11/29/1999)	1058-1062
	9	5	DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO AUTHENTICATE AND	
	10		FEDERALIZE ALL MOTIONS, OBJECTIONS, REQUESTS AND OTHER APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES RAISED IN	
~	11		THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED CASE (FILED 11/29/1999)	1081-1083
CHRISTOPHER R. ORAM, LTD. SOUTH 4 TH STREET SECOND FLOOR LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101 702.384-5563 FAX. 702.974-0623	12	5	DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO BIFURCATE PENALTY PHASE	
	13		(FILED 11/29/1999)	1142-1145
8. Ora Eet S Evada Fax. 7	14	5	DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS STATE'S NOTICE	
CHRISTOPHER R. ORAM, LTD SOUTH 4 TH STREET SECOND F LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101 702.384-5563 FAX. 702.974-	15		OF INTENT TO SEEK DEATH PENALTY BECAUSE NEVADA'S DEATH PENALTY STATUTE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL	
CHRIS SOUTH LAS . 702.3	16		(FILED 11/29/1999)	1115-1136
520 S	17	5	DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO EXCLUDE AUTOPSY PHOTOGRAPHS	
	18		(FILED 11/29/1999)	1098-1101
	19	5	DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO PRECLUDE EVIDENCE OF ALLEGED CO-CONSPIRATORS STATEMENTS	
	20		(FILED 11/29/1999)	1091-1097
	21	5	DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF	
	22		PEREMPTORY CHALLENGES TO EXCLUDE JURORS WHO EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOUT CAPITAL	
	23		PUNISHMENT (FILED 11/29/1999)	1084-1090
	24	5	DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO REQUIRE PROSECUTOR	
	25		TO STATE REASONS FOR EXERCISING PEREMPTORY CHALLENGES	
	26		(FILED 11/29/1999)	1137-1141
	27	19	DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO SET ASIDE DEATH SENTENCE OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE MOTION	
	28		TO SETTLE RECORD (FILED 09/05/2000)	4586-4592

	1	1		
	4	3	DEFENDANT'S OPPOSITION TO STATE'S MOTION TO	
	1 2		VIDEOTAPE THE DEPOSITION OF CHARLA SEVERS (FILED 10/06/1999)	650-658
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify and affirm that this document was filed electronically with the Nevada
Supreme Court on the 9 th day of January, 2015. Electronic Service of the foregoing document
shall be made in accordance with the Master Service List as follows:
CATHERINE CORTEZ-MASTO Nevada Attorney General

STEVE OWENS Chief Deputy District Attorney CHRISTOPHER R. ORAM, ESQ.

<u>/s/ Jessie Vargas</u> An Employee of Christopher R. Oram, Esq.

BY: