BARRY R. HARRIS	
# 95363	
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEVAS	ΔC
BARRY HARRIS,	
APR 19	2019
NO: 76774 ELIZABETHA	BROWN FME COURT
STATE OF NEVADA, BY S. YOU	LERK
Hpellees.	
MEMORANDIM TO THE COURT	
THE CANDER TO THE COURT	
Comes Now, Appellant, BARR	X.R.
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HARRIS, IN pro-per, through this Mer	Moran-
Sum to the court, respectfully to	Morn
the Court that appointed appeal	
	<u> </u>
counsel is also trial counsel	Who
appellant suffered a complete by	Cok-
appellant suffered a complete by	
Joseph Communication prior to t	leir
APR 1 5 2019	
CLERK OF SUPPRING COURT	

under U.S. V. Nguyen, 262 F.3 998 (9th cir. 2001) appellant believes and contends herein that Damail Sheets was deliberstely indeffective as trial courseliby failing to represent appellant's retition For Mrit of Moddomus in this court prior to trial. Although this court has Mr. Sheets as appellant's counsel in this appeal Mr. Sheets has informed appellant and his family that he is in fact Not representing appellant is this appeal and Not to coll his office ever oppin | under Cuyler V. <u>Sullivar</u>, 100 S.Ct. 1708 (980), appellant

believes and contends herein that his trial was Sutile due to Mr. Sheets unwillingness to represent the issue of his Retition For Writ Of Mondomus to this court prior to trial. And as Such, appellant believes that New course Should be appointed to address the issue of appellment's Petition For Writ of Maddamus. Otherwise, Mr. Sheets Will No Joubt Vender this appeal tutile as Well. Id., see also attached hereto, appellant's Informal Poriet and the Retition For Writ of Mondomus; Reporter's Transcript: Findings Facts

And Conclusion of Law-by the lower Court. Again, the break down in Communications has resulted in the inladeque ate detense at trial and appellant Should Not have to Suffer the some on oppeal. U.S. V. Nauyen, Supla, See also attached documents). Appellant is tully aware of the fact that this cose Should have been dismissed and Counsel's failure to represent this motter demonstrates interfective assistance of Coursel. see Strickland V. Washington, Citation omitted).

The Whited States Supreme Court has held that an ineffective assistance of course! claim may be brought on direct appeal when such indefective-NESS is so egregiously clear (citation) Codelusion Bosted on the tolegoing, oppellant plays this court will issue its order for the appointment of New Coursel or provide other relied it may deem equitable DATED this 9 day & APRIL 2019. /SBARRY R. KIARRIS #95363 High Desert State Prison

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	J. Bossy R. Hossis, Declose undes
	penalty of perjusy under the lows of
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	the united States of America that the
	foregoing is true and correct see NRS
1.4	171.102 and NRS 208.165.
	DATED this 9 Jay of APRIL 2019
<u></u>	BARRY R. HARRIS #95363
	BARRY R. HARRIS #95363
	High Desert State Vison
	P.d. Box 650
	Indian Springs, Nevada
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DC CASE NO. C326569 NELDO, CLOCK COUNTY THE SUPPEME COURT OF NEVADA BARRY HARRIS, RETURNED UNFILED V. DEC 19 2018 CHEVASTIMA SHOWNT BY DEPUTY CLERK ON Appeal from the Fighth Judicial Distrit APPENDATS INTOMAL SUPPEMENTAL BRIEF PARRY HARRIS 2023. P. O. BOY 650		CASE NO	76774
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DEC 1 9 2018

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT DEPUTY CLERK

Appellant (Mr. Harris), in pro-per, respectfully request to be allowed to proceed and file this brief pulsuant to Nev. R. A. P. 46 (b). I. Statement of the issue presented The Sole issue presented by Mr. Horris is Whether the district Court abused it's discretion in not granting his Writ of Mondomus. II. Statement of the Case Mr. Harris's preliminary hearing had been deby I numerous times giving the state ample opportunities to

procure witness attendance, yet failed to do so, at the time of the actual hearing. The alleged victim specifically told the State that She would not oppered - she ad of time. see Reported 5 Transcript, 3:6-13, attached hereto. on October 28, 2017, the State requested a continuèce and a Material Witness Wallant for the victim. SEE Transcript, 2:6-7. Mr. Harris objected and Moved to dismiss the case. He argued that Where only minimal effort was made to procure a witnessis attendance,

	and those minimal efforts are unreas-
	onable, the case must be dismissed.
	The Justice Court essentially soid
	that although it had no jurisdiction,
	it would continue the cose regardless
	of Mr. Harris's procedural rights; the
	Willful foilure of the State to comply
	with important procedural rules; the
	réquirements de Hill and Bustosbe-
	couse it could see Transcript, 5:10-21.
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III. ARGUMENT Under usual circumstances, the State's failure to meet it's due diligence to serve their witness a subjecte, knowing that the Witness Was refusing to appeal, would result in a dismisse But, departing from what was expected under the law the two lower courts' Judges essentally ruled that Mr. Horris had No sights they were bound to respect. Dred Scott V. Santord 19 U.S. (How) 393 at 407 15 L.EJ 691 (1859), And in trul, allowed the State to by poss all sate qualds concerning Mr. Harris's

due process rights—in violation of the 5th and 14th Amendment to the V.S. Constitution. See attached Writ of Moddomus and the District Court's delial. Taken together, these facts exhibit a conscious indifference to Mr. Harris's Constitutional rights. Id. The district Court was to deter-Mile Whether the facts of Mr. Harris's case support the justice court's tinding that the prosecution had demonstrated "good couse" for the continuance of Mr. Harris's preliminary hearing. NRS 171. 196, Hill and Bustos.

Although the Justice Court de posted from the Nevada Supreme Court and it's Prophylactic doctrines such as Hill and Bustos, the District Court found that the Justice Court, did in fact, find under the law, that the state had Showed good course. See Reporters Transcript, 5:10-21: This statement by the Justice Coust contradicts the District Cout's Andings. Theretore, these blotont disregerds to Mr. Harris's Constitutional rights are more than strocious and Should come to all end. See Farrhow V.

	District Court, 64 Nex 109,126, 178 P. 20 371 0t
	379 (947).
<u> </u>	
	IV. CONCLUSION
	Bosed upon the foregoing, Mr. Horris
,	seeks a review of the district Court's
	findings as a Violation of State law
·	and all abuse of discretion. And as
	【大田 大田 ちゅうしょう はんしょ ロー・コート カーネー ネット こうちゃん (A) 知るとを収り込むと
<u> </u>	such, Mr. Harris respectfully request
	
	that the case be dismissed.
	Respectfully submitted this 17 day
-	ON DECEMBER, 2018.
	BARRY HARRIS#93363
	1 P.O. BOX 650
	INDIANSPRINGS, NV 89070

Certificate of Service Copy of the foregoing brief to the State by first-class Mail, postage prepared to: Steven Wolfson 200 LEWIS AVENUE, 360 Hood Las Vegas, Nevado 89155-1160 DATED this 17 Jay of DECEMBER, 2018 By BARRY HARRIS
P.O. BOX 650 INDIAN SPRINGS, NEVADA 89070

X

Reporter's Transcript

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IN THE JUSTICE'S COURT OF LAS VEGAS TOWNSHIP COUNTY OF CLARK, STATE OF NEVADA

STATE OF NEVADA.

Plaintiff.

ORIGINAL JC CASE NO. 17F15265X

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vs. BARRY HARRIS,

Defendant.

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT

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STATE'S MODION TO CONTINUE PRELIMINARY HEARING

HEFORE THE HONDRAFILE MELANIE ANDRESS-TOBIASSON JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017

APPEARANCES:

For the State:

GENEVIEWE CRACES Deputy District Attorney

For the Defendant:

SCOTT RAMSEY Deputy Public Defender

Reported by: Donna J. McCord, CCR #337

IAS VEITAS, NEVADA, OCTOBER 26, 2017, 12:04 P.M.

2017 OGT 31 A THE COURT: Barry Harris.

MS. CRACES: I'm making a motion, your JUSTIGE COURT time. We're going to be requesting a AS VEGAS NEVADAs warrant for your Honor if you're so

fter I speak with my team chief.

Essentially what happened is we were in contact with her. She did, Nicole Dotson, the named victim, she did identify herself. She was informed of the date of court, we did text message her a copy of the subpoena and she verified the address that we mailed the subpoena to as well and then she refused to promise to appear and we lost contact with her and we weren't able to get ahold of her again. So we were able to verify that we know where she lives, we did mail her a subpoena, we did text her a subpoena, we did speak with her. And part of the reason obviously we're requesting this is that it is a very serious case and we do know where she is.

> THE COURT: I'm just waiting for the file. Well, I know where you're going so

I'll let you make your record.

MR. RAMSEY: And, your Honor, we would object to any continuance at this point and move to dismiss. The State hasn't met their due diligence to serve her with a subpoena. There is no personal service. I'm not aware of anything in the Nevada Revised Statutes that allows the State to serve a subpoena via text message. There is, you know, some language about an oral promise to appear, but if she's saying she's not showing up to court or she's not promising to appear, that does not meet the statutory requirements, your Honor. There is no basis for a continuance here and we would be moving to dismiss.

MS. CRAGGS: And, your Honor, obviously our request is that the basis for the continuance is our own due diligence. We do know where she is. We do know that we're sending it to the right address. We do know that we texted a subpoena to the connect phone number and now she's simply refusing to appear.

THE COURT: Let me address this after we take a break. I have a bunch of motions in my file that your client sent to me.

MR. RAMSEY: I'm aware.

MS. CRACOS: Oh, I just saw that, yes. THE COURT: And I haven't really reviewed them in detail because he is represented by counsel, but I will look at them. So let me look at these and I'll make a ruling when I come back.

MR. RAMSEY: All right. Thank you.

MS. CRAGGS: Thank you.

(Recess.)

THE COURT: Barry Harris. All right. So let's address first, I have a bunch of motions. I'm not going to address those motions. If your client feels the need to file motions he can talk to you arrout that.

With regard to the State's request for a continuance, the representations were made that they made contact with her, she verified that the address was correct where they sent the subpoena, they texted her another copy of the subpoena and spoke to her, she indicated she was aware of the date, yes?

MS. CRACCS: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. CRAGGS: I believe she was told the date over the phone by the process server.

THE COURT: Okay.

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ansoript of Proceedings

1 TRAN 2 3 IN THE JUSTICE'S COURT OF LAS VEGAS TOWNSHIP 4 COUNTY OF CLARK, STATE OF NEVADA 5 6 STATE OF NEVADA, 7 Plaintiff, 8 vs. JC CASE NO. 17F15265X 9 BARRY HARRIS, 10 Defendant. 11 12 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT 13 OF 14 STATE'S MOTION TO CONTINUE PRELIMINARY HEARING 15 BEFORE THE HONORABLE MELANIE ANDRESS-TOBIASSON JUSTICE OF THE PEACE 16 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017 17 18 19 APPEARANCES: 20 For the State: GENEVIEVE CRAGGS 21 Deputy District Attorney 22 For the Defendant: SCOTT RAMSEY Deputy Public Defender 23 24 25 Reported by: Donna J. McCord, CCR #337

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, OCTOBER 26, 2017, 12:04 P.M.

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THE COURT: Barry Harris.

MS. CRAGGS: I'm making a motion, your Honor, to continue. We're going to be requesting a material witness warrant for your Honor if you're so inclined after I speak with my team chief.

Essentially what happened is we were in contact with her. She did, Nicole Dotson, the named victim, she did identify herself. She was informed of the date of court, we did text message her a copy of the subpoena and she verified the address that we mailed the subpoena to as well and then she refused to promise to appear and we lost contact with her and we weren't able to get ahold of her again. So we were able to verify that we know where she lives, we did mail her a subpoena, we did text her a subpoena, we did speak with her. And part of the reason obviously we're requesting this is that it is a very serious case and we do know where she is.

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1 MS. CRAGGS: Oh, I just saw that, yes. 2 THE COURT: And I haven't really reviewed 3 them in detail because he is represented by counsel, 4 but I will look at them. So let me look at these 5 and I'll make a ruling when I come back. 6 MR. RAMSEY: All right. Thank you. MS. CRAGGS: Thank you. 8 (Recess.) 9 THE COURT: Barry Harris. All right. So 10 let's address first, I have a bunch of motions. I'm 11 not going to address those motions. If your client 12 feels the need to file motions he can talk to you 13 about that. 14 With regard to the State's request 15 for a continuance, the representations were made 16 that they made contact with her, she verified that 17 the address was correct where they sent the 18 subpoena, they texted her another copy of the 19 subpoena and spoke to her, she indicated she was 20 aware of the date, yes? 21 MS. CRAGGS: Yes. 22 THE COURT: Okay. 23 I believe she was told the MS. CRAGGS:

date over the phone by the process server.

Okay.

THE COURT:

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MR. RAMSEY: And I would just want to — I mean, it's not an oral promise to appear as required by the statute.

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It's not and I don't think she THE COURT: was basing it — it wasn't technically a Bustos or a Hill. The representations are that they made contact with her, she indicated she was aware of the court date, she indicated that the address was correct where they sent the subpoena, they texted her a copy of the subpoena. Although I understand it doesn't technically fit under Hill or Bustos, I've always kind of taken the position, and we've talked about this, where if a witness is advised of the date and is aware of the date and has received a subpoena, even if technically it's not service as defined by the statute I don't think that it's now, believe me, differing minds differ, but it's always been my position that if you have those representations a witness knows they have to come to court. And I think that it's rarely the appropriate avenue to dismiss the charges as a result of that. If they had not made any contact with her or if they could not verify any of this or if they had contact with her and she said I'm not coming to court without receiving a subpoena, that would be a

I'm

1 different situation. 2 Under these circumstances I am going 3 to grant the State's motion for a continuance. going to reset in 15 days, November 9th at 4 5 10:00 a.m. 6 State, I know you were requesting a warrant. What I'm going to do first is I'm going to 8 set an order to show cause hearing for November 2nd 9 If we have the same situation on that date 10 then I will address the request for a warrant, okay? 11 MR. RAMSEY: What was the preliminary 12 hearing date? 13 THE COURT: The 9th at 10:00 a.m. 14 MR. RAMSEY: And I would like to --15 THE COURT: November 9th. Order to show 16 cause November 2nd. 17 MR. RAMSEY: And I would like to request 18 my client's release based on the State's failure to 19 procure their witness for the preliminary hearing. 20 He's prejudiced because he's still in custody on 21 this case based on the State's -22 THE COURT: Based on the representations 23 that were made, the serious nature of the charges, 24 the fact he does have another felony case in the

system, he's got a prior for battery with deadly

1	weapon with substantial bodily harm, I'm going to
2	deny that motion at this time. Of course at the
3	November 9th hearing we can readdress that if we're
4	in the same situation.
5	THE DEFENDANT: Please, your Honor, I've
6	been incarcerated for 60 days. It's been an ongoing
7	thing.
8	THE COURT: I understand.
9	THE DEFENDANT: Please, your Honor. I got
10	family out there. These are serious charges. If
11	they was against me I would show up in court
12	THE COURT: No.
13	THE DEFENDANT: and testify against
14	somebody if it was their case.
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16	. * * * *
17	Attest: Full, true, accurate transcript of
18	proceedings.
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20	/S/Donna J. McCord DONNA J. McCORD CCR #337
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Wit OF MANDAMUS

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2 3 4 5	NEVADA BAR NO. 0556 SCOTT A. RAMSEY, DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER NEVADA BAR NO. 13941 PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE 309 South Third Street, Suite 226 Las Vegas, Nevada 89155 Telephone: (702) 455-4685 Facsimile: (702) 455-5112 Attorneys for Defendant	
7	JUSTICE COURT, LAS VEGAS	
8	CLARK COUNTY NEVADA	
9	THE STATE OF NEVADA	
10	Plaintiff) CASE NO. 17E15265X	
11	v.) DEPT. NO. 10	
12	BARRY HARRIS,	_
13	Defendant. Defendant. Defendant. Defendant. DATE: November 2, 201 TIME: 8:30 a.m.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
14	4	
15	WRIT OF MANDAMUS/PROHIBITION	
16	COMES NOW, the Defendant, BARRY HARRIS, by and through	SCOTT A.
17	RAMSEY, Deputy Public Defender and respectfully petitions this Honorable Court f	or a Writ of
18	Mandamus ordering the Justice Court to dismiss the case against Mr. Harris.	
19	This Motion is made and based upon the following declaration, Mem	orandum of
20	Points and Authorities, and the transcript of Justice Court 10 proceedings on October	er 26, 2017,
21	which are attached.	
22	DATED this 29th day of October, 2017.	
23	PHILIP J. KOHN	
24	CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDE	¦R
25		
26	By: /s/Scott A. Ramsey SCOTT A. RAMSEY, #13941	
27	Deputy Public Defender	
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DECLARATION

SCOTT A. RAMSEY makes the following declaration:

- 1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada; I am a Deputy Public Defender for the Clark County Public Defender's Office appointed to represent Defendant Barry Harris in the present matter.
- 2. That I am the attorney of record for Defendant in the above matter; that I have read the foregoing Petition, know the contents thereof, and that the same is true of my own knowledge, except for those matters therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true; that Defendant, BARRY HARRIS (hereinafter "Mr. Harris"), personally authorizes me to commence this Writ of Mandamus action.
- 3. That the instant petition springs from the Justice Court granting the State's motion for a continuance of Mr. Harris's preliminary hearing. On October 26, 2017, the Defendant was set for a preliminary hearing. The State failed to procure the presence of the alleged victim and moved the Court to continue the hearing. The Court granted the Motion over Mr. Harris's objection despite the State's failure to demonstrate good cause for the continuance as required by statute.
- 4. I am more than 18 years of age and am competent to testify as to the matters stated herein. I am familiar with the procedural history of the case and the substantive allegations made by The State of Nevada. I also have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein or I have been informed of these facts and believe them to be true.
- 5. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. (NRS 53.045). EXECUTED this 29th day of October, 2017.

/s/Scott A. Ramsey SCOTT A. RAMSEY

IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS/PROHIBITION

COMES NOW the Defendant, BARRY HARRIS, by and through his counsel, SCOTT RAMSEY, the Clark County Public Defender's Office, and submits the following Points and Authorities in Support of Defendant's Petition for a Writ of Mandamus.

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUES

Did the Justice Court violate Mr. Harris' Due Process rights when it granted the State's motion for a continuance despite the State's failure to establish good cause or meet the legal standards established in <u>Hill</u> and <u>Bustos</u>?

STATEMENT OF FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Mr. Harris first appeared in Justice Court 10 on August 31, 2017 for his initial arraignment. The Court set a preliminary hearing for September 15, 2017. The day prior to Mr. Harris's preliminary hearing he was referred to Competency Court in case 17F15787X, so the Court referred the instant case to Competency Court. After a finding of competency, Mr. Harris again appeared in Justice Court on October 13, 2017. The Court set a preliminary hearing date for October 26, 2017.

On that date, Mr. Harris was present and ready to proceed with his preliminary hearing, but the alleged victim failed to appear. Unable to proceed with the hearing, the State moved to continue the case and requested a material witness warrant for the named victim. *See* attached Reporter's Transcript of State's Motion to Continue Preliminary Hearing (hereinafter "Transcript"), 2:6-7. In support of the Motion, the State made the following representations:

"Essentially what happened is we were in contact with her. She did, Nicole Dotson, the named victim, she did identify herself. She was informed of the court date, we did text her a copy of the subpoena and she verified the address that we mailed the subpoena to as well and then she refused to promise to appear and we lost contact with her and we weren't able to get a hold of her again."

At no point was the prosecutor under oath. See generally Transcript. Additionally, the prosecutor neither previously submitted an affidavit pursuant to Hill nor did the Defendant stipulate to an oral motion for a continuance pursuant to Bustos. See generally Transcript.

The defense objected and moved to dismiss the case. In support of the Motion to dismiss, defense counsel argued that "[t]he State hasn't met their due diligence to serve her with a subpoena. There is no personal service." Transcript, 3:2-6. Defense counsel also argued that Nevada law does not support serving a subpoena via text message, and while there is some language in support of oral promises to appear, the alleged victim specifically told the State she would not appear. Transcript, 3:6-13. Despite failing to submit a written affidavit pursuant to Hill, or being sworn under oath pursuant to Bustos, and over Mr. Harris's objection, the Court granted the continuance, set an Order to Show Cause hearing for November 2, and reset the preliminary hearing for November 9, 2017. Transcript, 6:2-9. The Court acknowledged that the State's motion did not comply with Hill nor Bustos, nor did the State's attempts to serve the alleged victim constitute service as defined by statute. Based on the Court's denial of Mr. Harris's Motion to dismiss despite the State's failure to comply with Nevada Supreme Court precedent, Mr. Harris submits the instant Writ requesting this Court order the Justice Court dismiss the charges against Mr. Harris.

¹ The court stated, "Although I understand it doesn't technically fit under Hill or Bustos, I've always kind of taken the position, and we've talked about this, where if a witness is advised of the date and is aware of the date and has received a subpoena, even if technically it's not service as defined by the statute, I don't think that it's – now, believe me, differing minds differ, but it's always been my position that if you have those representations a witness knows they have to come to court. And I think it's rarely the appropriate avenue to dismiss the charges as a result of that." Transcript, 5:10-21.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

I. A Writ of Mandamus/Prohibition is the Proper Remedy

Pursuant to N.R.S. 33.170, "a writ of mandamus shall issue in all cases where there is not a plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law." A writ of mandamus is available to compel the performance of an act which the law requires as a duty resulting from an office, trust or station² or to control an arbitrary or capricious exercise of discretion.³ A defendant must raise issues regarding improper Hill or Bustos motions before the new preliminary hearing date. See Stockton v. Sheriff, 87 Nev. 94 (1971). This Honorable Court's intervention is necessary because the Justice Court exceeded its jurisdiction and acted arbitrarily and capriciously by granting the State's continuance over defense objection. As the new preliminary hearing is set for November 9, 2017, Mr. Harris respectfully asks this Court to order the Justice Court to dismiss his case as the State failed to show good cause for its continuance.

II. The State failed to demonstrate good cause for a continuance.

The State has the burden of procuring its necessary witnesses for preliminary hearing. If the State fails to do so, it must show good cause to continue the hearing or the case must be dismissed. *See* N.R.S. 171.196. According to the Nevada Supreme Court:

"A prosecutor should be prepared to present his case to the magistrate at the time scheduled or show good cause for his inability to do so. This is not an unfair burden. The business of processing criminal cases will be frustrated if continuances are granted without good cause." Bustos v. Sheriff, Clark Cty., 87 Nev. 622, 624, 491 P.2d 1279, 1280 (1971).

A court must look at the totality of the circumstances when determining if "good cause" exists to grant a continuance. See Sheriff, Clark County v. Terpstra, 111 Nev. 860, 863 (1995). Granting a continuance without good cause gives the State leave to "frustrate the judicial system." See

² See N.R.S. 34.160

³ See Round Hill Gen. Imp. Dist. v. Newman, 97 Nev. 601, 637 P.2d 534 (1981).

Bustos, 87 Nev. at 624. There is no presumption that good cause exists when requesting a continuance. Ex Parte Morris, 78 Nev. 123, 125 (1962). "[O]ur criminal justice system can ill afford to bestow on prosecutors, or on defense counsel, largesse through continuances for which no cause is shown." See McNair v. Sheriff, Clark County, 89 Nev. 434, 436-37, 514 P.2d 1175, 1176 (1973). No legal principle requires a judge to "grant a continuance on the hope that a recalcitrant witness will later agree to testify." See McCabe v. State, 98 Nev. 604, 606-07 (1982); see also Zessman v. State, 94 Nev. 28, 31 (1978).

a. The State was not entitled to a continuance as it did not have good cause for its failure to meet the criteria set forth in Hill and Bustos.

The State has the burden of proving good cause if its witnesses are missing at the time set for the preliminary hearing. See generally Bustos, 87 Nev. 622; see also Hill v. Sheriff of Clark County, 85 Nev. 234 (1969). "Good cause" is shown through filing a written Hill motion or orally requesting a Bustos motion be granted. See generally Bustos, 87 Nev. 622; see also Hill v. Sheriff of Clark County, 85 Nev. 234 (1969). In Hill, the Nevada Supreme Court held the State acts in good faith when it asks for a continuance based on a missing essential witness as long as the State timely files an affidavit outlining:

- 1. the identity of the missing witness,
- 2. the diligence used to procure the witness' presence,
- 3. a summary of the expected testimony of the witness and whether there are other witnesses who could testify to the same information,
- 4. when the State learned the witness would not be present, and
- 5. the motion was made in good faith and not for purposes of delay.

Hill, 85 Nev. at 235-36.

The Court warned prosecutors that "they must either proceed to a preliminary hearing at the appointed time, or show good cause for a continuance by affidavit." See McNair v. Sheriff, Clark County, 89 Nev. 434, 437, 514 P.2d 1175, 1176 (1973). In Bustos, the Supreme Court held there are circumstances in which there is no time for the State to file a written affidavit, and therefore,

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would be permitted to make the motion orally while sworn under oath. See <u>Bustos</u>, 87 Nev. at 623.⁴ The Supreme Court explained there are two exceptions to the <u>Hill</u> rule that the good cause must be established through a written affidavit: 1. defense counsel stipulates to an oral argument or 2. the State was "surprised" by the witness' nonappearance. <u>Id.</u> In that case, the Court held there was "surprise" as the State had valid subpoena returns and did not know the witness would be absent until the time of the hearing. <u>Id.</u> at 624.

Condoning the State's willful failure to comply with the directives of Hill would effectively make the Supreme Court's precedent meaningless. See Maes v. Sheriff, Clark County, 86 Nev. 317, 318-19 (1970). "Willful" is not only intentional derelictions but also a conscious indifference on behalf of the State toward important procedural rules that affect a defendant's rights. See State v. Austin, 87 Nev. 81, 82-83 (1971). In cases where the State neither submitted a written affidavit nor provided sworn testimony in support of its motion to continue, the Supreme Court held the appropriate response was to deny the State's motion and dismiss the case against the defendant. See Clark v. Sheriff, Clark County, 94 Nev. 364 (1978) (reversing the denial of the defendant's habeas petition for failure to submit an affidavit or be sworn under oath); see also Reason v. Sheriff, Clark County, 94 Nev. 300 (1978) (reversing the denial of the defendant's habeas petition based on the State's failure to submit an affidavit or be sworn under oath); compare with State v. Nelson, 118 Nev. 399 (2002) (holding there was sufficient evidence based on the prosecutor's sworn testimony that the State was surprised by the witness' nonappearance); compare with Terpstra, 111 Nev. at 860 (holding the written affidavit outlining all of the Hill factors supported the trial court's finding of good cause).

While the State did identify the named witness, and there is no dispute that said witness would be necessary as she is the named victim, the State failed to meet the other four

⁴ The State would still be required to outline all of the factors as delineated in <u>Hill</u>. <u>Id</u>.

requirements outlined in Hill. See Transcript, 2:10-23. At no point during the State's motion was it indicated the expected testimony of the missing witness. See Transcript. At the time of the motion, the State argued it had previously had contact with the missing witness and knew of her current address but had since lost contact. Transcript, 2:10-17. Despite knowing the witness' address, the State never attempted to personally serve the missing witness. See Transcript. Additionally, the State never informed defense counsel nor the court of the date in which it last had contact with the missing witness or when the State learned the missing witness would be absent from the preliminary hearing. See Transcript. Finally, the State never argued that the motion for a continuance was made in good faith and not for the purpose of delay. See Transcript.

The State also failed to meet the standard required for "good cause" under <u>Bustos</u>. The State would have needed to show it was "surprised" by the missing witness' nonappearance; however, the State did not and could not argue it was surprised as the missing victim had previously informed the State she "refused to promise to appear." *See* Transcript, 2:16. Unlike <u>Bustos</u> where the prosecutor had valid subpoena returns, the State made no representations indicating it received any confirmation that the missing witness ever received the subpoena sent via the mail. *See generally* Transcript. Most importantly, the Court stated it was not granting the State's motion under <u>Hill</u> or <u>Bustos</u>. *See* Transcript, 5:4-11 ("it wasn't technically a Bustos or a Hill ... Although I understand it doesn't technically fit under Hill or Bustos..."). As the State's request failed to meet the standards outlined in <u>Hill</u> and <u>Bustos</u>, the State should not have received a continuance and the case against Mr. Harris should have been dismissed.

⁵ See Nelson, 118 Nev. at 399; see also Terpstra, 111 Nev. at 863.

b. The State's failure to either submit a written affidavit or give sworn testimony prohibits the State from receiving a continuance and requires a dismissal of the charges against Mr. Harris.

While the evidence is clear that the State's motion in this case was insufficient under Hill and Bustos and its progeny, Nevada law requires that either an affidavit or sworn testimony support the State's motion for a continuance. See Clark, 94 Nev. at 364; see also Reason, 94 Nev. at 300. In both of those cases, the Nevada Supreme Court held that the State's failure to submit an affidavit or provide sworn testimony required a denial of the State's motion for a continuance. See Clark, 94 Nev. at 364; see also Reason, 94 Nev. at 300. While the State did make representations on the record, at no point during this motion was the prosecutor under oath. See Transcript. In any of the above cited cases where "good cause" was found, the prosecutors had at least submitted an affidavit or swore under oath as to the requisite "surprise." In this case, as the State failed to comply with either of these requirements, they were not entitled to a continuance and the case against Mr. Harris should be dismissed.

c. The State did not otherwise demonstrate "good cause" to continue the preliminary hearing.

The State did not comply with the requirements of <u>Hill</u> and <u>Bustos</u>, so it must demonstrate good cause through other means for the Court to grant a continuance. "What constitutes 'good cause' is not amenable to a bright-line rule. The justice's court must review the totality of the circumstances to determine whether 'good cause' has been shown." <u>Terpstra</u>, 111 Nev. at 863, 899 P.2d at 550. Under the totality of the circumstances, the State did not demonstrate good cause to continue Mr. Harris's preliminary hearing.

In <u>Ormound v. Sherriff, Clark County</u> the Nevada Supreme Court reversed a district court's denial of a petition for a writ of habeas corpus based on the improper continuance of a

preliminary hearing. 95 Nev. 173, 591 P.2d 258 (1979). In that case, the prosecutor mailed a subpoena to an out-of-state witness, but did not utilize the Uniform Act to Secure the Attendance of Witnesses From Without a State in Criminal Proceeding. <u>Id</u>. The Court found the failure to use the Uniform Act was a willful disregard of procedural rules, and ordered the case to be dismissed. <u>Id</u>.

The Court reconsidered this issue in <u>Terpstra</u>, and overruled the finding in <u>Ormound</u> that a prosecutor must utilize the Uniform Act "before a justice's court can find 'good cause' for a continuance based on the absence of an out-of-state witness." <u>Terpstra</u>, 111 Nev. at 863, 899 P.2d at 550-551. Instead, the use of a legal means to compel the attendance of a witness is a significant factor to consider when determining if good cause exists to continue the hearing. "It is not, however, a dispositive factor; it merely goes to 'the diligence used by the prosecutor to procure the witness' attendance." <u>Id.</u> at 863, 550 (1995) (quoting <u>Bustos</u>, 87 Nev. at 622, 491 P.2d at 1279).

In this case, the State had a legal means available to compel the attendance of the witness, and failed to use it. NRS 174.315(2) permits a prosecutor to issue a subpoena to compel the attendance of a witness at a preliminary hearing. NRS 174.345 mandates that "service of a subpoena *must* be made by delivering a copy thereof to the person named" (emphasis added) unless an exception applies. The only exception applicable to the witness in this case is NRS 174.315(3), which states that a "witness may accept delivery of a subpoena in lieu of service, by a written or oral promise to appear given by the witness."

In this case, there is no indication that the State even attempted to make personal service upon the witness. See Transcript. Furthermore, the witness actually "refused to promise to appear." See Transcript, 2:16-17. As the witness did not accept the mailed subpoena by oral promise to appear, the exception to personal service in NRS 174.315(3) does not apply in this

case. The State argued at the date of preliminary hearing that it sent the witness a subpoena via text, but no statute permits service by text message; to the contrary, the statute specifies that personal service is required.

Under the holding in Terpsta, the State's failure to even attempt to properly serve the witness requires dismissal of the case. Although not dispositive, the State's failure to personally serve the missing witness, despite knowing where she lived, is significant and shows a willful disregard for important procedures. In Bustos, the prosecutor had properly subpoenaed the missing witness and was truly surprised the witness' nonappearance; in comparison, in Salas v. State, the prosecutor had not even issued a subpoena. In that case, the court held that failing to issue a subpoena was not good cause for a continuance. See Salas, 91 Nev. at 802. In this case, the State did not eve attempt proper service. While the State did mail a subpoena to the witness, without an oral promise to appear, simply mailing a subpoena is not proper service. The State had various opportunities and methods in which it could have attempted to guarantee the missing witness's presence, yet failed to do so. As such, the State did not have good cause to request a continuance and Mr. Harris's case should be dismissed with prejudice.

d. The State's conscious indifference to important procedures requires Mr. Harris' case to be dismissed with prejudice.

"A new proceeding for the same offense (whether by complaint, indictment or information) is not allowable when the original proceeding has been dismissed due to the willful failure of the prosecutor to comply with important procedural rules." See Maes, 86 Nev. at 319, 468 P.2d at 333. The Nevada Supreme Court continues to strictly adhere to the important procedural rules regarding continuances. The State had a duty to prepare for the preliminary hearing, and had a legal means to compel the presence of the witness, but failed to do so. The

⁶ Bustos, 87 Nev. at 623.

⁷ 91 Nev. 802 (1975).

State failed to follow the statutory requirements in serving a subpoena, and failed to follow the basic procedural precepts by submitting a written affidavit or sworn testimony supporting its request for the continuance. As such, Mr. Harris is requesting that this Honorable Court dismiss the instant case against him with prejudice, based upon the State's willful disregard of his constitutional right to Due Process under the 5th and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution.

CONCLUSION

Hill, Bustos, and their progeny are not mere suggestions; they are legal requirements. Good cause must not be set aside for a missing witness who had no contact with the State. This Honorable Court must not condone the State's abject failure to comply with basic rules governing requests to continue trials. In order to allow the State's continuance to stand, this Honorable Court must not only set aside Mr. Harris' Constitutional rights, but also those of Ms. Dotson, a person who has never been accused of wrongdoing in this matter. Therefore, and based on the foregoing, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Honorable Court issue the writ of mandamus/prohibition ordering the Justice Court to dismiss the charges against Mr. Harris in this matter with extreme prejudice.

DATED this 29th of October, 2017.

PHILIP J. KOHN CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

By:		
S	SCOTT A. RAMSEY, #13941	_
Ι	Deputy Public Defender	

NOTICE OF MOTION

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2	TO: CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, Attorney for Plaintiff:
3	YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Public Defender's Office will bring the
4	above and foregoing MOTION on for hearing before the Court on the 2nd day of November,
5	2017, at 8:30 a.m.
6	DATED this 29th day of October, 2017.
7	PHILIP J. KOHN
8	CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
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10	By: /s/Scott A. Ramsey
11	SCOTT A. RAMSEY, #13941 Deputy Public Defender
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15	RECEIPT OF COPY
16	RECEIPT OF COPY of the above and foregoing MOTION is hereby
17	acknowledged this day of October, 2017.
18	CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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20	By:
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ristrict Court's Findings Fects AND Conclusion of

1 FCL Judge Douglas E. Smith 2 Eighth Judicial District Court Department VIII 3 Regional Justice Center 200 Lewis Avenue 4 Las Vegas, Nevada 89155 5 (702)671-4338 6 DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 7 THE STATE OF NEVADA, 8 9 Plaintiff. -VS-10 CASE NO: A-17-764110-W BARRY HARRIS. 11 #1946231 DEPT NO: VIII 12 Defendant. 13 FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING DEFENDANT'S PETITION FOR WRIT OF 14 15 MANDAMUS/PROHIBITION DATE OF HEARING: SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 16 TIME OF HEARING: 8:00 AM 17 THIS CAUSE having come on for hearing before the Honorable DOUGLAS E. 18 SMITH, District Judge, on the 21st day of September 2017, the Petitioner not being 19 present, begin represented by PHILLIP KOHN, Clark County Public Defender, by and 20 through SCOTT RAMSEY, Deputy Public Defender, the Respondent being 21 represented by STEVEN B. WOLFSON, Clark County District Attorney, by and 22 through GENEVIEVE CRAGGS, Deputy District Attorney, and the Court having 23 considered the matter, including briefs, transcripts, and documents on file herein, now therefore, the Court makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law: 24 25 FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW On August 21, 2017, Barry Harris (hereinafter "Defendant") was charged by 26 way of criminal complaint with the following: BURGLARY (Category B Felony -27 NRS 205.060 - NOC 50424); FIRST DEGREE KIDNAPPING (Category A Felony -28

DOUGLAS E. SMITH DISTRICT JUDGE

DEPARTMENT EIGHT LAS VEGAS NV 89155

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NRS 200.310, 200.320 - NOC 50051); BATTERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON CONSTITUTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Category B Felony - NRS 200.481; 200.485; 33.018 - NOC 57935); BATTERY CONSTITUTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - STRANGULATION (Category C Felony - NRS 200.481; 200.485; 33.018 - NOC 54740); OWNERSHIP OR POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY PROHIBITED PERSON (Category B Felony - NRS 202.360 - NOC 51460); and CARRYING CONCEALED FIREARM OR OTHER DEADLY WEAPON (Category C Felony - NRS 202.350 (1)(d)(3) - NOC 51459) On August 31, 2017, Defendant was arraigned on the aforementioned charges and pleaded not guilty.

On September 15, 2017, Defendant was sent for a competency evaluation. On October 13, 2017, Defendant was scheduled to return for competency proceedings. However, he was combative with officers so was not present. His preliminary hearing was set for October 26, 2017.

On October 26, 2017, the State requested a continuance based on the due diligence of the State and the evidence presented that the victim in the case knew of the court date but chose not to appear. The Honorable Judge Tobiasson granted the States' continuance over the Defendant's objection. An Order to Show Cause Hearing for the victim was scheduled for November 2, 2017, and a preliminary hearing was scheduled for November 9, 2017.

On November 3, 2017, Defendant filed an Emergency Motion for Stay of Justice Court Proceedings and the instant Writ was filed. The preliminary hearing date of November 9, 2017 was vacated. The State filed its Response on November 21, 2017.

The writ of mandamus is an extraordinary writ. State v. Dist. Ct. (Riker), 121 Nev. 225, 231, 112 P.3d 1070, 1074 (2005). The purpose of such a writ is to compel the performance of an act which the law requires as part of the duties arising from an office, trust, or station. Id. The purpose is not to act as an assignment of error, and it may not be used to correct errors by inferior tribunals, though it may be used to rectify

NRS 171.196 provides that the magistrate shall hear the evidence within 15 days, unless for good cause shown. NRS 171.196(2). Indeed, a magistrate may set a preliminary hearing beyond the statutory 15 day period when necessary. See Stevenson v. Sheriff, 92 Nev. 525 (1975). Factors constituting good cause include: the condition of the calendar, the pendency of other cases, public expense, the health of the judge, and even the convenience of the court. See Shelton v. Lamb, 85 Nev. 618 (1969).

This Court must be cautious in reviewing the lower court's rulings. This Court must truly look to see if the lower court judge abused their discretion and must not decide the factual issues of the case. This Court's decision must look to the totality of the circumstances to determine whether or not the decision of the Justice of the Peace was an abuse of discretion.

The State must demonstrate good cause for securing a continuance of a preliminary examination. See Sheriff, Nye County v. Davis, 106 Nev. 145, 787 P.2d 1241 (1990); see also McNair v. Sheriff, Clark County, 89 Nev. 434, 514 P.2d 1175 (1973). The requirements outlined in Bustos v. Sheriff, Clark County, 87 Nev. 622, 624 (1971) and Hill v. Sheriff of Clark County, 85 Nev. 234 (1969), are avenues in which the State may demonstrate good cause in order to receive a continuance. However, these avenues are sufficient to demonstrate good cause, but not necessary.

The basis for the continuance and the basis for the State's request come from NRS 171.196(2). NRS 171.196(2) states in pertinent part, "[i]f the defendant does not waive examination, the magistrate shall hear the evidence within 15 days, unless for good cause shown the magistrate extends such time."

A motion to continue a preliminary hearing is not limited solely to the narrow factual confines of either Hill or Bustos; the justice's court must review the totality of the circumstances to determine whether 'good cause' has been shown." Sheriff, Clark Cty. v. Terpstra, 111 Nev. 860, 863, 899 P.2d 548, 551 (1995). "Good cause is not amenable to a bright-line rule." Id. at 862. In Hernandez v. State, the Nevada Supreme Court found that, "[i]n determining whether the proponent of preliminary hearing testimony has met its burden of proving that a witness is constitutionally unavailable, the touchstone of the analysis is the reasonableness of the efforts." 124 Nev. 639, 651, 188 P.3d 1126, 1134 (2008).

It is not necessary for a witness to be personally served in order for the State to show good cause for a continuance. <u>Terpstra</u>, 111 Nev. at 863.

Supreme Court made clear that the granting of a continuance was a totality of the circumstances review. The defendant in Nelson filed a Writ arguing that the State's continuance did not conform to the specific requirements of Hill or Bustos and thus the Writ should be granted. Id. at 403. The District Court dismissed the case based on the rationale that the continuance did not conform to either Hill or Bustos. Under a totality of circumstances analysis, the District Court's decision was reversed by the Nevada Supreme Court. Id. at 404-05.

The Justice Court did not manifestly abuse its discretion by finding that the State showed good cause through due diligence to procure the named victim in the instant case. The State clearly laid out for the court that the witness was in fact the named victim in the case. Additionally, the State explained that the witness knew of the court date, and yet purposefully did not show up. The State knew she received the

subpoena as she verified the phone number to which the subpoena was texted, and also verified the address where the subpoena was sent. The State's process server told the named victim of the date, and she specifically refused to promise to appear. The intentional and deliberate actions of the witness not to come to court coupled with the State's due diligence to procure her presence shows through the totality of the circumstances that good cause was presented to the court.

ORDER

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Petition for Mandamus/Prohibition shall be, and it is, hereby denied.

DATED this 27th day of November, 2017

Douglas B. Smith
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 9

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 27th day of November 2017, a copy of this Order was electronically served to all registered parties in the Eighth Judicial District Court Electronic Filing Program and/or placed in the attorney's folder maintained by the Clerk of the Court and/or transmitted via facsimile and/or mailed, postage prepaid, by United States mail to the proper parties or per the attached list as follows:

Genevieve Craggs, <u>Genevieve.craggs@clarkcountyda.com</u> Scott Ramsey, <u>Scott.ramsey@clarkcountynv.gov</u>

Jill Jacoby, Judicial Executive Assistant