

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

COLE DUANE ENGELSON

Appellant,

vs.

THE STATE OF NEVADA

Respondent.

Docket No. 82691

Appeal From A Judgment of Conviction (Jury Trial)
Fifth Judicial District Court
The Honorable Robert Lane, District Judge
Court No. CR9226

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Electronically Filed
Jul 23 2021 05:59 p.m.
Elizabeth A. Brown
Clerk of Supreme Court

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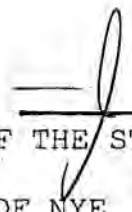
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No. CR-9226

Dept. No. 2

FILED
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FEB 05 2021


Nye County Clerk
Deputy

IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF NYE

THE HONORABLE ROBERT W. LANE, DISTRICT JUDGE

-oOo-

ORIGINAL

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

COLE D. ENGELSON,

Defendant.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
JURY TRIAL - DAY 6

NOVEMBER 12, 2020
9:05 A.M.
PAHRUMP, NEVADA

APPEARANCES:

For the State:

CHRIS ARABIA, ESQ.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
KIRK D. VITTO, ESQ.
CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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For the Defendant:

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DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
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The Defendant:

COLE D. ENGELSON

Reported by: CECILIA D. THOMAS, RPR, CCR No. 712

I N D E XWITNESSES FOR THE STATE:PAGELEONARDO ROQUERO, MD (VOIR DIRE - OUTSIDE THE PRESENCE)

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reference the victim

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49A - One-page Report of Investigation/
Autopsy Report/two-page Toxicology
Report NMS Labs/four-page diagram
of injuries to Ms. Camp/one-page
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(as
identified)

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1 PAHRUMP, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA, THURS., NOVEMBER 12, 2020

2 9:05 A.M.

3 -oOo-

4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5
6 (Whereupon State's Proposed Exhibit
7 Nos. 35, 49A, 68A through J, and 69 are
8 marked prior to commencement of the
9 proceedings.)

10 (Proceedings commence outside the
11 presence.)

12 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

13 THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated.

14 Okay. We're back on Day 5 (sic) of the
15 Engelson case. We're outside the presence of the
16 jury. There's some argument to be made.

17 MR. VITTO: Thank you, Your Honor. I would
18 like to begin with no objections or stipulations to
19 State's Proposed Exhibits 69, which is simply a
20 weather report of the day in question.

21 MR. MARTINEZ: That's correct, Judge;
22 there's a stipulation to admit that.

23 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

24 MR. VITTO: There's a stipulation to the
25 Forensic Toxicology Report as it pertains to the

1 decedent and her autopsy. That's State's Exhibit 35.

2 THE COURT: Stipulated?

3 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes, Judge.

4 THE COURT: All right. 69 and 35 are
5 admitted.

6 (Whereupon State's Exhibit Nos. 69 and
7 35 are admitted into evidence.)

8 MR. VITTO: And there's no objection to
9 Exhibit 49A which is the actual autopsy that we'll be
10 reviewing with Dr. Roquero this morning.

11 MR. MARTINEZ: Well, there will be no
12 objection once he's on the stand and lays the
13 foundation and testifies.

14 MR. VITTO: Okay. No worries.

15 THE COURT: What did you say 35 was? How
16 is it different from 49A?

17 MR. VITTO: 35 is the Toxicology Report
18 aspect.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

20 Anything else?

21 MR. VITTO: We're marking some photographs
22 68A through something. We're going to get to be
23 around J, I think. And the Defense will not be
24 arguing against the admission of those photographs so
25 long as they're properly authenticated by the witness.

1 The exhibits that the Defense would now
2 like to address are photographs of the autopsy arguing
3 that they're cumulative or gruesome or otherwise
4 prejudicial, and my argument is going to be the law is
5 so well settled in this case. I'm just going to
6 reference Wallace v. State, a very recent decision
7 November of this year -- excuse me, Wallace v. State
8 is November 7 of 1968. It's an old decision that
9 merely echoes what is a very well settled area of law.

10 Photographs, autopsy photographs, death
11 photographs are not inadmissible simply because they
12 damage the Defense. And specifically what the Court
13 will see with each of these photographs is that in the
14 Autopsy Report, Dr. Leonardo Roquero who performed the
15 autopsy as the forensic pathologist uses a lot of
16 scientific terminology. He uses a lot of ten dollar
17 words. He uses a couple of \$25 words. He uses
18 language and phraseology which is beyond the kin of
19 the laymen.

20 I have asked Dr. Roquero to provide me with
21 the photographs that he needs, and this mirrors the
22 language that comes from the Nevada Supreme Court.
23 These are the photographs that he needs to be able to
24 describe to the jury the injury that he observed.

25 Therefore, I believe that all of the

1 photographs that he needs to explain what he saw are
2 admissible. It's not -- the State shouldn't be
3 punished by keeping photographs out, a lot of
4 photographs, when the fact that the cause of death is
5 multiple blunt force injuries. It's not the State's
6 fault that Yessenia was beat as many times as she was,
7 as badly as she was, over her whole body. It's not my
8 fault that it takes a lot of photographs to
9 demonstrate the amount and the severity of each of the
10 injuries. And it clearly militates contrary to the
11 position that this was an accident or this was
12 something that could possibly have been forgotten or
13 overlooked or anything else.

14 Frankly, the defendant was the artist.
15 Yessenia's body was the canvas. He painted it.
16 Dr. Roquero needs to explain it. And he needs these
17 photographs in order to do so.

18 THE COURT: Thank you.

19 MR. MARTINEZ: Your Honor, the State has
20 given us everything that they want to use. There are
21 five pictures specifically that we're asking the Court
22 to keep out. I agree with Mr. Vitto's assessment of
23 the law. The one thing I would add, with anything the
24 analysis is whether or not the danger of unfair
25 prejudice substantially outweighs the probative value

1 of these pictures. And that's where I'm going to,
2 Your Honor. When we're talking about pictures,
3 gruesome pictures, pictures of death, one of the
4 things the Court does need to consider is whether or
5 not they're going to be so shocking and strike at the
6 emotions of the jury to create that danger of unfair
7 prejudice to the defendant.

8 In this case the five pictures that I am
9 talking about are pictures not just of the decedent --
10 we've seen some of those already at the Emergency Room
11 and there will be some more of the exterior pictures.
12 These are interior pictures that I am talking about,
13 Judge. One of them is her cut open in her chest with
14 her chest open, and we can see her intestines and her
15 lungs and her kidneys and all of her organs. There's
16 another one that's just those same inside organs
17 sitting on the table. There's another picture where
18 Yessenia's head is cut open, and we are looking down
19 into her brain.

20 These are gruesome pictures. I don't
21 believe that they are necessary for Dr. Roquero to
22 explain to the jury the injuries that she suffered. I
23 think it's reasonable that he can do that without
24 these pictures and without getting into that danger of
25 unfair prejudice, and that's why I'm asking the Court

1 to exclude him.

2 I know Dr. Roquero is here. So I would
3 certainly think that would be reasonable if the Court
4 wanted to hear from him specifically why he needed
5 these pictures and whether or not he could adequately
6 explain his diagnosis without the pictures being
7 there, without those pictures being introduced.

8 THE COURT: I concur with everything Kirk
9 said, and I concur with everything you said, because
10 it's a three-year-old little girl. Any picture you
11 show is going to inflame that emotion of the child
12 being killed. There is no way to avoid that in this
13 trial. So as Kirk was saying we have these numerous
14 photos, the first thought in my head was, was any of
15 them redundant? Photo B shows a bruise on her arm,
16 and photo Q shows the same bruise on her arm. That's
17 redundant; we don't need both of them.

18 So when it was your turn, you said that
19 there were five you object to, and you told me about
20 three of them. I assume a couple of them are
21 redundant. You said the first one was the cut-open
22 chest showing the intestines, lungs, and kidneys.
23 B was the organ on the table. C was the head cut open
24 and the brain. So you told me about three out of
25 five, but two of them may be redundant; I don't know.

1 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes, Judge. Another is --
2 Ms. Boskovich is showing them to me here on my left.
3 Another is Yessenia's scalp being peeled off of her
4 skull.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MR. MARTINEZ: And then the last one is, I
7 believe, just the inside of her skull once her brain
8 was removed.

9 THE COURT: All right. Now, obviously, the
10 remedy to this is Kirk said that every picture there
11 is -- the doctor's going to have to explain it to the
12 jury and it's relevant, more probative than
13 prejudicial. So obviously we're going to have to get
14 the doctor in here before the jury and ask him about
15 those five pictures; why do we want those in.

16 MR. VITTO: We're ready to go. We're ready
17 to go right now.

18 MR. MARTINEZ: Fine, Judge. Sounds good.

19 MR. VITTO: And this is 49. I'm going to
20 go ahead and mark these. We'll just address those
21 five.

22 (Whereupon State's Proposed Exhibit
23 Nos. 49B through P are marked for
24 identification.)

25 THE COURT: Sir, if you'll approach up here

1 to the witness stand. We're going to ask you to raise
2 your right hand and be sworn. We're going to swear
3 him in again when the jury's here.

4 THE BAILIFF: Raise your right hand and
5 face the clerk,
6 Whereupon,

7 LEONARDO ROQUERO, M.D.,
8 called as a witness on behalf of the State, was sworn
9 and testified as follows:

10 THE WITNESS: I do.

11 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. Have a seat.

12 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Pull up close to the
14 microphone.

15 And Daniel, Kirk just asked her for the
16 whole litany of photos. I assume he's going to look
17 for those five. We could speed it up by just saying
18 here's the five.

19 MR. MARTINEZ: I'm going to know which five
20 they are, Judge. I know what order those photos are
21 in so they're going to be the last five in one of the
22 State's exhibits.

23 THE CLERK: It starts at 49B, though;
24 right?

25 MS. WARD: Yes, it starts at 49B.

1 MR. VITTO: Oh, it starts at 49B, Sarah.

2 THE CLERK: 49B?

3 MR. VITTO: Yeah. And it's going to be the
4 last five of those. And that's B through -- it's B
5 through M. So we need -- what's five up from M. I
6 will have Sarah mark those first.

7 THE COURT: You high IQ persons can figure
8 that out quickly. I bet you did instantly, huh?

9 MR. VITTO: I, J, K, L, M.

10 THE COURT: There's a litany for marking
11 these photographs that the State's going to have you
12 testify to. The Defense is objecting to five. So he
13 brought you in outside the presence of the jury so we
14 can show you those five photos. So you can tell us
15 why we should have those five photos in. So we're
16 going to do that in just a moment.

17 THE WITNESS: Sure.

18 MR. VITTO: Feel free. Pick out your five.
19 Let's get them marked, and we'll get going.

20 Your Honor, has Dr. Roquero been sworn?

21 THE COURT: Yes.

22 MR. VITTO: Do you mind if I start, kind of
23 explain where we are and what we're doing?

24 THE COURT: I just did.

25 MR. VITTO: Okay. Thank you. Sorry, I was

1 preoccupied.

2 THE COURT: Columbo -- I mean Mr. Vitto?

3 THE COURT: Okay. We're back on the
4 record. And we'll turn it over to Mr. Vitto or
5 Mr. Martinez to go through the photos one at a time
6 and tell us why they're more probative than prejudice.

7 MR. VITTO: Yeah. I'll start, and then
8 help you out.

9 (VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION TAKES PLACE
10 OUTSIDE THE PRESENCE.)

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. VITTO:

13 Q. Dr. Roquero, you see some photographs in
14 front of you that should be marked State's Proposed
15 Exhibits 49. And then is it I through M?

16 MR. MARTINEZ: Madam clerk, what was the
17 first of those pictures?

18 THE CLERK: It is, yeah, I through M.

19 THE WITNESS: I received five photos and
20 they are I through M; correct.

21 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Great. Now, you recall you
22 and I had a conversation, a few conversations, a lot
23 of email conversations; and at one point I had asked
24 you to identify some photographs that would help you
25 explain to the jury your findings and your testimony;

1 do you recall that?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. And you gave us certain photographs that
4 would be helpful to you to explain to the jury; is
5 that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Are those five photographs, photographs
8 that would help you explain to the jury the injury you
9 observed and your findings?

10 A. Yes.

11 MR. VITTO: To the extent that you want to
12 get into any specifics.

13 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay.

14 CROSS-EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. MARTINEZ:

16 Q. Good morning, Dr. Roquero.

17 A. Good morning, sir.

18 Q. I guess I will start with a simple question
19 here. With those five photos -- and we may go through
20 them individually -- are you able to explain your
21 findings and your diagnoses without those photos?

22 A. I can, but the photo will give more
23 appreciation of the words and the statements that I
24 report.

25 Q. Okay. So you -- and I guess I'm looking

1 for a gauge here, which I know is hard, because we're
2 trying to quantify something that is not quantifiable.
3 Are the pictures going to help the jury explain
4 everything -- help you explain everything to the jury
5 a little bit more or a lot bit more?

6 A. A lot bit more in terms of the location,
7 because I will be using medical terms that sometimes
8 is very hard or a little challenging for any
9 nonmedical jurors or any nonmedical individuals in the
10 court. So and pardon me on that one, but sometimes
11 there's no getting around medical terms, but the
12 photos will help a lot more in terms of what medical
13 terms I am saying or I am stating to the Court.

14 Q. Okay. So you're going to be pointing at
15 the picture and basically say, "This is what I mean"?

16 A. Correct. And what part of that body I am
17 talking about.

18 Q. But you are able to explain it without the
19 pictures?

20 A. I can, but it would be more -- there will
21 be more appreciation in the words that I am saying as
22 far as the medical terms that I will be using and then
23 referring my statement to the photos.

24 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay; understood. No more
25 questions, Judge.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Vitto?

2 MR. VITTO: Just real briefly, real
3 briefly.

4 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. VITTO:

6 Q. Doctor, you're going to be able to say
7 words to the jury; correct?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. But with the photographs, you're going to
10 be able to say, "And this is what I mean"?

11 A. That is correct.

12 MR. VITTO: Judge, these photographs should
13 be admitted.

14 THE COURT: Anything else.

15 MR. MARTINEZ: Judge, my only argument is
16 he did say he could explain it to the jury without the
17 photographs, and that would be my request.

18 THE COURT: All right. Let me think for a
19 second. Will you let me think?

20 You're going to explain the cause of death
21 of the child and the injuries that happened to her.
22 And you're going to go through 20 or 30 pictures,
23 however many Mr. Vitto has, as you explain to the
24 jury, "Here's this bruise. Here's this bite mark,"
25 whatever; I don't know. I haven't seen the evidence

1 yet myself. I don't even know what your holding. But
2 the point is apparently, at some point you're going to
3 pull out a picture, and it's going to be the inside of
4 the skull with the brain removed, if I understood you
5 correctly?

6 MR. MARTINEZ: I believe so.

7 THE COURT: That's the fifth one that you
8 said to me was, "Here's a photo of the child with the
9 brain removed, the inside of the skull." And when
10 they pull up that picture and show it to you, you're
11 going to explain why that picture is important, what
12 relevance it has.

13 THE WITNESS: That is correct.

14 THE COURT: All right. We'll allow the
15 pictures then.

16 MR. VITTO: Thank you, Judge.

17 THE COURT: I don't want Mr. Vitto to say,
18 "Now, here's the picture of the skull with the brain
19 being out of the skull. Tell me what's relevant about
20 that?" And him say, "Oh, nothing. It's just another
21 picture." That would be prejudicial. But if you can
22 explain why it's relevant, we'll go forward.

23 MR. VITTO: Thank, Judge.

24 THE COURT: Of course you're free to
25 object.

1 Anything else we need to do outside the
2 presence of the jury?

3 MR. VITTO: Not for me, Judge. I would
4 like to get those photographs back to the clerk.
5 We'll call Alexandra Fernandez briefly for some
6 photographs, and then we'll pick up with Dr. Roquero
7 for probably the rest of the morning.

8 THE COURT: Okay. So we're going to ask
9 you to step down, and we'll bring you back shortly.
10 If you need coffee or anything, let my staff know.

11 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 (The jurors are brought into the
13 courtroom.)

14 THE COURT: All right. We're back in the
15 presence of our 15 jurors. I hope you all had a nice
16 holiday. We're on the State's case in chief, direct
17 exam. They're going to call their next witness now.

18 MR. VITTO: Your Honor, the State would
19 call Alexandra Fernandes to the stand briefly.

20 THE COURT: Good morning. You're still
21 under oath.

22 THE WITNESS: Okay.

23 THE COURT: Have a seat.

24 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

25 / / /

1 Whereupon,

2 ALEXANDRA FERNANDES,

3 having been previously sworn to testify truthfully,

4 was recalled to the stand and testified as follow:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. VITTO:

7 Q. Detective, showing you State's Proposed
8 Exhibits A through C -- I'm sorry, 27A through C. Do
9 you recognize those exhibits?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. How do you recognize them?

12 A. These are the initial photos that I took on
13 scene.

14 Q. Of the shower stall?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Are they accurate?

17 A. Yes, they are.

18 Q. Everything was that tidy and in order?

19 A. Yes, it was.

20 Q. And obviously, those photographs were taken
21 after the defendant requested to shut off the running
22 water; is that correct?

23 A. I believe so.

24 Q. Well, we don't see any water falling out of
25 the shower head, do we?

1 A. No.

2 MR. VITTO: Your Honor, I would ask that
3 27A through C be admitted into evidence.

4 MS. BOSKOVICH: No objection.

5 THE COURT: Admitted.

6 (Whereupon State's Exhibit Nos. 27A
7 through C are admitted into evidence.)

8 MR. VITTO: I have no more questions of
9 this witness, Judge.

10 THE COURT: Counsel?

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MS. BOSKOVICH:

13 Q. Detective Fernandes, I'm sorry. Looking at
14 those pictures, can you tell us if the floor of the
15 shower was still wet?

16 A. From looking at the photos, I cannot tell,
17 no.

18 Q. How long after turning off the shower did
19 you take those photos?

20 A. I'm fairly certain I took them right after.

21 MS. BOSKOVICH: No further questions,
22 Your Honor. Thank you.

23 THE COURT: Anything else, Mr. Vitto?

24 MR. VITTO: Nope.

25 THE COURT: You can step down. Thank you.

1 Still subject to recall.

2 THE WITNESS: Okay.

3 MR. VITTO: Dr. Leonardo Roquero.

4 THE COURT: Good morning. If you can raise
5 your right hand and be sworn, please.

6 Whereupon,

7 LEONARDO ROQUERO, MD.,
8 called as a witness on behalf of the State, was sworn
9 and testified as follows:

10 THE WITNESS: I do.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. Doctor, if you're
12 worried about Covid, you can keep wearing your mask.
13 If you're okay with it, we'd like the jury to be able
14 to see your face and hear your words. So if you can
15 remove it, that would be great too; whichever you
16 choose.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor. No
18 problem.

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. VITTO:

21 Q. Please state your name for the record
22 spelling your last name?

23 A. My name is Leonardo Roquero,
24 L-e-o-n-a-r-d-o, R-o-q-u-e-r-o.

25 Q. And what is your current occupation?

1 A. I am a practicing Medical Examiner of
2 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Oklahoma.

3 Q. And that's your current employment?

4 A. Correct?

5 Q. How long have you been so employed in that
6 capacity?

7 A. Since August of 2019; so that would make it
8 about 14 months.

9 Q. And where were you working previous to
10 that?

11 A. I worked in Clark County Coroner's Office
12 in Las Vegas since 2017 up to July of 2019.

13 Q. Okay. So you went from Clark County to
14 Oklahoma?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Is the job description roughly the same?

17 A. Yes,

18 Q. What are your duties on a daily basis?

19 A. As a Medical Examiner, my task is to
20 determine the cause and manner of death by examining
21 a -- by doing autopsy or examining a dead individual
22 or a dead body.

23 Q. Doctor, tell us about your journey. How
24 did you get to be where you are today -- education,
25 experience, that kind of thing.

1 A. Sure. After med school, I went into
2 residency at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit for
3 four years of anatomical and clinical pathology.
4 That's a residency training program. And after which
5 I went onward to do a one-year fellowship in forensic
6 pathology at the University of Michigan.

7 And currently I am board certified for
8 anatomical, clinical, and forensic pathology. And
9 after that, I work in Detroit for two years, and move
10 to Vegas in two years, and currently working in
11 Oklahoma as a Medical Examiner still.

12 Q. I want to direct your attention to July 16,
13 2017. On that day, did you perform an autopsy on a
14 three-year-old little girl?

15 A. Yes, I did.

16 Q. And what was her name?

17 A. Ms. Yessenia Camp.

18 Q. And where was that autopsy conducted.

19 A. It was conducted in the Clark County
20 Coroner's Office.

21 Q. How many autopsies of children that young
22 have you conducted?

23 A. At least a hundred autopsies.

24 Q. All right.

25 A. Oh, I'm sorry. Could you please repeat the

1 question? Are you referencing the young of three
2 years old only or young children?

3 Q. Thank you. Let's start with how many
4 autopsies have you conducted in your career?

5 A. At least a thousand in five years.

6 Q. And how many on a child, let's say under
7 the age of ten?

8 A. At least a hundred cases.

9 Q. All right. When conducting an autopsy and
10 providing your final report, it appears to me that
11 your investigation of the body as a basis for reaching
12 your conclusions has two major components, the cause
13 of death and the manner of death; would that be fair?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. In this case, Dr. Roquero, what was your
16 expert, medical, forensic opinion as it pertains to
17 the cause of death?

18 A. I'm sorry. I don't understand your
19 question.

20 Q. You conducted an autopsy. Did you conclude
21 what was the cause of death?

22 A. I'm sorry. You're referring to this case
23 of Ms. Yessenia Camp?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. I'm sorry about that.

1 Q. That's okay.

2 A. Thank you. Yes, I did. The cause of death
3 is multiple blunt force injuries.

4 Q. And what did you conclude was the manner of
5 death?

6 A. Homicide.

7 Q. And simply put, a homicide means what?

8 A. "Homicide" is defined as "death at the
9 hands of another individual."

10 Q. Nonaccidental?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Showing you State's Proposed Exhibit 49A.

13 (State shows exhibit to Defense Counsel.)

14 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Take as much time as you
15 need, Doctor. I would like you to review that. When
16 you're finished, please look up. I would like to ask
17 you some questions about it.

18 A. Sure. I received State's Exhibit 49A.
19 49A, Exhibit 49A, which I received, consists of a
20 one-page copy of Report of Investigation. This is
21 reference to the report of the investigator. I did
22 not author this report. Second, is the Autopsy
23 Report, which I authored, which consists of 18 pages.
24 A third is a Toxicology Report in which a specimen is
25 sent to another lab, which is a private toxicology lab

1 in Pennsylvania referred as NMS Labs and consists of
2 two -- or rather a two-page Toxicology Report. Next
3 is a four-page copy of the diagram of injury, which I
4 made. And last would be a single page copy of the
5 Radiologist, Radiology Consult on the decedent
6 Ms. Yessenia Camp.

7 Q. And you recognize the paperwork that is
8 before you as an exhibit?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Is it accurate?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. That exhibit, that document in its entirety
13 is your autopsy report as it reflect and pertains to
14 the work you performed on the body of Yessenia Camp?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And is it an accurate reflection of what
17 you saw and what you did that day more than three
18 years ago?

19 A. Correct.

20 MR. VITTO: Your Honor, I request that this
21 exhibit be admitted. I have copies for each juror to
22 follow along with as we go through the testimony of
23 Dr. Roquero.

24 MR. MARTINEZ: No objection, Judge.

25 THE COURT: Admitted.

1 (Whereupon State's Exhibit No. 49A is
2 admitted into evidence.)

3 THE COURT: Because of Covid, instead of
4 having all of the jurors in the jury box, we have them
5 all the way to the back of the room.

6 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

7 (The bailiff hands a copy of the
8 paperwork to the Court.)

9 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

10 THE BAILIFF: You're welcome, sir.

11 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Doctor, generally speaking,
12 if you can, how many pages of your autopsy report are
13 dedicated to detailing the evidence of injury?

14 A. Fifteen pages.

15 Q. All right. Now, I notice on the -- let's
16 say the second, third, and fourth pages of the exhibit
17 you're looking at, you document some initial
18 observations; would that be correct?

19 A. I'm sorry. The second page starts after
20 this Report of Investigation?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Okay. Thank you. Could you please repeat
23 the question again?

24 Q. It appears to me -- correct me if I'm
25 wrong -- that the second, third, and fourth pages

1 appear to be some initial observations regarding the
2 body?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. All right. Now, I'm a layman, Doctor, so
5 what do you do when you conduct an autopsy?

6 A. So an autopsy is being conducted in two
7 parts: external examination, and then after that is
8 following by internal examination. External
9 examination is external examination for a state of the
10 body wherein anything that is seen by the naked eyes,
11 that I saw in the naked eyes. That does not only
12 include injuries or any other injuries for that
13 matter. That also includes any medical intervention,
14 presence or absence of clothing, color of the hair,
15 the eyes, the body itself as seen by the naked eyes.

16 After the external examination, then I
17 proceed to do an internal examination. It means that
18 opening the body, examining what the -- the organs of
19 the chest, abdomen, as well as the head, and then also
20 examining, furthermore examining underneath what's
21 going -- underneath the skin of an individual. That
22 is an autopsy.

23 Q. Okay. And at some point, the autopsy may
24 also call for microscopic examination?

25 A. Correct. And that's part of the whole

1 internal examination.

2 Q. Doctor, I would like you to -- well, let's
3 do this. Let me show you what has been preliminarily
4 marked as State's Proposed Exhibits 49B through P.
5 I'd like you to take your time. There is a lot of
6 photographers. I would like you to go through those,
7 review them. When you've had that opportunity, look
8 up, and I'll ask you some questions.

9 A. Sure.

10 Your Honor, if I may ask. I have a pen
11 here. May I write something on a paper? I don't have
12 an extra paper here. There's so many photographs
13 here.

14 THE BAILIFF: What do you need, a pen?

15 THE WITNESS: A paper. I have a pen.

16 THE COURT: I know I have a pad somewhere.
17 Do you need a pen too?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. I have -- thank
19 you.

20 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Doctor, you don't have to
21 return them to the plastic bag. We're going to be
22 going through them a lot.

23 A. Thank you. I received 15 photos of the
24 autopsy of Ms. Yessenia Camp. It's labeled Exhibit B
25 through M.

1 Q. Do you recognize those photographs?

2 A. I do.

3 Q. Are they accurate?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Doctor, will using those photographs help
6 you explain the injury that you observed to
7 Yessenia Camp?

8 A. Yes.

9 MR. VITTO: Your Honor, I request that
10 these photographs be admitted into evidence.

11 MR. MARTINEZ: Judge, no objection with the
12 exception of what we argued this morning outside the
13 presence of the jury.

14 THE COURT: All right. And you're
15 preserving that on the record?

16 MR. MARTINEZ: I am, Judge.

17 THE COURT: They're admitted.

18 MR. VITTO: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 (Whereupon State's Exhibit No. 49B
20 through P are admitted into evidence.)

21 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Doctor, I would like to
22 make this as simple as I can for you so help me out.
23 You're the professional; I'm just a guy. So I could
24 ask you to explain the injuries using the photographs
25 as you go along, or we can simply take them photograph

1 by photograph. Did you have a preference?

2 A. I don't.

3 Q. Then I would ask you, using your autopsy to
4 explain the injury -- the injury that you observed,
5 using the photographs when necessary to help everybody
6 understand what it is that you saw.

7 A. Sure.

8 Q. Let's start from the outside, the external
9 injuries that you observed. Can you tell me what
10 injuries you observed on Yessenia on the outside of
11 her body?

12 A. Sure. There are multiple injuries on the
13 body, and I will divide it by regions for -- as a
14 means of simplification because there are so many of
15 them. So on the head, there were abrasions on the
16 back, on the front of the head; that includes the
17 face, which includes the forehead, eyes, nose, mouth,
18 lips. There were abrasions and contusions present.
19 There was also a contusion on the right at the
20 junction of the right lower jaw and just below the
21 neck area.

22 Next is the torso. On the torso,
23 externally there were also abrasions. I will talk
24 about the first, the abdomen -- the front of the torso
25 which is the chest and abdomen. So there were

1 contusions on the area of the chest. And on the back
2 as part of the torso, there were contusions as well as
3 abrasions seen.

4 I move up, next is the extremities. On the
5 right and left upper extremities, that includes from
6 the shoulder to the arm to the forearm to the hands,
7 my external examination revealed abrasions as well as
8 contusions. On the lower extremities, that includes
9 the right and the left as follows: The thigh, the
10 legs, the feet, there were also abrasions as well as
11 contusions present.

12 In addition, there were also on the
13 buttocks, which I forgot to mention as part of the
14 torso, there were abrasions as well as contusions on
15 the buttocks as well.

16 In addition, there were pattern contusions
17 also present, or rather pattern injuries present on
18 the body parts that includes the back of the right
19 arm, top of the left shoulder, front of the right
20 thigh, back, as well as the buttocks.

21 Q. Okay. Doctor, in the exhibits that are
22 marked sequentially 49, starting with B through P, I
23 think --

24 THE COURT: Kirk?

25 MR. VITTO: Yes.

1 THE COURT: A moment ago, the doctor said
2 to you that he received 15 photos labeled 49B through
3 49M, and he didn't mention N, O, P.

4 MR. VITTO: Okay. That's great, super.
5 That's where we are 49B through --

6 THE COURT: -- M --

7 MR. VITTO: -- M. Thank you, Judge.

8 THE COURT: -- as in "meticulous."

9 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Doctor, can you identify by
10 number and letter which of those photographs best
11 illustrate what it is that you've just described?

12 A. Sure. Again, if I can go back, what I just
13 mentioned as far as the regions of the injuries; I
14 separated it by regions. So as for the head, the
15 photos that will show the injuries include State's
16 Exhibit 490.

17 Q. And you know what, let's just -- let's just
18 stop right there, and we'll go ahead and show that one
19 to the jury and let you explain what it is that you're
20 talking about. So that's 490.

21 THE COURT: Now, I'm confused also. You
22 said to Mr. Vitto you had 15 photos, 49B through M,
23 and just now you said 490. So I'm confused.

24 THE WITNESS: I apologize, Your Honor. I
25 misspoke. It's B through P.

1 THE COURT: Thank you. You were correct, B
2 through P --

3 MR. VITTO: Not that I'm gloating.

4 THE COURT: -- as in "pusillanimous," which
5 is what this is.

6 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) So and we're going to start
7 with I believe it was O, Doctor?

8 A. Correct. Let's -- if I may?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. If I may, can I just have O and P at the
11 same time as well to show?

12 Q. Certainly.

13 A. As far as, again, I will just be
14 referencing the injuries on the head.

15 Q. Doctor, these are going to come up on the
16 screen. I don't know if you can see the screen.

17 Actually, it will come up on his screen as
18 well; is that correct, Your Honor?

19 THE BAILIFF: Yes, it will.

20 MR. VITTO: All right. Kassie, let's start
21 with O.

22 (Kassie is trying to get the photo to
23 appear on digital visualizer for viewing.)

24 MR. VITTO: Okay. We can go old school.

25 THE BAILIFF: Laptop, or just hold it up?

1 MR. VITTO: Show them the picture.

2 THE BAILIFF: Can you show the picture?

3 MS. WARD: There it is.

4 THE COURT: Did it work, you said?

5 MS. WARD: Uh-huh.

6 THE COURT: While you were talking to me,
7 it worked.

8 MR. VITTO: And the first one is O? Is
9 that O, Kassie?

10 MS. WARD: Yes.

11 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Doctor, do you see that on
12 your screen.

13 THE COURT: There's a shadow over it. Can
14 you move it a little bit so the shadow is not on it?

15 MS. WARD: We got it.

16 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Now, Doctor, how does this
17 photograph help you describe -- this is one that you
18 specifically identified as describing some of what I
19 believe the head injury?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Can you describe that using this
22 photograph?

23 A. Sure. What we are looking right now is the
24 back of the body of Ms. Camp. This was taken that
25 includes the head, the back -- the back, the buttocks,

1 the back of the extremities. So this photo Exhibit O
2 is showing -- just focus on the head injury for now --
3 showing the abrasion on the back of the head and that
4 is on the right side. That is on the top.

5 Your Honor, do you have any cursors here
6 that I may point towards where --

7 THE BAILIFF: You can touch the screen like
8 this.

9 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.

10 THE BAILIFF: And then to clear it -- if
11 you want to clear it, hit this little corner and it
12 clears it.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

14 So the abrasion is on the back of the head
15 on the right side.

16 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Anything else with that
17 photograph, Doctor?

18 A. As I have said, I will go through first the
19 head jury. But if you would like me to go all
20 through, then I don't mind.

21 Q. Well, we can use different exhibits,
22 whatever is going to work best for you. Right now we
23 have P. Let's take a look at P.

24 A. So Exhibit P is the -- a close-up photo of
25 that head injury which is an abrasion. That big

1 abrasion was surrounding other small abrasions. So
2 this injury is identified as abrasions.

3 Q. And you just indicated that this abrasion
4 was surrounded by other abrasions also on the head?

5 A. Correct. Just on the small one. So there
6 is a big abrasion that we all see here, and
7 surrounding it are also small abrasions.

8 Q. Okay. And at some point during your
9 autopsy, you're going to see what that looks like on
10 the inside; is that correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. What other exhibits, Doctor, will help us
13 understand your testimony as it pertains to, you
14 talked about the torso, the extremities, neck, that
15 kind of thing?

16 A. Okay. So from the injuries on the back of
17 the head, if I may now move towards the front portion
18 of the head, and that will be on Exhibit G and
19 Exhibit H.

20 Q. Thank you, Doctor.

21 A. You're welcome.

22 Q. Go to G, yeah.

23 And what do you see there, Doctor?

24 A. So what we are looking right now is a
25 facial shot of Ms. Camp. And here we see bruising on

1 the left forehead, and one of the bruise also had
2 substantial abrasion. So one of these bruise or
3 contusion has essential abrasion in there. And the
4 contusions I am referring to on the forehead are these
5 contusion or bruises.

6 There's also an abrasion on the right,
7 lower eyelid. There are contusions -- I don't know if
8 you see it there, but there are contusions on the side
9 of the right eye or the corner of the right eye.
10 Abrasion on the nose. And in the lips, there are also
11 abrasions on the lips.

12 Q. Okay. Let's go ahead and take a look at H?

13 A. Yes. So this is another photo of the face
14 which shows the right side of the face. And this
15 shows bruising on the right cheek, as well the rest of
16 the right side of the face.

17 Q. Thank you. What further photographs can we
18 look at, Doctor, to help you explain what you observed
19 as far as the torso, the abdomen area, extremities,
20 et cetera?

21 A. Sure. For the injuries on the torso, we
22 can still utilize Exhibit letter B, and additionally
23 Exhibit 49E, 49F -- or rather not Exhibit B, the first
24 one, I'm sorry. Yeah, the first photo that was shown
25 on that -- if I may -- 490, sorry. So again for the

1 torso 490, 49F, 49E, and 49B.

2 Q. B, as in "boy"?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Got it. All right. Let's start with P, or
5 was it O?

6 MS. WARD: O.

7 MR. VITTO: Thank you.

8 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Okay. What are we looking
9 at, Doctor?

10 A. This is shown previously again just to show
11 what parts of the body we are looking at. We are
12 looking at the back of the body. That includes the
13 head, the back, the buttocks, and extremities, upper
14 and lower extremities.

15 So as far as the injuries to the torso, I'm
16 referring to the back, there are pattern contusions
17 around this area. I don't know. It's faint, but
18 that's that. There are abrasions as well on the right
19 side, and there are also contusions -- additional
20 contusions on the back. And that's it, and we can
21 move to the next photo D.

22 THE COURT: Which one is that?

23 MS. WARD: 49B.

24 THE COURT: B?

25 MS. WARD: B.

1 THE WITNESS: This photo shows the front of
2 the body which is the front of the face, the head, the
3 face, neck, torso, and extremities, upper and lower
4 extremities. On this photo, it shows the two parallel
5 contusions, round contusions on the midline chest, as
6 well as there is also a faint -- I cannot appreciate
7 here, but there was a faint contusion, as well on the
8 left upper chest. There is also contusions on the
9 side of the left hip. And that's it.

10 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Let's look at E?

11 A. This is a photo showing the left side of
12 the body, which includes a little portion of the neck,
13 the back, the buttocks, and the length of the left
14 upper extremity, and the portion of a right upper
15 extremity, and the proximal part of the thigh. This
16 photo shows abrasions on the left side of the back.

17 Q. Doctor, are there any -- I'm sorry.

18 A. That includes the one encircled.

19 Q. Doctor, are there any other photographs
20 that will help you explain what you observed to the
21 jury pertaining to the external examination?

22 A. Sure. There are also photos for -- I'm
23 sorry. Are you referring only to the torso, or are
24 you moving to the extremities?

25 Q. Extremities. Let's go extremities.

1 A. Sure. If I may have the photo again,
2 because there are photos which also include the
3 extremities. If you don't mind, thank you.

4 THE COURT: If my record keeping is
5 correct, he said he had O, F, E, and B; and he just
6 showed O, E, and B, and not F.

7 MR. VITTO: Do we have F to show?

8 MS. WARD: He has it back there.

9 THE WITNESS: Sorry.

10 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) That's okay. Let's show F.
11 And, Doctor, what were we looking at with F? It
12 should be on your screen.

13 A. Oh, I'm sorry. This is Exhibit F showing
14 the left side of the back; again, a portion of the
15 left upper extremity; and a portion of that lower
16 portion -- the portion of the buttocks. So on the F,
17 we are looking at abrasions on the left side of the
18 back.

19 Q. Okay. So we've covered head, face, and
20 torso front and back. We're moving to extremities?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Let's go.

23 A. For the interest of the extremities, I will
24 be using State's Exhibit 49B, C, O, D, and E. Could
25 you please show this in order for me, the way it's

1 being presented.

2 Q. Thank you, Doctor.

3 A. Thank you. Could you please lower this
4 down? I can only see clearly the half bottom of the
5 screen. Thank you, sir.

6 Q. And the first one is 49B.

7 MS. WARD: 49B, as in "boy"?

8 MR. VITTO: B, as in "boy." You got it.

9 THE WITNESS: So this is Exhibit 49B
10 showing the front of the body again; the head; the
11 neck; the chest and abdomen, which is the torso; the
12 extremities, upper and lower extremities; the thighs.
13 So on this photo what we are looking at,
14 what we are just focusing to look at right now is the
15 injury to the extremities. And if I can direct your
16 attention to the right upper extremity, and that
17 includes from the right shoulder up to the hand, we
18 see here a bruise. And there's also a bruise here.
19 There's also -- if I may repeat again, there's a
20 bruise on the right arm, there's a bruise on the right
21 forearm, and there's a bruise on the back of the left
22 hand. I'm sorry.

23 Moving on to the lower extremities is what
24 we see here. There's this circular contusion with
25 central skin paring in front of the right thigh.

1 That's it.

2 Can we move to photo Exhibit C, please. So
3 this photo shows half the body of Ms. Yessenia Camp,
4 and that also includes the -- here we can see also
5 still the portion of the lower chest, abdomen, the
6 right and lower extremities -- right and left upper
7 and lower extremities. Here I just would like you to
8 focus, direct your attention if I may, to the lower
9 extremities. Again, that includes the one that we saw
10 a photo prior. This is again the circular contusion
11 the central skin paring; and in addition to that,
12 there are also other contusions on the right knee, and
13 contusions as well on the left knee -- left knee and
14 left leg, and left leg.

15 Could you please show Exhibit letter O,
16 please? So this photo shows again the back of the
17 body of Ms. Yessenia Camp -- the head; the neck; the
18 back; the extremities, the upper and lower
19 extremities.

20 So if I may again direct your attention to
21 the injuries on the extremities. So on the right,
22 we're just focusing -- if I can focus your attention
23 to the right extremities. Again, there is a contusion
24 of the right arm, abrasions on the right elbow,
25 abrasions and contusions on the left elbow. Okay.

1 And that's it.

2 And could you please show Exhibit letter D,
3 please.

4 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) D, as in "David"?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Thank you.

7 A. So this photo shows the left side of the
8 head. That includes the ear, left side of the neck,
9 left side of the shoulder, left side of the arm, and a
10 portion of the forearm, and a portion of the chest.
11 This photo shows a circular contusion on top of the
12 left shoulder.

13 Could you please show next exhibit, please?

14 MS. WARD: 49E.

15 THE WITNESS: Correct. Thank you.

16 MR. VITTO: And what letter is that?

17 MS. WARD: E, as in "elephant."

18 THE WITNESS: E. Thank you.

19 Again, this is more of a closer photograph
20 of the injuries of the upper extremities. And this
21 includes again, as I have stated -- if I can go back.
22 So this photo shows the back of the body, which
23 includes the back of the neck, the torso, the upper
24 extremities, the buttocks, and the proximal thigh.

25 Again, if I may direct your attention to

1 the injuries up on the extremities. There are
2 contusions and abrasions on the left elbow. There's
3 also abrasions on the right -- on the right elbow.
4 And that's it.

5 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Thank you, Doctor.

6 A. We -- as I have reiterated, had torso and
7 extremity injury. I still have, if I may, there are
8 also injuries on the buttocks that I have not showed
9 to the Court or I have not discussed with the Court.

10 Q. Do you have a photograph that best depicts
11 those injuries?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Go ahead.

14 A. Thank you. So for the injuries on the
15 buttocks, that would be depicted on State's
16 Exhibit 490 and State's Exhibit 49E. Could you please
17 show this in order as presented? Thank you.

18 So this photo, if I may again direct your
19 attention to the buttocks only. This photo shows the
20 back of the body, again showing the head, the back of
21 the neck, the back, the buttocks, and the extremities.
22 Again, if I may direct your attention only to the
23 injuries on the buttocks.

24 There are abrasions and contusions on the
25 buttocks. And there are -- notably, there are

1 curvilinear contusion on the left buttocks that is
2 circled as such. And likewise, this area on the left
3 buttocks as well, another contusion of the left
4 buttocks. And there's another contusion which is the
5 curvilinear contusion close to the intergluteal cleft
6 or midline of the buttocks.

7 Q. Doctor, let me ask you a couple of things
8 about that. So I believe you used the word
9 "curvilinear"?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And we're going to be getting into that in
12 a little more depth in a little while. But what
13 exactly do you mean when you say curvilinear?

14 A. "Curvilinear" means like a half-moon
15 appearance. It's not a full circle. It also
16 describes a semicircle, like half of a circle or a
17 half moon.

18 Q. Thank you. And the last thing you
19 referenced with this photograph, you referenced an
20 injury near the fold. What were you referring to
21 there?

22 A. Oh, it's just the location. It's the
23 intergluteal fold, which that is reference to -- that
24 is reference to the, for lack of a better term, and I
25 apologize, the midline of the buttocks crack or...

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. I'm sorry.

3 Q. We'll be going more in depth with that with
4 some more detailed photographs; so if you could
5 continue.

6 A. Could you please show photo Exhibit
7 letter E, please? Thank you.

8 This photo shows the back of the body --
9 back of the neck, back of the back, the buttocks, the
10 upper extremities, the proximal thigh. Once again, if
11 I may direct your attention to the injuries on the
12 buttocks only. This shows abrasions and confusions on
13 the buttocks. Again, in addition, there's also this
14 curvilinear contusion of the left buttocks. That is
15 encircled.

16 Q. Thank you. Doctor, I don't believe that
17 you've addressed 49C. He has?

18 Never mind, Doctor, apparently you have.
19 Do you have 49C with you?

20 A. I think I did.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Correct. Would you like me to show again.

23 Q. Can you tell me what it was?

24 A. Sure. 49C, Exhibit 49C, this is the front
25 portion of the lower body that shows the portion of

1 the lower chest, abdomen, and the lower extremities.
2 And this shows the rest of the injury on the lower
3 extremities, and that includes the circular contusion
4 with central skin paring on front of the right thigh,
5 and contusion/abrasions on the rest of the right and
6 left lower extremities.

7 Q. All right. Doctor, let me direct your
8 attention to I, J, K, L, M, and N. Could you pull
9 those photographs. I would like to ask you some brief
10 questions, and then I think we're going to move on to
11 a little different area.

12 A. Sure. So that would be I, J, K, L, and M;
13 correct?

14 Q. And N.

15 A. So I, J, K, L, N?

16 Q. M, N.

17 A. Thank you. Okay I have photos of I, J, K,
18 L -- I, J, K, L, M, and N.

19 (There is a note from a juror in the
20 back of the courtroom.)

21 THE COURT: All right. Share that with the
22 two attorneys -- four attorneys.

23 MR. VITTO: Your Honor, it's a great
24 question, and we are actually going to dive in depth
25 into terminology used, including the reference that we

1 have been asked.

2 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

3 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Now, Doctor, in regard to
4 the photographs that I've asked you to call I, J, K,
5 L, M, and N, have we addressed those yet?

6 A. No.

7 Q. All right. And are those more suitable to
8 your internal examination?

9 A. Except N.

10 Q. And what is N?

11 A. N shows the photo of the palm on the right
12 hand.

13 Q. Let's go ahead and show that one.

14 A. So this photo shows the palm of the right
15 hand, and on the right upper hand side of the photo of
16 the left side of the face. This photo shows some
17 injury.

18 Q. Thank you.

19 A. Thank you.

20 Q. And the rest of them are all for the
21 internal examination?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. Now, Doctor, I'm going to ask
24 you some questions, and if at any point a photograph
25 will help you best or better explain it to the jury,

1 please let us know and we will move in that direction.
2 So there's some terms that we need to go over, some
3 things that we need to understand.

4 What exactly is a "contusion"?

5 A. A "contusion" is the breakage of the blood
6 vessels from impact, and this blood vessel it will
7 break. The red blood cells will go into the
8 surrounding soft tissue, and that is we see
9 contusions. That is typically the definition of
10 contusion.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So there's a break in the blood vessels
13 underlying the skin or in the tissues.

14 Q. I think that it's common to man to be
15 familiar with a bruise and an abrasion. Is there a
16 difference between a contusion, a bruise, and an
17 abrasion?

18 A. Partly, yes. A contusion is otherwise also
19 called a bruise. An abrasion is different. An
20 abrasion is the damage to the surface of the skin,
21 like a scrape.

22 Q. All right. So a bruise or a contusion may
23 not necessarily be accompanied by an abrasion?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. But an abrasion can cause a bruise or a

1 contusion?

2 A. Or vice versa. It doesn't have to have a
3 surrounding contusion to have a bruise -- or I'm
4 sorry, a surrounding contusion to have an abrasion.

5 Q. Doctor, how about subcutaneous hemorrhage?

6 A. "Subcutaneous hemorrhage" it means that the
7 hemorrhage underlying the skin. Anything underneath
8 the skin is medically referred to subcutaneous. So
9 subcutaneous hemorrhage materially means a bruise or a
10 contusion.

11 Q. Okay. And you'll have to correct me as I'm
12 going through these terms. I'm sure I'm going to
13 pronounce some of them incorrectly? What is "galeal
14 hemorrhage"?

15 A. "Galeal hemorrhage," this is the hemorrhage
16 on the surface of the skull.

17 Q. That soft tissue?

18 A. No. That's the membrane that is on top of
19 the skull.

20 Q. I understand.

21 A. Soft tissue -- I'm sorry, it can also be
22 referred to as soft tissue; that is correct, on the
23 skull.

24 Q. How about "focal epidural hemorrhage"?

25 A. "Focal" means limited. "Epidural" means

1 along the surface or the dura. The "dura" is the
2 thick membrane which protects or covers the brain.
3 "Hemorrhage" is bleeding.

4 Q. Is there a difference between -- well, I
5 think I just answered my question. So a "subdural
6 hemorrhage" means what?

7 A. "Subdural" is underneath the dura.

8 Q. So can you talk me through the layers of
9 going inside someone's skull to get to the brain?

10 A. Sure. So a skull is a bone. Before I go
11 into the skull, you have to break the -- or you have
12 to open the scalp, which is the skin and subcutaneous
13 soft tissue. So after the scalp, the skull, in order
14 to get to the brain, you have -- also, the brain is
15 protected not only by skull or bone, but also by the
16 thick layer of membrane, and that includes also the
17 dura. But just -- the closest to the brain, there is
18 another layer there which we call the
19 "leptomeningeal."

20 Would you like me to spell it for you?

21 Q. Sure.

22 A. Leptomeningeal is L-e-o --
23 L-e-p-t-o-m-e-n-i-n-g-e-a-l. Leptomeningeal. So
24 that's another layer or -- yeah, another layer that is
25 just the closest to the brain.

1 Q. And what -- where would we see a
2 subarachnoid hemorrhage?

3 A. "Subarachnoid hemorrhage" is the hemorrhage
4 on the surface of the brain. And that is a layer of
5 the leptomeningeal part.

6 Q. So that's a hemorrhage that is actually on
7 the organ itself?

8 A. No, on the surface of the brain.

9 Q. Okay. And can you define -- there's a
10 phrase that you use in your autopsy report, "focal
11 microscopic parenchymal hemorrhage"?

12 A. Sure. That term is referring to the -- if
13 I'm not mistaken, referring to the brain. So focal
14 intraparenchymal hemorrhage. So focal means again
15 limited. "Parenchymal" is another name that --
16 another medical term used for tissue or the substance
17 of the tissue. So parenchymal.

18 Would you like me to spell it for you
19 again?

20 MS. REPORTER: Yes.

21 THE WITNESS: Sure. P-a-r-e-n-c-h-y-m-a-l.

22 MS. REPORTER: Thank you.

23 THE WITNESS: So "parenchymal hemorrhage
24 microscopic" meaning we cannot see it with our naked
25 eye. "Microscopic," we need a microscope to see it.

1 So those hemorrhages are in the tissue that can only
2 be seen by using a microscope.

3 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) And, Doctor, as you were
4 describing some of the external injury you observed,
5 you used the phrase "skin sparing." What exactly do
6 you mean?

7 A. Sure. "Skin sparing" is the area that is
8 not contused or bruised or abraded.

9 Q. So in other words, if you see a circular
10 bruise that is incomplete, there are spaces perhaps;
11 that would be the sparing?

12 A. Correct. There are spaces either in
13 between or at the center of that circle.

14 Q. And I think if I'm -- correct me if I'm
15 wrong -- but I think the most dramatic example of that
16 was the bruise you observed to the upper right thigh?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Let's go ahead, if you could find that
19 photograph, and I will ask you to point out exactly
20 the skin sparing that you see?

21 A. Sure. And I believe that would be
22 Exhibit C. Likewise, Exhibit B would also help as far
23 as a close-up, or a closer photo. So do you mind
24 showing Exhibit B instead?

25 MS. WARD: Yeah, of course.

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you. And is there a
2 way for you to zoom the projector, or no. Then just
3 focus on the right thigh.

4 So if I may direct your attention to the
5 just the right thigh, reference to the circular
6 contusion. So on the right thigh, there is this
7 circular contusion and where I'm referring to the
8 central skin sparing. So there's a circular contusion
9 on the front of the right thigh. The central skin
10 sparing is the area within the circular contusion that
11 is not contused nor abraded.

12 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) And, Doctor, I might have
13 some photographs that might be even more helpful in
14 that regard. Let me show you State's Proposed
15 Exhibits 68C, I, and G.

16 (Showing exhibits to Defense Counsel.)

17 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Let me ask you if you
18 recognize those?

19 A. So I received three photos labeled 68C,
20 68I, and 68G. And Yes, I do recognize that.

21 Q. Are they accurate?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Will they help you explain skin sparing to
24 three different areas of Yessenia's body?

25 A. Yes. In one of them -- in one of the

1 photos.

2 Q. Well, let me -- which one?

3 A. That would be 68C.

4 MR. VITTO: Your Honor, I would ask that
5 68C be admitted into evidence?

6 MR. MARTINEZ: Judge, I know he said he
7 recognized the photos. Just a little bit more
8 foundation about how he recognizes them is what I
9 would request.

10 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

11 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Is that one of your autopsy
12 photos?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. The autopsy that you conducted of that
15 little girl?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you recognize it, and it's accurate?

18 A. Yes.

19 MR. VITTO: Would ask that it be admitted.

20 MR. MARTINEZ: No objection.

21 THE COURT: It's admitted.

22 (Whereupon State's Exhibit No. 68C is
23 admitted into evidence and published to the
24 jury.)

25 MR. VITTO: I would like to display that

1 photograph to the jury.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Now, Doctor, does that
4 photograph accurately depict and display the sparing
5 that you're referencing?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. The other two that I just -- and showing
8 you 68I, that appears to be the shoulder of Yessenia?

9 A. No.

10 Q. What is that?

11 A. This is the side of the left -- or this is
12 left buttocks.

13 Q. That's the left buttocks?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And how about what is depicted in 68G?

16 A. 68G shows the buttocks.

17 Q. Okay. Do we see skin sparing in that
18 circular bruise?

19 A. No. This is not circular bruises. I
20 described them. These you are curvilinear bruise.

21 Q. And curvilinear is a half of a circle?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Do we see skin sparing?

24 A. Partly, yes.

25 Q. Okay. Is it an accurate photograph?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. That's your autopsy?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. VITTO: Your Honor, I would ask that
5 this exhibit be admitted and published to the jury.

6 MR. MARTINEZ: No objection.

7 THE COURT: It's admitted.

8 (Whereupon State's Exhibit No. 68G is
9 admitted into evidence and published to
10 the jury.)

11 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) What do we see here,
12 Doctor, as it relates to skin sparing; what can you
13 tell us?

14 A. Sure. This is a photo of the back which
15 shows a curvilinear -- if I may direct your attention
16 to the left buttocks only. So there are curvilinear
17 or a semicircular or a half-moon shape bruises on the
18 left buttocks. So that includes this -- that includes
19 this one of the left buttocks; this, the one which is
20 close to the fold or to that in between the buttocks,
21 as well as this.

22 So with regards on the central skin
23 sparing, this is not a complete circle compared to the
24 one that we saw on the anterior, on the front of the
25 right thigh. This has an incomplete or a semicircular

1 or curvilinear bruise. But these two opposite bruises
2 are facing each other, and that's also the reason why
3 I say partly, because there is partly a central skin
4 sparing of that. But it's not as a complete circular
5 as compared to the front of the right thigh.

6 Q. So the front of the right thigh is simply a
7 better depiction?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. And let me show you 68I again. Is that an
10 accurate photo?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. That's from the autopsy?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Is that a different bruise on the buttocks
15 than the one you just explained?

16 A. No. It's the -- would you please show
17 again the -- this is an additional bruise on the left
18 buttocks, but it doesn't show the curvilinear
19 appearance that is more appreciated on the screen that
20 we are seeing.

21 Q. Okay. So the one on the screen is a better
22 version?

23 A. As far as the curvilinear bruise it shows.

24 Q. But the one in your hand is an additional
25 bruise?

1 A. Correct.

2 MR. VITTO: I would ask that -- I believe
3 we're at 68I. I would ask that that be admitted and
4 published.

5 MR. MARTINEZ: No objection, Judge.

6 THE COURT: Admitted.

7 (Whereupon State's Exhibit No. 68I is
8 admitted into evidence and published to
9 the jury.)

10 (There is another note from one of
11 the jurors.)

12 THE COURT: Show it to the two sides.

13 MR. VITTO: Your Honor, referencing that
14 question, both sides will be addressing that issue.

15 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

16 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Doctor, we're going to be
17 getting into this in depth and detail, but at this
18 point let me ask you: We've seen some photographs of
19 and her testimony pertaining to circular curvilinear
20 bruising to the body of this little girl; correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Doctor, what causes marks like that?

23 A. Anything. Most likely a blunt object with
24 a semicircular, circular end.

25 Q. Can you rule out bite marks?

1 A. No, I cannot.

2 MR. VITTO: Your Honor, if I'm not
3 mistaken, there may be perhaps a need for a recess.

4 MR. MARTINEZ: I believe so.

5 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, we're
6 going to take a short recess. During this recess,
7 it's your duty not to converse among yourselves or
8 with anyone else on any subject connected with the
9 trial; or to read, watch, or listen to any report of
10 or commentary on the trial, including, without
11 limitation, televisions, newspapers, radio, and
12 Internet.

13 Don't form or express an opinion on any
14 subject of this matter until it's submitted to you.
15 And I always say ten and then it's 15. If I say 15,
16 it's 20. We'll shoot for ten and see you in about 15.

17 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

18 (A short recess is taken.)

19 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

20 THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated.

21 MR. VITTO: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: We're back in the presence of
23 our 15 jurors. We'll continue with direct
24 examination.

25 MR. VITTO: Thank you, Your Honor.

DIRECT EXAMINATION (RESUMES)

BY MR. VITTO:

Q. Doctor, you observed a linear fracture of the left occipital bone; is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Does that mean that the back of her head was fractured in a straight line?

A. Not necessarily.

Q. Tell me what it means.

A. It means that an impact, rather the back of the head -- or an impact was on the back of the head.

Q. And what is -- what does it mean to be designated as a linear fracture?

A. I'm sorry. I don't understand your question.

Q. If I'm not mistaken, the injury was observed to be a linear fracture?

A. Correct.

Q. What does the word "linear" mean in conjunction with fracture?

A. Fracture is a break in the bone. It means that, linear is appearance of the fracture meaning its line.

Q. I understand. Let's go ahead and go through your internal examination of Yessenia, and I

1 believe we're talking about photographs I, J, K, L,
2 and N?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. All right. Let's start with I.

5 A. If I may request to the Court, could you
6 please show this in this order.

7 MS. WARD: Uh-huh.

8 THE WITNESS: If I may request also we may
9 not start from Exhibit I.

10 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Absolutely. We'll start
11 with the one you want first, which is?

12 A. So I will be showing exhibits in order
13 Exhibit K, L, N, I, J.

14 Q. Great. Start with K. So this is
15 Exhibit K. This is -- again, I'm moving from head to
16 torso. This is a photo of the head in which the scalp
17 is open and showing the subcutaneous, the inner
18 surface of the scalp which is seen on the bottom
19 portion of the screen. And this photo also shows the
20 skull. Mainly or a majority is the back of the skull
21 and a portion of the top of the skull. So this --

22 A. I'm sorry.

23 Q. -- I'm sorry. The top of the head is the
24 parietal?

25 A. Correct. We -- or pronounced it, if I may,

1 parietal (pronounces pah-rye-e-tal).

2 Q. Parietal.

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And then the side of the head, the
5 thinnest, that would be the temporal?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And then obviously the front would be the
8 frontal?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. So when we're referring to the occipital
11 region, we're talking about the back of the head?

12 A. Correct. And it's the thickest bone.

13 Q. The thickest and the densest?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. All right. Now, in relation to this
16 photograph -- we saw a photograph of an injury to
17 Yessenia's head externally. Can you point out how we
18 can relate what we saw externally to what's currently
19 on the screen?

20 A. Sure. Externally, there were abrasions on
21 the right back of the head. On the screen, we are now
22 looking the scalp is being open or the head is being
23 open. Again, the scalp is that portion below the
24 screen. The skull is the portion which is the round
25 portion above that.

1 Injuries include the subcutaneous
2 hemorrhage of the scalp, which is the tissue
3 underneath the scalp. Underneath that, that's the
4 subcutaneous tissue, and we see all the hemorrhages.
5 And on the skull -- this is the skull. This is the
6 round portion just above it, we see subgaleal
7 hemorrhage on the left back or occipital surface of
8 the skull, as well as the occipital and parietal
9 surfaces right side of the skull. So these are the
10 subgaleal or rather subgaleal hemorrhages.

11 Q. How many different points of hemorrhage do
12 we see in this photograph?

13 A. On the subgaleal, we see -- at least in a
14 partly discrete presentation, we see on the right
15 back. So that's one. There is also a cluster of
16 subgaleal on the left back of the skull. And this
17 corresponds also to the overlying scalp, which is on
18 the left side. As well as this corresponds also to
19 the overlying right side of the scalp. So as for the
20 subgaleal, the answer are at least two discrete
21 clusters.

22 Q. And does that correspond with two separate
23 injuries?

24 A. Not necessarily. It may be one. It may be
25 at least one.

1 Q. Okay. And that's for the galeal?

2 A. Correct, or subgaleal.

3 Q. I understand. Let's go to our next
4 photograph. What do we have here, Doctor?

5 A. This is Exhibit letter L. Once the skull
6 is open, then we see that membrane we call as the
7 dura. That membrane has already been taken out, and
8 what we are looking at here is the brain, mostly of
9 the brain and a portion of the removed skull on the
10 bottom of the brain. And on top of the brain. You
11 also see the front portion of the base of the skull.

12 As for the injuries, what we see here is
13 that the brain is swollen meaning it's very --
14 meaning -- the brain is -- as we see here, it's a lot
15 of spaces in between this worm-like appearances of the
16 brain. And in between there are spaces. Normally, it
17 has to have that -- or cracks -- normally, it has to
18 have enough space.

19 For this one the brain is swollen because
20 it's so tight. The one wormy-like appearance of the
21 brain -- the other wormy-like appearance is so tight
22 and the space is narrow. So that's cerebral swelling
23 or edema or swelling of the brain. That's number one.

24 You also see surfaced hemorrhage on the
25 brain which we call a subarachnoid hemorrhage.

1 Do you want me to spell it?

2 MS. REPORTER: No. I got that.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you. So that's the
4 subarachnoid, which is the hemorrhage on the surface
5 of the brain. And we don't see it clearly here on
6 this photo, but this is where the subdural, so
7 underneath -- so on top of the brain there was
8 supposed to be -- there's supposed to be the dura
9 which is covering; underneath that is the hemorrhage.
10 We call it subdural hemorrhage. Unfortunately, we
11 don't see this clearly in the photo, but it's the
12 blood at the bottom portion of the brain, which is the
13 dark colored area inside the skull and just below the
14 brain.

15 Q. Doctor, what causes the brain to swell?

16 A. Any injury. It's not a specific finding.
17 Anything can swell the brain.

18 Q. And what is the purpose of the brain
19 swelling. Why does the brain want to do that?

20 A. It's just a physiological reaction of our
21 body to any insult -- injury, toxins, drugs, heart
22 disease, anything that insults the brain. The brain
23 requires oxygen. Anything that -- anything that stops
24 the brain from getting oxygen, the brain reacts to it.
25 The brain does not like -- our brain does not like to

1 have no oxygen. It has to always have oxygen.

2 Q. So does it swell in search of oxygen?

3 A. No. It's just a physiologic reaction.

4 Q. I understand. Let's go to our next
5 picture. What do we have here, Doctor?

6 A. This is Exhibit letter M. This shows the
7 base of the skull once the brain is out. And once we
8 take out also the dura, the dura covers the entire
9 surface of the brain, that means the entire round
10 surfaces of the brain. So once we take out the brain,
11 we take out the dura, now what we are looking at here
12 on the screen is the base of the skull where the brain
13 fits.

14 And this is a photo showing the linear
15 fracture on the occipital bone. The occipital bone is
16 the bone which is at the back of the head or the back
17 portion of the skull. So occipital bone is the bone
18 that is on the back portion of the skull, and the
19 injury that we are looking at here is the fracture on
20 the left back or left occipital bone.

21 Q. And our next photograph. What do we have
22 here, Doctor?

23 A. This is a photo -- so autopsy portion of
24 the autopsy internal examination is not only of the
25 head, but also of the torso. I also examined -- as

1 far as the autopsy examination, I also examined the
2 internal organs of the chest and abdomen. This is the
3 photo showing the organs of the torso. The rib cage
4 is already taken out, and what we are looking at here
5 is the lungs. We don't see the heart yet because
6 there is a membrane at the center which covers the
7 heart; so we don't see that. Also in this photo, we
8 see the liver, the stomach, and the intestines.

9 On this photo the injuries that we are
10 looking at are the contusions on the left lung, as
11 well as on the right lung.

12 Q. Let's go ahead and look at our next photo.
13 What do we see here, Doctor?

14 A. So this is the photo of the organs of the
15 chest and abdomen all taken at once. In this photo,
16 we see -- we are looking at the back of the organs.
17 So if I can move back a little bit. So before the
18 photo -- before this, the photo was showing the front
19 of the organs. Now Exhibit letter J; correct: If I
20 may confirm that?

21 MS. WARD: Yes.

22 THE WITNESS: So Exhibit letter J, now we
23 are looking at the back surface of the organs of the
24 torso, meaning organs of the chest and organs of the
25 abdomen. Okay. So we are looking at that photo right

1 now showing the back surface of the lungs; the back
2 surface of the spleen; the diaphragm; the kidney,
3 which is wrapped or covered in this fibrofatty tissue;
4 the intestines, as well as the supporting tissue of
5 the intestines -- we call this mesentery.

6 So the injuries we see here are the
7 hemorrhages on the surface or on the tissue covering
8 the kidney, as well as -- it's not clearly shown, but
9 only a portion of it is the mesentery hemorrhage.

10 Q. And what exactly is the "mesentery"?

11 A. "Mesentery" is the supporting tissue that
12 holds our intestines.

13 Q. And that supporting tissue was
14 hemorrhaging?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Do we have another picture? That's it.
17 All right.

18 Now, Doctor, I'm going to get into some
19 detail with some of your findings, your phraseology.
20 I note in your autopsy, and I'm going to quote a
21 finding, "Recent hemorrhage of the cervical spinal
22 nerve root and ganglia with focal epidural
23 hemorrhage." Can you explain that to me?

24 A. Sure. That report was authored by the
25 neuropathologist. As far as the definition of that

1 term, "recent" meaning it is recent. It happens on
2 the day, more or less rather recent. Cervical is the
3 spinal cord, "cervical" meaning the spinal cord at the
4 portion of the neck; okay. The dorsal root nerve,
5 dorsal root ganglion --

6 MS. REPORTER: What is that, the dorsal
7 root nerve?

8 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. What was that?

9 MS. REPORTER: The nerve? What nerve?

10 THE WITNESS: Oh, the cervical, yeah,
11 cervical nerve root and the ganglion hemorrhage. So
12 this is the hemorrhage in the cervical nerve root and
13 ganglion. So these are the branches that is coming
14 off from the spinal cord. So think if I may put it in
15 a more better perspective, the spinal cord looks like
16 a tree. It has a big trunk, and it springs out a lot
17 of branches. So the big trunk is the spinal cord.
18 Coming off from that branches are called the spinal
19 nerve spinal ganglion; okay. So the hemorrhages are
20 seen on that branches, the spinal nerve root and
21 spinal ganglion -- spinal nerve root and ganglion of
22 the spinal -- of the cervical spinal cord.

23 "Epidural," again, the brain is not only
24 wrapped or covered by the dura. It is also -- the
25 spinal cord -- because the brain connects to the

1 spinal cord. So the dura also protects the spinal
2 cord and the epidural is the hemorrhage on the surface
3 of the spinal -- of the dura along the cervical spinal
4 cord.

5 Q. And, Doctor, I think that you referenced
6 this specific report as being at the neck level?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Can this be caused by some whiplash
9 mechanism?

10 A. I cannot exclude that.

11 Q. And as far as recent in time, are we
12 talking seconds? minutes? hours?

13 A. Based on the examination of the body, that
14 includes also histologic examination of the body,
15 meaning histology of the different tissues I took,
16 along with the review of the neuropathology
17 examination histology portion of it, "recent" means
18 hours, minutes.

19 Q. And you used a word "histology." Can you
20 describe what it is you mean when you say that? What
21 did you do?

22 A. Sure. "Histology" is the examination of
23 tissue under the microscope.

24 Q. Now, Doctor, to be fair, you observed the
25 brain; correct?

1 A. I did.

2 Q. You observed the eyes; correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. You drew conclusions; correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You also had the eyes and brain and brain
7 stem sent out for further expert opinion; is that
8 correct?

9 A. Yes. And that also includes the spinal
10 cord was sent out as well.

11 Q. I understand. Now, there's a report, a
12 notation within your report that says, quote, retinal
13 and optic nerve sheath hemorrhages, as well as focal
14 orbital hemorrhage of the eyes. In laymen's terms,
15 Doctor, what did you observe?

16 A. This is the report of the ophthalmologist
17 where the eye was sent to be examined, specifically
18 sent for ophthalmology consultant office. It means
19 that there is bleeding in the eyes.

20 Q. All right. And I believe -- going back to
21 a question I just asked previously, I believe your
22 report includes a reference to the injury you observed
23 at the neck level, that you could not totally exclude
24 the whiplash-type mechanism of the neck; is that
25 correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. When we're talking about whiplash, are we
3 talking about a back and forth movement?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. A violent back and forth movement?

6 A. It's a back and forth movement.

7 Q. You don't like the word "violent." Is
8 there some velocity required to produce what it is you
9 observed?

10 A. Definitely if there is a movement, there's
11 velocity, but I don't know how much velocity it needs
12 to cause an injury. I don't know how to quantify
13 violent. Violent for me may not be violent for you --

14 Q. I understand.

15 A. -- so I don't use that word.

16 Q. I understand. You noticed that Yessenia
17 was bruised on her chest, back, hips, and bony
18 prominence. What is the "bony prominence"?

19 A. The "bony prominence" was referring to the
20 left side of the hip that we saw a while ago in the
21 photo. It's on the side of our hip that we can feel
22 this bone. That is the bony prominence.

23 Q. Okay. We would call it our hip bone?

24 A. The hip bone is a thigh bone of the pelvis.
25 The portion of the hip where we can feel is called the

1 bony prominence.

2 Q. I understand. How about the proximal
3 thigh?

4 A. I'm sorry, is that a question or?

5 Q. Well, the question is if you use the phrase
6 "proximal thigh," is that simply referencing the part
7 of the thigh closest to the hip?

8 A. Correct. Or closest to the buttocks.

9 Q. I got you. And your observation of muscle
10 hemorrhage, hemorrhage of the mesentery and the
11 retroperitoneal hemorrhage, is that when you were
12 talking about the internal bleeding to the mesentery
13 and the soft tissue around the kidney?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And what is that an indication of to you as
16 you're examining this body to determine the cause of
17 death?

18 A. So it indicates a blunt force injury.

19 Q. So the internal injuries around the
20 internal organs were also a blunt force injury?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. As was the injury to the head; is that
23 correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And other injuries that you saw on the

1 body?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Hence, your conclusion that the child's
4 death was the result of multiple blunt force injury?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. So we have heard you testify regarding
7 blunt force trauma to the head, neck, and torso;
8 correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. What can you tell us about the injury to
11 the lungs?

12 A. The injuries to the lungs, these are -- as
13 depicted a while ago in the photo, they are parallel
14 to each side on the lower portion of the lungs. And
15 it may indicate that there's a pressure on that area
16 of the chest, right and left, at least at these
17 points.

18 Q. Okay. And were you able to draw a
19 conclusion regarding whether the child was alive at
20 the time that pressure was applied?

21 A. Yes. Because there are hemorrhages
22 present. And those hemorrhages, as I have stated, are
23 parallel contusions on each side of that lower portion
24 of the lungs.

25 Q. So at the time that injury was inflicted

1 upon Yessenia to her lungs that impacted her lungs,
2 she was alive?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Could that also be from shaking?

5 A. I'm sorry. Could you please elaborate your
6 question?

7 Q. The injury that you saw to Yessenia's --
8 that caused injury to her lungs, bleeding that you
9 just described, could that result from the child being
10 shaken?

11 A. It definitely is probable in a scenario
12 wherein you are holding the torso of the child.

13 Q. What you saw is not the result of CPR?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Now, Doctor, you observed abrasions,
16 contusions all around the extremities, elbows,
17 forearms, knees, ankle, arms, hand. You made a
18 reference to the third knuckle, the right thigh side
19 of the hip, legs, feet; noted that, quote, internally
20 there was subcutaneous hemorrhage and additional soft
21 tissue hemorrhage of the left elbow and left knee; is
22 that correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Can you explain that?

25 A. Sure. This is based on the examination

1 after -- so the contusions are seen externally. As
2 part of the autopsy examination, we also open or
3 examine internally the skin. And underlying that
4 contusion is the subcutaneous hemorrhage which is
5 underneath the skin. And in particular, there's also
6 an additional soft tissue hemorrhage underlying the
7 subcutaneous tissue on the left elbow and front of the
8 right knee.

9 Q. All right. I notice going through your
10 autopsy report, you took particular notice of certain
11 injuries saying, quote, Notably there were patterned
12 injuries consistent of continuous circular contusions
13 with central skin sparing on the right upper and
14 middle back, left shoulder, posterior right arm, and
15 anterior right thigh; two separate couple of opposite
16 continuous curvilinear contusions with central skin
17 sparing on the left buttock; and additional continuous
18 curvilinear contusions on the left buttock close to
19 the intergluteal cleft and back of the right forearm
20 indicated that most likely a blunt object was
21 inflicted on these surfaces. Do you recall that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Could the blunt object be teeth?

24 A. Again, I cannot rule out.

25 Q. So let me show you -- in conjunction with

1 what I just referenced, let me show you State's
2 Proposed Exhibits 68B, D, E, F, H, and J (68A was not
3 mentioned). I would like to show these to you.
4 Please take your time, review them. Look up when
5 you're done, and we'll go forward from there.

6 A. So what I received are seven photographs
7 labeled Exhibits A, B, D, E, F, H, J. And yes, I do
8 recognize that.

9 Q. Are they accurate?

10 A. Yes.

11 MR. VITTO: Your Honor, I would ask that
12 these photographs be admitted into evidence.

13 MR. MARTINEZ: No objection, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Admitted.

15 (Whereupon State's Exhibits 68A, B, D, E,
16 F, H, and J are admitted into evidence.)

17 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Let's start with A.
18 Doctor, what can you tell us about this photograph?

19 A. This photograph shows the back,
20 specifically the right upper back. And this
21 photograph shows the circular contusion with central
22 skin sparing on the right upper back.

23 Q. Now, did you have opportunity to observe
24 whether there was bleeding that occurred into the soft
25 tissue?

1 A. Yes. Underlying soft tissue or the
2 subcutaneous soft tissue. Once I open the skin, look
3 at its underlying tissue, which I call subcutaneous
4 tissue, yes, there were.

5 Q. So does that mean there was enough blood
6 pressure present at the time to allow blood to come
7 out, damaged blood vessels, into the surrounding
8 tissue?

9 A. Could you please repeat the question again?

10 Q. If there was -- you saw bleeding that
11 occurred in the soft tissue?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Without more, are you able to tell whether
14 that's an indication that this bruise occurred post or
15 antemortem?

16 A. Antemortem. It means that the child is
17 still alive or around the time of death.

18 Q. So when this happened, this child was
19 alive?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Let's look at the next photograph. Now,
22 what do we see here, Doctor?

23 THE COURT: What's the exhibit number?

24 MS. WARD: 68B, as in "boy."

25 THE COURT: 68B.

1 THE WITNESS: So this is Exhibit 68B
2 showing the rest of the right side of the back. And
3 this additionally shows a faint circular -- a faint
4 circular contusion with central skin sparing.

5 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Distinct from the one that
6 we observed just a moment ago?

7 A. I'm sorry. Could you please repeat?

8 Q. This is a different bruise than the one we
9 just saw?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Antemortem or postmortem?

12 A. Ante.

13 Q. Let's look at our next photograph.

14 MS. WARD: D, as in "dog."

15 THE COURT: 69D.

16 MS. WARD: 68, I'm sorry.

17 THE COURT: 69D. Thank you.

18 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) And, Doctor, is this the
19 one that we have previously gone over. Is this the
20 right thigh?

21 A. The photo on the screen, I don't recognize
22 what part of the body because it's a close-up photo of
23 a circular contusion. There were five of them. So
24 this photo, I don't know what part of the body is
25 being shown, but what we see in this photo Exhibit D

1 is a circular contusion with central skin sparing in a
2 very close-up photo. But I don't know what part.

3 Q. Antemortem?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Doctor, do verified bite marks look like
6 this?

7 A. It could be.

8 Q. Okay. Let's look at the next picture.

9 A. So this photo, Exhibit E; correct?

10 MS. WARD: Yes.

11 THE WITNESS: This photo Exhibit E shows
12 the back of the right arm. And this -- the injury
13 that is being shown here is the continuous circular
14 contusion of the back of the right arm with central
15 skin sparing.

16 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) And the same as the others,
17 the child was alive when this injury occurred?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Look at the next one.

20 MS. WARD: F.

21 THE COURT: F.

22 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) What do we see here,
23 Doctor?

24 A. This photo Exhibit F shows the top of the
25 left shoulder. The injury that, if I may district

1 you, is the circular contusion with central skin
2 sparing on top of the left shoulder.

3 Q. And again, this one like all of the others
4 were antemortem while the child was alive?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Next.

7 MS. WARD: H.

8 THE COURT: What did say that was?

9 MS. WARD: H.

10 THE COURT: H?

11 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Go ahead, Doctor. What do
12 we see here?

13 A. Exhibit H on the screen, what we are
14 looking at is the left buttocks, and underneath that
15 is the thigh and a portion of the back of the right
16 leg and back of the right knee. So if I may direct
17 your attention to the buttocks, what we are looking at
18 here are the different abrasions and contusions on the
19 buttocks left and right. Notably, there are
20 curvilinear contusion on the left buttocks, as shown
21 here. Likewise, here which is close to the
22 intergluteal cleft or the cleft between the two
23 buttocks. So it's this one additionally on the left
24 buttocks.

25 In addition, there's also a contusion just

1 below the right buttocks, which is at the portion
2 already of the proximal thigh. The proximal is just
3 below the next part of the body. So below that is
4 another bruise on the back of the right thigh, just
5 hiding from that right buttocks.

6 Q. So, doctor, in regard to the last one, the
7 one that you still have circled on the screen, in
8 order to see that more clearly, do I understand
9 looking at this photograph, do I understand that the
10 buttocks had to actually be pulled to expose that
11 bruise?

12 A. Correct. And likewise, any other bodies
13 that is hidden like the armpit, I have to extend the
14 arm in order to see the armpit. Any inside of the
15 body, anything that is folds or that has folds. The
16 back of the ear cannot be seen if I'm just looking at
17 it. I have to retract it, if you will, or put it out
18 in order for me to see the back of the ear.

19 Underneath the buttocks, especially those
20 individual that have big buttocks or larger ones, I
21 have to examine every corner of the body.

22 Q. And that bruise was also curvilinear?

23 A. No.

24 Q. How would you describe that bruise?

25 A. It's just an irregular bruise.

1 Q. I got you. Next.

2 MS. WARD: J.

3 THE COURT: J.

4 THE WITNESS: So this is Exhibit J. This
5 is a faint -- I don't think it's really faint. It's
6 faint on me. This is Exhibit J showing the back of
7 the right forearm, and it shows a faint curvilinear or
8 a half-moon-like or a semicircular bruise on the back
9 of the right arm.

10 Q. Thank you, Doctor.

11 Thank you, Kassie. We're going to move on.

12 Doctor, at one point in your report, you
13 indicated that what you observed was, quote,
14 constellations of the injuries, unquote. What exactly
15 were you indicating with that phrase?

16 A. So the constellation of injuries, what I'm
17 referencing is the overall injuries that this child
18 sustained. And as I have reiterated or stated a while
19 ago, the way I describe or how I describe the injuries
20 is by region. Because there's so many injuries on the
21 body that it's very confusing for me not to describe
22 them by region.

23 So on the head, the back, the front of the
24 head; the torso, the back and the front of the torso.
25 The extremities, you have the back, the front, the

1 right, the left, upper and lower extremities. So
2 taking into account all of these injuries from head to
3 toe, what I'm referencing to the constellation is
4 that, the overall injuries on the child.

5 Q. Okay. And you included this quote? "His
6 child was beaten multiple times. There were no
7 scarring present in all of these lesions, indicating
8 that the child was assaulted recently"; is that
9 correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Did you happen to see an old injury?

12 A. None.

13 Q. Now, Doctor -- and I want to use your
14 phraseology -- do you say rigor (pronounces rye-gor)
15 or rigor (rig-or)?

16 A. Either way is fine. Sometimes I hear
17 police saying rigor or rigor. In other parts of the
18 world, it may be rigor (pronounces reeg-or).

19 Q. If I'm not mistaken, "rigor mortis" is a
20 Latin phrase that means stiffness of death?

21 A. Correct, or stiffening -- no, not stiffness
22 of death, if I may correct, a stiffening of the body.

23 Q. And simply put, a body received in full
24 rigor mortis simply means that the body is dead?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. What is the difference between rigor,
2 algor, and livor mortis?

3 A. "Rigor mortis" is the stiffening of the
4 body after death, or the body is dead it stiffens or
5 it becomes rigid. "Livor" is referring to the blood
6 pooling on the dependent portion of the body, and this
7 is an after-death or postmortem observation. If the
8 body -- if the body dies face up, the blood will pool
9 down on the dependent portion of the body, and that is
10 the back. So that is livor. "Algor" is pertaining to
11 the temperature of the body.

12 Q. Cooling?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. So does it stand to reason that algor
15 mortis would occur first?

16 A. I don't know in terms of -- the body is
17 very unique in how it responds after death. It
18 doesn't follow that way.

19 Q. I understand. Now, in some of the
20 photographs, particularly those where we see the back
21 of the child, is the blood pooling evident in those
22 photographs?

23 A. Yes. They are on the back portion of the
24 child, but they are not again -- these are
25 observations and not injuries.

1 Q. I understand. Exactly. And that would be,
2 that blood pooling would be the livor (pronounces
3 liv-er) mortis or livor (pronounces live-or) mortis?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. I think you referenced in your autopsy
6 report, Doctor, "pale conjunctivae." What does that
7 mean?

8 A. In the eyes, our eyes, if you check our
9 eyes, if you retract our eyelid, that layer on the
10 inside of the eyelid is the conjunctiva. A dead
11 person, not necessarily a dead person, we could have a
12 pale pink or a pale conjunctiva. It just means
13 observation of the conjunctivae is pale.

14 Q. You also noted a minimal drying of the
15 right cornea?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. What significance does that have?

18 A. Drying of the cornea signifies on a dead
19 person, signifies death as well. Our eyes dry very
20 rapidly, and that's why we blink constantly, because
21 it needs to be -- to have that moisture on our eye.
22 And that's why we're alive. The -- one of the eye,
23 the right eye in particular of Ms. Camp was dry. So
24 there is this drying of the eye, which I see -- I see
25 cases of a person dying with an eye open.

1 Q. And you saw that in conjunction with one
2 eye as opposed to both eyes?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Doctor, do white or pale gums have any
5 medical significance in relation to what we've been
6 discussing today?

7 A. No.

8 MR. VITTO: May I have the Court's
9 indulgence just a moment, please.

10 Your Honor, I would say that without a
11 doubt have at least 30 minutes; could be longer. If
12 no one has an objection to taking lunch at this time.

13 THE COURT: We'll take a lunch recess.
14 During this recess, it's your duty not to converse
15 among yourselves on any subject connected with the
16 trial. Don't watch radio, Internet, TV about the
17 trial. Don't form or express an opinion on any
18 subject connected with the trial until it is finally
19 submitted to you for deliberation.

20 It's 12:00 o'clock. We'll meet back here
21 at 1:15.

22 MR. VITTO: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

24 THE COURT: Thank you.

25 (A lunch recess is taken.)

1 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

2 THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated.

3 We're back in the presence of our 15 jurors.

4 The State -- is it the State's turn or
5 cross?

6 MR. VITTO: We're still doing direct,
7 Judge.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Vitto is going to resume
9 direct examination. Any of you in the course of trial
10 need to stand up and stretch and everything, feel free
11 to do so.

12 MR. VITTO: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: You're welcome.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION (RESUMES)

15 BY MR. VITTO:

16 Q. Dr. Roquero, I would like to start off our
17 afternoon session with a hypothetical. So let me
18 provide you with a fact pattern, and then I'm going to
19 ask you a question. A three-year-old female child
20 enters a shower stall uninjured and otherwise fine.
21 She emerges from the shower and is immediately
22 observed to be limp and unresponsive. She is then
23 laid naked on a bed where she is observed five hours
24 later in the same spot. Lifesaving measures prove
25 fruitless. She is asystole, no pulse, no reaction to

1 an intraosseous line or other stimuli. She is quickly
2 thereafter pronounced deceased.

3 With that as a fact pattern, if the injury
4 you observed caused what we have in the fact pattern
5 provided, can we conclude that the child was dead or
6 dying at that moment in time?

7 A. Correct.

8 MR. MARTINEZ: And I apologize, Your Honor,
9 can we clarify "at that moment in time."

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) At the time that the child
12 was laid on the bed in that fact pattern?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Doctor, have you seen documented bite marks
15 on a human body?

16 A. In books, yes, but not in my experience.

17 Q. Okay. You've seen them in textbooks?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. You've seen them over the course of your
20 study?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Will bite marks that have -- confirmed,
23 documented bite marks that you've seen in books, will
24 bite marks appear circular?

25 A. They can.

1 Q. They can also appear semicircular?

2 A. They can.

3 Q. Do they also appear curvilinear?

4 A. They can.

5 Q. Excuse my mispronunciation if I
6 mispronounce this phrase. What is "tache noir"?

7 A. It's a French terminology commonly -- we
8 already discussed that this morning -- is the drying
9 of the eyes, specifically the cornea. It's the
10 covering of the eye that we see from every one of us.
11 So it's just the drying of the eye. That is a French
12 fancy terminology; they like to use that.

13 MS. REPORTER: Can you spell it?

14 THE WITNESS: Oh, yeah, I can spell it for
15 you if you don't mind. Sorry. Tache, t-a-c-h-e --

16 MS. REPORTER: T-a --

17 THE WITNESS: Yeah, "t" as in "tango,"
18 -a-c-h-e, noir, n-, as in "November," -o-i-r.

19 MS. REPORTER: Thank you.

20 THE COURT: Why do you always ask him to
21 spell things and not the rest of us?

22 Q. (By Mr. Vitto) Doctor, I believe that your
23 autopsy report referenced the collection of a rape
24 kit?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Were you present for that procedure?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you happen to remember who did that?

4 A. I don't, but as for the -- for lack of a
5 better term, process in cases of suspicious death --
6 we call the third processing of the body, if you
7 will -- that includes the doctor, the practice of the
8 doctor; the pathology technician, or assistant for
9 that matter; as well as the detectives of that case.
10 So that will be -- but specifically as to who are
11 they, I don't remember.

12 Q. That's okay. As far as putting your report
13 together, taking photographs, you were identifying and
14 measuring the abrasions and contusions to the head and
15 neck?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Do you happen to recall off the top of your
18 head if there were, all told, more than 20 injuries
19 observed, some being identified as clusters; does that
20 sound accurate?

21 A. Would you please repeat the question again.

22 Q. How many individual injuries did you
23 observe, if you recall?

24 A. I tried counting them as far as my
25 description is in the autopsy report. It's about 30

1 separate. But many of these or some of these are
2 clusters. Example on the buttocks where it's really
3 hard to define how many.

4 Q. Okay. So if you are counting a cluster of
5 injuries, you would count the cluster as one?

6 A. Correct. As measured as one.

7 Q. Okay. You also observed that the right and
8 left eyes had perioptic nerve hemorrhages. Is that
9 something different than saying in lay terms the eyes
10 were bleeding?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you explain that?

13 A. Sure. That was my finding based on when I
14 took the eyes of the child. There was perioptic. So
15 the eye structure has the globe, and at the back of it
16 is the optic nerve. So the eye is the eye itself, and
17 then the nerve that is connecting the eye to the brain
18 for us to discern that we are looking at different
19 colors -- we are looking white, black, red, yellow,
20 anything like that -- is the one connected to the
21 brain is the optic nerve.

22 So perioptic nerve hemorrhage is not the
23 hemorrhage on the eye itself. It's actually the
24 hemorrhage surrounding the optic nerve, which is the
25 structure that connects the eye to the brain.

1 Q. So that reference is something more
2 internal than simply the eyeball?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. What does it mean that the brain was free
5 of neoplastic lesions?

6 A. That pertains to neoplas -- to masses or to
7 tumors. So there was no tumor found on my initial
8 observation of the brain when I took it out. I don't
9 remember if the neuropathologist who examined the
10 brain also commented on that. But as far as my
11 comment is, and based on the review of her photos, I
12 did not find a tumor in the brain.

13 Q. So other than the obvious injury that you
14 observed, the brain appeared to be normal and healthy?

15 A. It's not normal and healthy per se, because
16 the brain is swollen. I would say there was no tumor
17 in the brain.

18 Q. Okay. So other than the fact that the
19 brain was swelling, and the brain swelling was due
20 to -- and you've gone over that before -- injury or
21 something, because the brain is seeking oxygen?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And the heart was free of disease?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. The respiratory system looked normal?

1 A. Except for those mentioned.

2 Q. And that would be the injury to the lungs?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Bleeding?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. The liver was fine?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. The spleen was fine?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. The alimentary system was fine?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What is the "alimentary system"?

13 A. The "alimentary system" is again another
14 name for the GI tract. That includes mainly the lower
15 GI tract. That includes the stomach; intestines,
16 small and large intestines.

17 Q. All right. Pancreas was fine?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. The endocrine system was fine?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. What does that include?

22 A. "Endocrine" means the hormone organs. That
23 includes the thyroid, adrenal gland. These organs are
24 normal. There's also no tumor or bleeding in the --
25 in these tissues.

1 Q. And although you did notice bleeding
2 associated with the soft tissue near or around the
3 kidneys, the kidneys themselves were otherwise fine?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. The cervix, fallopian tube, ovaries fine?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. So if I understand your testimony
8 correctly, what you saw was a normal healthy little
9 girl who had just been beaten to death?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Can you explain thin "multifocal
12 leptomeningeal hemorrhage, recent"?

13 A. Sure. Multifocal leptomeningeal hemorrhage
14 was, again, as per neurology finding -- or
15 neuropathologist finding after examination. And I did
16 review them and I disagree. "Multifocal" meaning
17 multiple areas on the surface of the brain.
18 "Leptomeningeal" is a histologic term, histologic term
19 to the subarachnoid hemorrhage. So it's similar; the
20 term is similar. Leptomeningeal is a histological
21 term we use, or I use. But in terms of the overall
22 finding in general, it is also called a subarachnoid
23 hemorrhage.

24 Q. So leptomeningeal is what was observed
25 under the microscope?

1 A. Yes, but it can also be seen as a
2 subarachnoid hemorrhage with the naked eye. So they
3 are similar in terms, just in the way someone would
4 prefer to use it as leptomeningeal, as someone would
5 use subarachnoid as I do.

6 Q. And multifocal simply means at different
7 points?

8 A. Correct. Or different areas on the brain,
9 like right, left, here and there.

10 Q. Okay. Because you also observed focal
11 microscopic intraparenchymal hemorrhages, basis pontis
12 and splenium; correct?

13 A. That was originally examined by the
14 brain -- initially by the neuropathologist, and then I
15 reviewed her report, as well as the slides. And I
16 made a report on it as well, and I agree with her.
17 And the answer is yes, correct.

18 Q. And there was also focal epidural
19 hemorrhage in the right convexity. So if I understand
20 what you just testified with the last few questions,
21 simply put, the brain was bleeding from multiple
22 areas?

23 A. I'm sorry. Could you please --

24 Q. The brain was bleeding from multiple sites?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. And those would be separate and distinct
2 areas of the brain?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Now, could that be caused by multiple blunt
5 force trauma to the head?

6 A. It can be, yes.

7 Q. Could it also be caused by one blow that
8 caused the brain to bounce back and forth within the
9 skull?

10 A. It can be, yes.

11 Q. Now, for the latter, would that -- well,
12 for the latter, one blow that caused the brain to go
13 back and forth, that would make me think that it was a
14 blow of some significance. Is that a question that
15 you can answer?

16 A. I can't.

17 Q. Okay. The whiplash effect that may have
18 caused some of the injury you observed, would that
19 cause the brain to rock back and forth within the
20 skull?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And if I've already asked you this, just
23 say, "We've gone over that," but I was asking -- I
24 would like you to explain the spinal cord with recent
25 hemorrhage around several cervical nerve roots and

1 ganglia. And we might have gone over that previously.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. We did?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. All right. And you observed the bleeding
6 in respect to the eyes; correct, or the hemorrhaging?

7 A. As per -- initially again, it was the eyes
8 were examined. Initially, as I took it out from the
9 body externally, and I made a comment on the
10 (inaudible) of the perioptic nerve sheath. And then
11 it was sent later to an ophthalmologist who identified
12 the eye and who internally examined the eye. And that
13 was made initially -- the report was made initially by
14 the ophthalmologist regarding that retinal hemorrhage.
15 And I did review his report, as well as the slides he
16 sent me, and I do agree with him.

17 Q. And it included not only retinal, but I
18 think you testified the optic nerve sheath and the
19 focal orbital; is that correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. What significance does it have that in the
22 left eye there was observed to be perimacular retinal
23 folds?

24 A. As far as significance, it is again a group
25 of spectrum of injury. Again, this is the initial --

1 this is the initial report of the ophthalmologist who
2 examined the eye internally. Perimacular folds along
3 with the other -- along with the other findings of
4 retinal hemorrhages, as well as the optic nerve
5 hemorrhage or perioptic nerve sheath hemorrhage, also
6 signify a severe injury to the head!

7 Q. And again, I think we went over this. You
8 had sent the brain, brain stem, so to speak, and the
9 identifies were sent for independent analysis to
10 confirm your findings; is that correct?

11 A. Not to confirm my findings, but actually
12 it's a resource that the Clark County Coroner's Office
13 has for the office at the -- when I was working there
14 as a Medical Examiner. So it's an added, additional
15 resources for us to help with the examination.

16 So it was, at the time there was the three
17 sources that is available for us for the brain
18 examination; separate examination internal and
19 external; as well as the eye separate examination,
20 internal and external. So that's an added resource
21 that the Clark County Coroner's Office provides.

22 Q. Thank you.

23 A. You're welcome.

24 Q. Is the -- your reference to -- I'm going to
25 mess this one up -- alveolar neutrophilic infiltrates,

1 edema, and atelectasis?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. What is that?

4 A. It's the lungs are collapsed, and that's
5 it. It's another medical I use, or we use in the
6 medical community. Atelectasis -- do you want me to
7 spell it for you?

8 Q. Sure.

9 A. Atelectasis is A-t, as in "tango," -e-l --
10 if I may write it down first? So that would be
11 a-t-e-l-e-c-t, as in "tango," -a-s-i-s. So it means
12 collapse of the lungs or air spaces.

13 Q. And part of the reason I want to go over
14 these is because admitted as an exhibit as your
15 autopsy report is, the jury will have that with them
16 when they deliberate at the end of these proceedings,
17 and they will have an understanding of some of the
18 words that they see in here.

19 A. Sure.

20 Q. Okay. And I think we went over the
21 mesentery, the periadrenal soft tissue. You noticed
22 hemorrhage consisting of red blood cells and scattered
23 neutrophils. Did we go over that?

24 A. Neutrophils are cells in our body which
25 help us to attack infection.

1 Q. So what is the significance of referencing
2 that in your autopsy report?

3 A. Oh, it helps me in terms of appreciating,
4 not just saying hemorrhage. Hemorrhage is definitely
5 bleeding by itself. But as far as histology,
6 histology is describing what I see in the slides
7 underneath -- in the tissue underneath.

8 So the way I present the histology findings
9 is I describe what I saw and what consistency these
10 hemorrhage are, such as red blood cells. Are there
11 anything other than red blood cells, like few, rare,
12 more, extensive, if there is any of that neutrophils
13 or any other mononuclear. This is another
14 inflammatory cells that I may find in a hemorrhage.
15 And it also helps me in terms of the findings of
16 events.

17 Q. Exactly. And I want to turn to that now
18 because you subjected skin of the back, buttock, left
19 extremity, right forearm, right knee, right thigh, and
20 left shoulder to microscopic examination; correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And you were able to observe subcutaneous
23 adipose hemorrhage?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. What does that mean as far as there being

1 scarring?

2 A. So there was no scarring in this
3 hemorrhages. When I look under the microscope at the
4 different parts of the skin I took, representative
5 sections of the skin of these contusions, there was no
6 scarring underneath. And it means that these injury
7 are recent, along with the intact red blood cells that
8 consist of these hemorrhages and few scattered or rare
9 neutrophilic infiltrates.

10 Q. And all of that led you to the conclusion,
11 backed up by what you were able to observe under
12 microscopic examination of the back, buttocks, left
13 extremity, right forearm, right knee, and right thigh,
14 that these injuries were recent?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And in regard to -- what can you tell me as
17 it pertains to observing no stainable iron in that
18 regard as well?

19 A. Sure. No stainable iron is the description
20 that is in the report that pertains to the iron stain.
21 So these hemorrhages may have been -- again, the one
22 thing that is helpful also for me in terms of
23 resolving the issue of it is recent or not recent is
24 to do an iron stain. So it's a special stain that I
25 use on the tissue in the slide. So it's a special

1 stain, an iron stain. If I see those iron stains in
2 the correct area of hemorrhages, that usually -- they
3 are usually seen, we call them as hemosiderin
4 histiocytes. So they're the scavenger of the --
5 scavenger of the nonintact red cells, because the
6 nonintact red blood cells break. And then the
7 component of the red cells will be eaten or will be
8 cleaned up by the histiocytes, and a portion of this
9 will have this iron positive or positivity.

10 So the significance of this if I see this,
11 that will provide me the information that the injury
12 is approximately two -- at least two to three days
13 post injury. So there is no stainable iron in the
14 sections of the skin in the area of hemorrhage when I
15 examined under histology.

16 Q. So if there's stainable iron, the injuries
17 could have been older?

18 A. At least two to three days; correct.

19 Q. But in this case there was no stainable
20 iron?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Which is -- correct me if I'm wrong --
23 empirical, hard science that these injuries were
24 recent?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. As recent as seconds to hours?

2 A. Correct. Or less than -- with that being
3 said as far as the statement of iron is, at least two
4 to three days post injury. And that will narrow down
5 the injury to less than 24 hours or less than a day.

6 Q. With no stainable iron?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. So as far as the bowels themselves -- I use
9 the words bowels -- the bowels themselves were not
10 bleeding, but the supporting tissue was bleeding?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And I think we've gone over this, the same
13 with the kidneys. The lungs were bleeding; correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. The eyes were bleeding?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And the brain was bleeding?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. All of which is a hundred percent
20 consistent and corroborative of your conclusions
21 regarding the cause and manner of death?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. So three-year-old Yessenia Camp was beaten
24 to death, the result of multiple recent beatings,
25 blunt force trauma, and it was a homicide?

1 A. Correct.

2 MR. VITTO: I have no more questions of
3 this witness.

4 THE COURT: Counsel?

5 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you.

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. MARTINEZ:

9 Q. Good afternoon, Doctor?

10 A. Good afternoon, sir.

11 Q. I'm going to take it way back to the
12 beginning?

13 A. Sure.

14 Q. So, Doctor, you had to go through a lot of
15 education to get where you are; right?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Started with your bachelors degree?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And you went to college in the Philippines?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Then you got your medical degree; right?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. That was also in the Philippines?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And I think you said it was an internship

1 that brought you to the United States?

2 A. Residency.

3 Q. Oh, residency. What is a residency? What
4 do you do as a resident?

5 A. Sure. Residency training program is where
6 after med school, these are -- not specialized, but
7 before specializing to a -- before specializing into a
8 particular field. So in order for us, or for me to
9 get into forensics, I had to undergo pathology
10 training program.

11 So pathology training program in anatomical
12 and clinical is a four-year residency. It means that
13 you are training for four years as a resident --
14 interning as a resident, or an occupant, if you will,
15 in a house or occupant in a hospital. So in the case
16 of residency, it's a person who's doing a four-year
17 straight training -- that's me -- in anatomical and
18 clinical pathology.

19 And if you will, likewise, an internist or
20 internal medicine or pediatric, they also undergo the
21 three-year residency where they become occupant of
22 that hospital under their program.

23 Q. Okay. So it's four years of hands-on
24 training?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Rather than just reading about everything
2 in a book, you start to put it into practice?

3 A. It's both. Loosely, it's a practice, but
4 it's a training in pathology per se because we are
5 under supervision for everything that I do in terms of
6 learning anatomical and clinical pathology.

7 Q. And that residency was specifically a
8 pathology residency?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And you did that in Michigan you said;
11 right?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. I believe next you were a fellow; right?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. What do you do as a fellow?

16 A. So a fellowship or a fellow, a person is
17 doing fellowship, and fellowship is a subspecialty.
18 It's a specialized training in a different field of
19 medicine, in the different disciplines of medicine.
20 Again, different disciplines of medicine is pathology,
21 medicine, surgery, family medicine, things like that.

22 So in pathology, a fellow is a person doing
23 fellowship. So it's a subspecialized training program
24 that is intended for forensic, or exclusively for
25 forensic pathology, which is the study of trauma.

1 Q. Okay. How is a fellowship different than a
2 residency?

3 A. So a fellowship is a specialized training.
4 So a residency is more of a generalized approach in
5 pathology. Pathology is a study of disease. So in
6 residency, it's a generalized approach in studying of
7 the disease. And from that, there is multiple
8 subspecialization or specialization pathology. One of
9 these specializations is forensic pathology, which is
10 geared towards training, further training on trauma,
11 as well as the cause of death or why did the person
12 die, that sort of approach or sort of principle.

13 Q. What's the difference between forensic
14 pathology and anatomical and clinical pathology?

15 A. So anatomical pathology and clinical is
16 under the residency training. So again, it's a
17 generalized training in the study of disease or in
18 pathology. Forensic is different. Forensic is a
19 specialized training, wherein my training is
20 concentrated or allotted only for the cause of death,
21 as well as the trauma, related to trauma.

22 Q. Okay. And you have certifications in both
23 forensic pathology and anatomical and clinical
24 pathology; correct?

25 A. In three -- anatomical, clinical, and