



The National Trial Competition

2026 Regional Case Problem

STATE OF LONE STAR
v.
JOSHUA JONES and PETER JONES

Prepared by:

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Justin Bernstein

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and
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December 16, 2025

Dear Students and Coaches,

This year's case was inspired by one of our favorite criminal fact patterns – one that's not only charmed movie audiences for decades, but also played a role in trial advocacy education. We hope you enjoy it!

We are grateful to everyone who helped make this case possible. First, we thank the Texas Young Lawyers Association, who hosts the competition, and the American College of Trial Lawyers, who sponsors it. Their dedication has given generations of students invaluable courtroom skills and helped recognize the very best student advocates in the country. We appreciate them trusting us with their case, and, like last year, we appreciate their helpful feedback. We also thank Joshua Jones, Peter Jones, Sara Williams, and Judge Jim Roberts for lending us their photos (in some cases heavily doctored by AI), voices, or both.

As always, we welcome questions and ideas for improving the case – especially ideas that are “lucid, intelligent, and well thought-out.” 😊 Please use the questionnaire circulated by TYLA by January 5, 2026.

We think the movie is so iconic among those who practice and teach trial advocacy because it emphasizes the most important attributes of any successful trial lawyer: preparation, zeal, and being yourself. We hope those ideals guide you as you prepare for this competition.

Good luck!

Sincerely,



Matt, Nick, and Justin

* * *

This case is dedicated to Professor Susan Poehls.



Susan served as Director of Trial Advocacy Programs at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles for over 30 years. Susan's teams were as respected for their ethics as they were for their advocacy.

She led her teams to dozens of competition wins, including to back-to-back national championships at the National Trial Competition in 2005 and 2006. In 2016, she won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Educating Advocacy Teachers Conference.

Beyond her professional success, Susan was a devoted wife and mother of two. She was also a friend, mentor, and role model to many of us in the trial advocacy community.

* * *

**IN THE 51ST DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR TOBIN COUNTY**

STATE OF LONE STAR	&	CASE NO. 26-REG-CR
	&	
v.	&	
	&	
JOSHUA JONES and PETER JONES,	&	INDICTMENT
	&	
<i>Defendants.</i>	&	
	&	

COUNT 1

The undersigned, being sworn says, on information and belief, that JOSHUA JONES did, in the County of Tobin, on or about January 4, 2025, commit a FELONY-MURDER, a violation of section 19.02(b)(3) of the Lone Star Penal Code, in that said Defendant committed or attempted to commit a robbery and, in the course of and in furtherance of the commission or attempt, or in immediate flight from the commission or attempt of robbery, the Defendant and/or the Defendant's coparticipant committed an act that caused the death of an individual, JIMMY ROBERTS.

COUNT 2

The undersigned further deposes and says on information and belief, that PETER JONES did, in the County of Tobin, on or about January 4, 2025, commit a FELONY-MURDER, a violation of section 19.02(b)(3) of the Lone Star Penal Code, in that said Defendant committed or attempted to commit a robbery and, in the course of and in furtherance of the commission or attempt, or in immediate flight from the commission or attempt of robbery, the Defendant and/or the Defendant's coparticipant committed an act that caused the death of an individual, JIMMY ROBERTS.

Subscribed and sworn before me,
Monday, June 9, 2025

Jeremy Dailey III

Jeremy Dailey III
Deputy District Attorney
Tobin County District Attorney

**IN THE 51ST DISTRICT COURT
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STATE OF LONE STAR

v.

JOSHUA JONES and PETER JONES,

Defendants.

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CASE NO. 26-REG-CR

PRETRIAL ORDER

GENERAL

1. The State charged both Defendants with felony-murder. Defendants both pleaded not guilty. Defendants knowingly and voluntarily waived their right to separate counsel.
2. The State will call Kade Donoghue and Paige Boorman. Defendants will call Marlee Galvez and Lou Cloud. All witnesses are gender neutral.
3. At trial, Defendants are constructively seated at the defense table. Joshua Jones is wearing a gray suit and red tie. Peter Jones is wearing a blue suit and gold tie.
4. The parties have agreed to the Jury Instructions, which may not be amended at trial and which will be constructively read to the jury after closing arguments conclude.
5. If asked, witnesses must admit that their prior testimony and expert reports are complete statements of everything they know about this case. In response to an impeachment, a witness may not say, "I wasn't asked that in my prior testimony" or the equivalent.
6. Before woodshedding, opposing counsel must complete the Elections Form together.

EVIDENTIARY RULINGS

7. The only exhibits that parties may offer into evidence and the only items to which "best evidence" objections may be made are those on this Joint Exhibit List:

1. 911 call	9. Skylark photo	18. Ballistics comparison
2. 911 transcript	10. Goldeni photo	19. Joshua Jones photo
3. Bag-O-Buds photo	11. Rosenblatt photo	20. Peter Jones photos
4. Map	12. Trial transcript	21. Cloud award transcript
5. Jimmy Roberts photo	13. Joshua Jones criminal record	22. Donoghue prelim testimony
6. Crime scene photo	14. Peter Jones criminal record	23. Boorman expert report
7. Cash register photo	15. Stolen Car Report	24. Galvez prelim testimony
8. Autopsy	16. Guilty Plea transcript	25. Cloud expert report
	17. Two-Dollar Bill	

8. Because witnesses cannot be recalled, parties may not object to cross-examination as outside the scope of direct examination.

9. The notice requirements under the Federal Rules of Evidence have been satisfied.
10. All searches and seizures were Constitutional. All objections to the contrary have been heard and overruled, and they may not be reraised at trial.
11. Because the State opted to try the Defendants jointly with a single jury, any evidence that is deemed inadmissible as to one Defendant shall be inadmissible as to both.
12. The Court overrules all Confrontation Clause and *Bruton* objections to Exhibits 1 and 2. If admitted, the parties may play Exhibit 1 on a tablet, laptop, or phone.
13. By agreement of the parties, Exhibit 8, Exhibit 15 (A-F), Exhibit 17, and the first page of Exhibit 16 are preadmitted without redaction or limitation. Regarding the second page of Exhibit 16 (lines 27-44), the Court overrules all objections based on hearsay, authenticity, and the U.S. Constitution (including the Confrontation Clause and *Bruton*), but will entertain argument on other grounds at trial.
14. Exhibits 13 and 14 qualify as public records under FRE 803(8).
15. Time spent playing or reading an exhibit, or portions of an exhibit, to the jury shall be deducted from that party's time allocation. Playing or reading may not be constructive.

STIPULATIONS

16. The parties agree these stipulations are true and may be read to the jury:
 - A. Exhibit 1 is an authentic recording of the telephone call from Jimmy Roberts to the Tobin County 911 operator at 9:32 a.m. on January 4, 2025.
 - B. Exhibits 2, 12, 16, 21, 22, and 24 are complete and accurate transcriptions.
 - C. The State of Lone Star and its employees maintained a proper chain of custody regarding all vehicles, physical evidence, and forensic evidence in this case.
 - D. For brevity, the parties agreed not to use at trial the police reports made during the investigation of Jimmy Roberts's death. No party may argue that such reports do not exist, were not disclosed, or contain information not stated in Exhibits 1-24.
 - E. Tobin County is 50 miles due west of Kita County and 200 miles due east of Keyes County. The Lone Star State Prison is in Kita County.
 - F. Boorman read Exhibits 22, 24, and 25. Boorman's opinions did not change.
 - G. Donoghue, Boorman, and Cloud are all familiar with the Stipulations.

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CASE NO. 26-REG-CR

PRETRIAL ELECTIONS FORM

Round # _____ State Team # _____ Defense Team # _____

Defendants elect which Order on the State's Motion To Exclude Alleged Confession As Hearsay will be operative for this trial (check one):

- ☐ Order #1 is operative (meaning Order #2 does not exist for purposes of this trial)
☐ Order #2 is operative (meaning Order #1 does not exist for purposes of this trial)

The parties agree to preadmit the following exhibits (in addition to those already preadmitted in the Pretrial Order):

One advocate for each party should sign below to affirm the above.

State

Defendants

**IN THE 51ST DISTRICT COURT
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CASE NO. 26-REG-CR

**ORDER #1 - GRANTING STATE'S
MOTION TO EXCLUDE ALLEGED
CONFESSION AS HEARSAY**

The State moved *in limine* to exclude any mention of Mike Goldeni's alleged confession, "I shot the clerk," as inadmissible hearsay.

Both parties submitted briefs on the issue.

Counsel for Defendants Peter Jones and Joshua Jones ("Defendants") represented to the Court that they may argue at trial that Mike Goldeni and/or Ronnie Rosenblatt killed, or might have killed, clerk Jimmy Roberts. Given that possible defense theory, the alleged confession would be offered for the truth of the matter asserted and would constitute hearsay. The declaration against interest exception is inapplicable because there is no evidence that the declarant is unavailable.

Accordingly, the Court grants the State's motion and excludes any mention of Mike Goldeni's alleged confession, "I shot the clerk." This ruling also prohibits testimony regarding police failures to properly record or document the alleged confession.

**IN THE 51ST DISTRICT COURT
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CASE NO. 26-REG-CR

**ORDER #2 - DENYING STATE'S
MOTION TO EXCLUDE ALLEGED
CONFESSION AS HEARSAY**

The State moved *in limine* to exclude any mention of Mike Goldeni's alleged confession, "I shot the clerk," as inadmissible hearsay.

Both parties submitted briefs on the issue.

Counsel for Defendants Peter Jones and Joshua Jones ("Defendants") represented to the Court that they will not argue at trial that Mike Goldeni and/or Ronnie Rosenblatt killed, or might have killed, clerk Jimmy Roberts. Given that, the Court makes the following rulings:

First, the following stipulation may be read to the jury by either party at any time:

H. The parties agree that neither Mike Goldeni nor Ronnie Rosenblatt caused the death of Jimmy Roberts.

Second, the Court denies the State's motion on hearsay grounds. Either party may still raise objections to the alleged confession on other grounds.

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JURY INSTRUCTIONS

Jury as Fact Finder

As jurors, you review the evidence, and determine the facts and what they prove. You judge the believability of the witnesses and what weight to give their testimony.

Presumption of Innocence

The Defendants are presumed innocent of all charges. The law does not require a defendant to prove his innocence or produce any evidence.

Burden of Proof

The burden of proof is always on the State. The Defendants do not have the burden to prove anything. The State has the burden to prove the Defendants' guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Reasonable doubt is a doubt for which a reason can be given. It must be an actual doubt, and not a mere guess or opinion. Beyond a reasonable doubt does not mean that the State must prove guilt beyond every imaginable or speculative doubt or beyond all possibility of mistake, because that would be impossible. The State is not required to convince you of the Defendants' guilt beyond all doubt, but beyond a reasonable doubt.

Evidence

"Evidence" includes testimony of witnesses, exhibits admitted into evidence, stipulations, and anything else I told you to treat as evidence. The attorneys' remarks and questions are not evidence. If I sustained an objection, ignore the question. If I ordered testimony stricken, disregard it. During the trial, you were told that both parties agreed, or stipulated, to certain facts. Because there is no dispute about those facts you must also accept them as true.

Evidence may be direct, circumstantial, or both. Direct evidence is direct proof of a fact, such as testimony about what a witness personally saw. Circumstantial evidence is proof of one or more facts from which one can find another fact. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to direct or circumstantial evidence.

Witnesses

You will have to decide if you believe each witness. You may believe all, part, or none of a witness's testimony. You may consider, among other factors, the following:

1. How well did the witness see, hear, or sense what the witness described in court?
2. How well did the witness remember and describe what happened?
3. How did the witness look, act, and speak while testifying?
4. Did the witness have any bias, motive, or incentive to say something that was not true?
5. Was the witness's testimony consistent with other things the witness said?

Expert Witness Testimony

Witnesses were allowed to testify as experts and to give opinions. You must consider the opinion, but you are not required to accept them as correct. Consider the expert's knowledge, skill, experience, training, and education, the reasons the expert gave for any opinion, and the facts or information on which the expert relied in reaching that opinion. If the expert witnesses disagreed with one another, you should weigh each opinion against the others.

Defendant's Right Not to Testify

A defendant has an absolute constitutional right not to testify. Do not consider, for any reason at all, the fact that the Defendants did not testify.

Motive

The State is not required to prove that the Defendants had a motive to commit any of the crimes charged. In reaching your verdict you may, however, consider whether the Defendants had a motive. Having a motive may be a factor tending to show that the Defendants are guilty. Not having a motive may be a factor tending to show the Defendants are not guilty.

CHARGES: DEFINITIONS AND ELEMENTS

To prove felony murder, the State must prove that:

1. The Defendant, in Tobin County, Lone Star, on or about January 4, 2025, committed or attempted to commit robbery; AND
2. In the course of and in furtherance of the commission or attempt, or in immediate flight from the commission or attempt of robbery, the Defendant and/or the Defendant's coparticipant committed an act that caused the death of Jimmy Roberts.

Robbery is the unlawful taking of property from another by force.

If you all agree the State failed to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, one or more of elements 1 and 2 listed above, you must return a verdict of "not guilty." If you all agree the State proved, beyond a reasonable doubt, both elements listed above, you must return a verdict of "guilty."

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CASE NO. 26-REG-CR

VERDICT FORM

1. How do you find the Defendant JOSHUA JONES on the charge of Felony-Murder?

____ NOT GUILTY

____ GUILTY

2. How do you find the Defendant PETER JONES on the charge of Felony-Murder?

____ NOT GUILTY

____ GUILTY

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Jury Foreperson

After this form has been signed, deliver it to the Court Clerk.

911 Call Transcript

Exhibit
2

Operator: 911, what's your emergency?

Caller: I've been shot!

Operator: Give me your name and location.

Caller: Jimmy Roberts. I'm at the Bag-O-Buds. I think this might be it for me.

Operator: I'm sending officers now. Tell me what happened.

Caller: There was two men. One pointed a gun at me. The other said gimme all the money in the register. I gave it to him. And the first guy shot me anyway!

Operator: What did they look like?

Caller: I don't know. I was just looking at the gun. After they shot me, they jumped in a mint green convertible and peeled away.

Operator: Our officers are two minutes out.

Exhibit
3



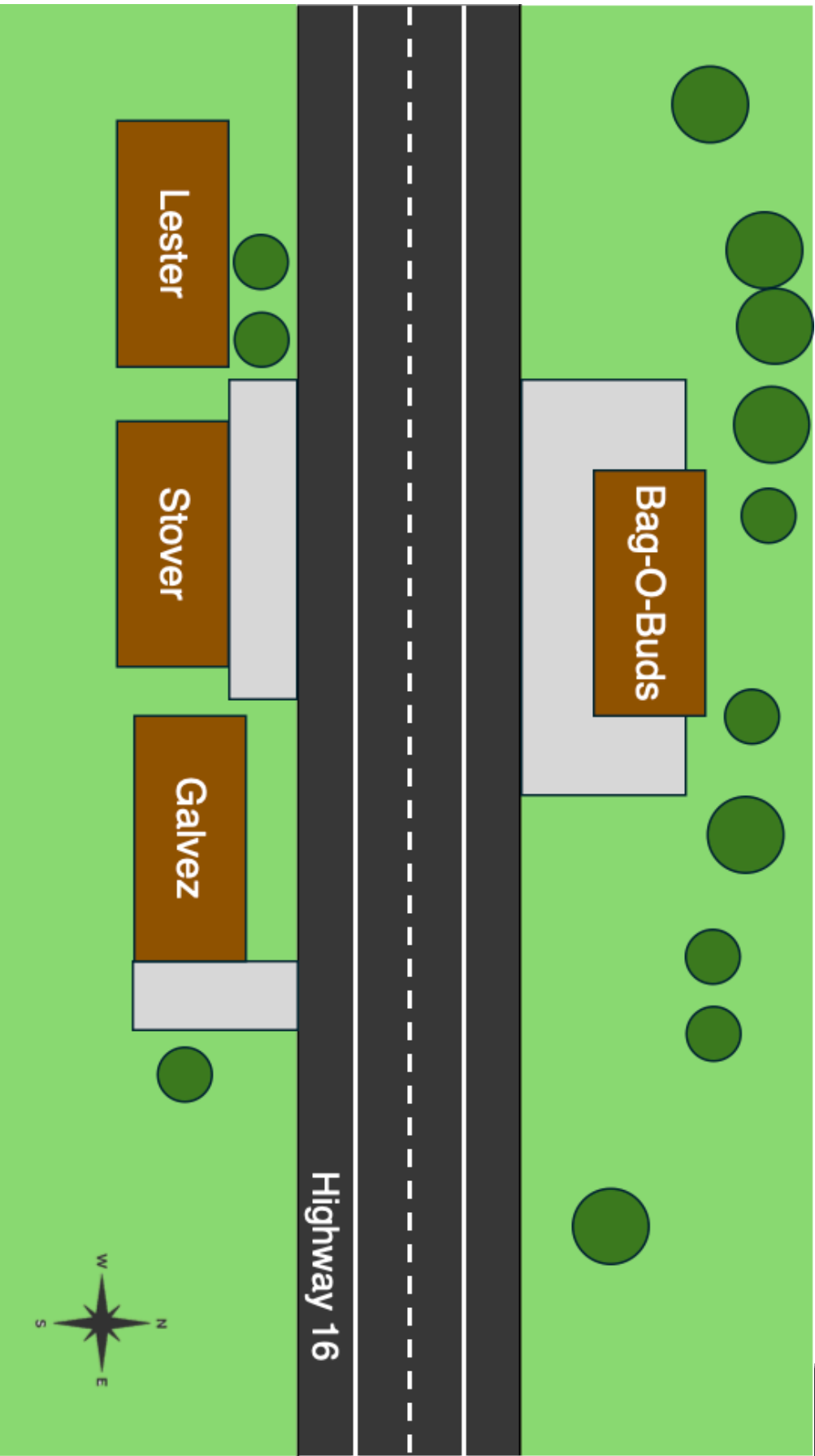






Exhibit
6



Exhibit
7

Autopsy Report

Name: Jimmy Roberts Age: 68 Sex: Male
Date of Autopsy: January 5, 2025 Case Number: MCV>LL
Performed By: Joan Van Dyke, M.D., Chief Coroner



Identifying Information:

The decedent is identified as Jimmy Roberts by governmental identification and confirmation from family. The body is received in a standard body bag, appropriately tagged, and shows no signs of postmortem disturbance.

External Examination:

The body is that of a well-nourished, well-developed adult male measuring approximately 5 foot 11 and weighing approximately 175 pounds. "Roll Tide" tattoo on buttocks. Rigor mortis is fully developed and livor mortis is posterior and fixed. The clothing has been removed prior to examination. Two penetrating gunshot wounds are present on the anterior chest, with no exit wounds. No other external injuries, scars, or abnormalities are noted.

- Gunshot Wound #1 (GSW-A): Located on the left upper chest, approximately 6 cm below the clavicle and 5 cm lateral to midline. Circular entrance wound with an abrasion ring consistent with shot from 5-8 feet.
- Gunshot Wound #2 (GSW-B): Located on the mid-right chest. Circular entrance wound with an abrasion ring consistent with shot from 5-8 feet.

Internal Examination:

Opening thoracic cavity reveals significant blood and clot consistent with internal hemorrhage. GSW-A perforates the upper lobe of the left lung and comes to rest against the posterior thoracic wall. GSW-B penetrates the right lung and transects a branch of the right pulmonary artery, producing massive internal bleeding. Both recovered bullets are intact .357 Magnum projectiles, consistent with rounds fired from a .357 Magnum-caliber firearm. Provided to law enforcement for ballistic examination.

Toxicology:

Blood, urine, and vitreous samples are collected. Initial screening reveals no alcohol or drugs at levels of clinical significance. Full toxicology pending.

Date/Time of Death:

Based on eyewitnesses, 911 call, reports from law enforcement, and autopsy observations, victim was shot at 9:30 a.m. on January 4, 2025 and died within minutes.

Cause of Death:

Multiple gunshot wounds to the chest from .357 Magnum projectiles, resulting in perforation of both lungs and major vascular injury.

Manner of Death:

Homicide.

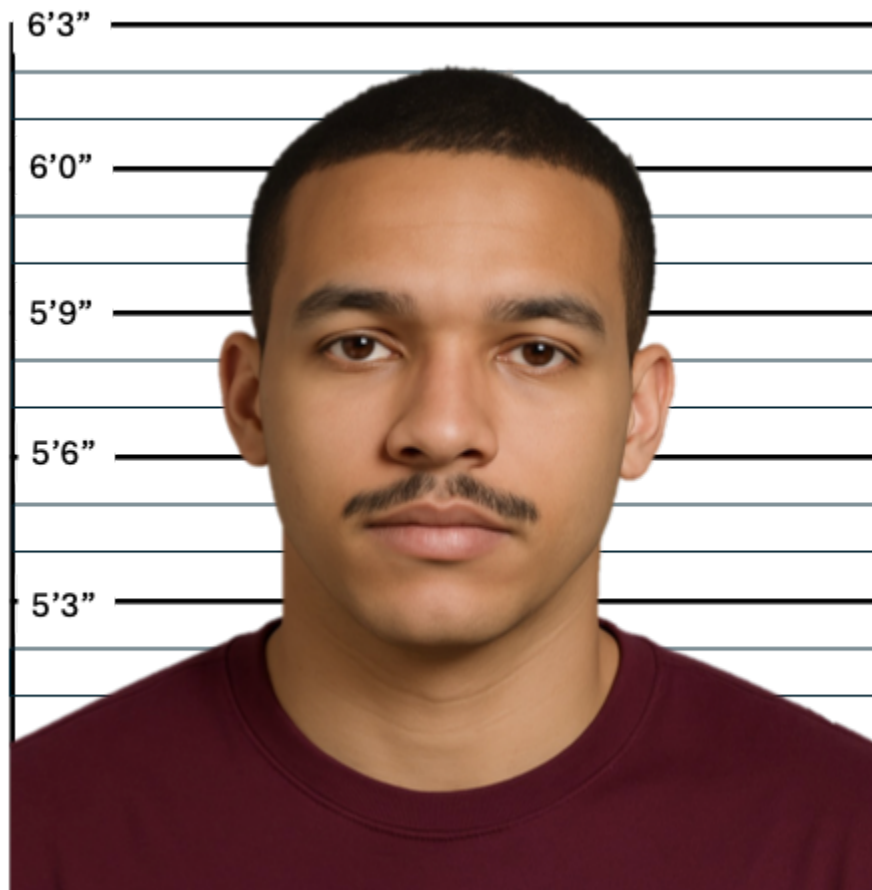




Exhibit
9

Mike Goldeni (DOB 7/13/2002)

Exhibit
10



Ronnie Rosenblatt (DOB 8/14/2002)

Exhibit
11



Exhibit 12

BEFORE THE HONORABLE DAVID MASON, JUDGE

— — — o 0 o — — —

CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

Case No. 25-CR-000001

JURY TRIAL

A P P E A R A N C E S:

JEREMY DAILEY III
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TOBIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JERRY GALLO
CALLO AND ASSOCIATES, LLP

RYAN McGUINNESS
CERTIFIED REPORTER No. 197551

1 THE COURT. The Court will come to order and call the case of the
2 State of Lone Star versus Mike Goldeni and Ronnie Rosenblatt. Jeremy
3 Dailey for the State of Lone Star. Jerry Gallo for Mike Goldeni and
4 Ronnie Rosenblatt. Mr. Dailey, your opening statement?

5 **OPENING STATEMENTS**

6 MR. DAILEY. Follow the car. Follow the car. I said it twice to
7 emphasize that's my theme. The evidence will show that at 9:30 a.m.
8 on January 4th, both Defendants Rosenblatt and Goldeni were seen
9 getting out of their metallic mint green 2014 Buick Skylark
10 convertible, with a white top, before entering the Bag-o-Buds
11 convenience store in Bayne City. Minutes later, gunshots! The
12 Defendants ran out, got in their car, and drove away. You'll learn
13 one Defendant admitted he shot the clerk. At the end of this trial,
14 we'll ask you to find them guilty of murder.

15 THE COURT. Counselor, do you have an opening statement?

16 MR. GALLO. I politely disagree with everything that guy said.

17 THE COURT. The State may call its first witness.

18 MR. DAILEY. The State calls Sheriff Kade Donoghue.

19 **KADE DONOGHUE**

20 MR. DAILEY. Sheriff Donoghue, what's your profession?

21 THE WITNESS. I'm the sheriff of Tobin County.

22 MR. DAILEY. Did you investigate the murder of Jimmy Roberts on
23 January 4, 2025?

24 THE WITNESS. Yes, I was the lead investigator. My office got a 911
25 call around 9:30 that morning. Jimmy Roberts said he was shot at the
26 Bag-O-Buds.

27 MR. DAILEY. Playing what's preadmitted as Exhibit 1. What is that?

28 THE WITNESS. That's Jimmy Roberts's 911 call.

29 MR. DAILEY. I'm gonna hand you a stack of exhibits that were
30 preadmitted. I figure the best way for the jury to understand them
31 is for you to talk about all of them in a single answer.

32 THE WITNESS. Sure. Exhibit 2 is a transcript of the 911 call.

33 Exhibit 3 is a photo of the Bag-O-Buds. Exhibit 4 is a map of the
34 area. Exhibit 5 is the victim, Jimmy Roberts. Exhibit 6 is how we
35 found Jimmy in the store, dead. Exhibit 7 is the empty cash
36 register. Exhibit 8 is the autopsy. Exhibit 9 is the car the
37 Defendants were driving when we arrested them. Exhibit 10 is Goldeni

38 and Exhibit 11 is Rosenblatt when we booked them at the station
39 house on January 4, 2025. I took all the photos.

40 MR. DAILEY. Did you find any eyewitnesses?

41 THE WITNESS. Yes. When I arrived around 9:35, the eyewitness across
42 the street, Marlee Galvez, reported seeing two boys in a mint green
43 convertible with a white top run out of the store and drive away.
44 Galvez described the driver as a 6 foot 2, 185 pound light skin
45 black male, dark hair, mid-twenties, with a beard, with no tattoos,
46 piercings, glasses, or other distinguishing features. Galvez
47 described the passenger as a 5 foot 10, 175 pound white male,
48 mid-twenties, clean shaven, with no tattoos, piercings, glasses, or
49 other distinguishing features. I also got a statement from
50 eyewitness Emily Stover.

51 MR. DAILEY. Did you find anybody who matched Galvez's description?

52 THE WITNESS. I did. On Highway 16, at 9:35 a.m., just 9 miles east
53 of the Bag-O-Buds, my deputy saw two boys driving a mint green
54 convertible with a white top. As you can see from Exhibits 10 and
55 11, their descriptions are very similar to what Galvez reported. We
56 placed them under arrest at 9:45 a.m. and took them into custody.

57 MR. DAILEY. Are the two boys you arrested in the courtroom today?

58 THE WITNESS. Yes, sitting next to the man who looks like a burgundy
59 magician, what a ridiculous thing.

60 MR. DAILEY. Let the record show the witness identified the
61 Defendants. After you arrested them, did you interview them?

62 THE WITNESS. I did. Mr. Goldeni confessed. When I accused him of
63 shooting the clerk, he said, "I shot the clerk." I booked them for
64 murder at 11:30 a.m.

65 MR. DAILEY. Your Honor, no further questions.

66 THE COURT. Your witness.

67 MR. GALLO. No questions, Your Honor.

68 MR. DAILEY. The State calls Emily Stover.

69 **EMILY STOVER**

70 MR. DAILEY. Please introduce yourself.

71 THE WITNESS. I live across the road from the Bag-O-Buds.

72 MR. DAILEY. Tell us what you recall from January 4, 2025.

73 THE WITNESS. At 9:25 a.m., I saw a mint green convertible pull up
74 to the Bag-O-Buds. Two boys got out. I made myself grits. At 9:30, I

75 heard a couple gunshots. I looked up and saw two boys run out, hop
76 in their car and drive off, with the tire screeching.

77 MR. DAILEY. Do you see the boys in this courtroom?

78 THE WITNESS. Yes. They're next to the defense lawyer.

79 MR. DAILEY. Let the record show the witness identified the
80 Defendants. Showing the witness Exhibit 9. Is this the car?

81 THE WITNESS. Yes.

82 THE COURT. Mr. Gallo, your witness.

83 MR. GALLO. What self-respecting cook makes grits in 5 minutes?

84 THE WITNESS. I'm from San Francisco. They were instant grits.

85 MR. GALLO. Oh. I see. No further questions.

86 **MARLEE GALVEZ**

87 MR. DAILEY. Tell us about yourself.

88 THE WITNESS. I'm a school teacher. My hobbies include archery and
89 ping-pong. I also have a private pilot's license and try to fly
90 monthly. I live across the road from the Bag-O-Buds.

91 MR. DAILEY. What happened on January 4, 2025?

92 THE WITNESS. I was at home. About 9:30 a.m., I heard two gunshots
93 from across the street. I looked out my window. Two young men were
94 running out of the Bag-O-Buds. They got in a mint green convertible
95 with a white top that was facing the road and drove away so fast the
96 tires screeched. They turned right out of the parking lot.

97 MR. DAILEY. Describe the driver.

98 THE WITNESS. Male. 6 foot 2, 185 pounds. About 25 years old. Light
99 black skin. Dark hair. He had a beard. Red shirt and jeans. He
100 didn't have any tattoos, piercings, or anything else that stood out.

101 MR. DAILEY. Describe the other man.

102 THE WITNESS. The one who got in the front passenger seat was male.
103 5 foot 10, 175 pounds. Also about 25 years old. White. Dark hair.
104 Clean shaven. Light blue hoodie and jeans. No tattoos, piercings,
105 glasses, jewelry, or anything else that stood out.

106 MR. DAILEY. Are those two young men in court?

107 THE WITNESS. Yes sir, they are. Right there.

108 MR. DAILEY. Let the record show the witness pointed to the
109 Defendants. Showing you Exhibit 9. What is it?

110 THE WITNESS. That looks like the car I saw on January 4, 2025.

111 MR. DAILEY. No further questions.

112 THE COURT. Your witness.

113 MR. GALLO. Now, how far were the Defendants from you when you saw
114 them leaving the Bag-O-Buds?

115 THE WITNESS. About 100 feet.

116 MR. GALLO. Let the record reflect that I'm handing the witness a
117 tape measure and walking to the back of the courtroom. Okay, this is
118 100 feet. How many fingers am I holding up?

119 THE WITNESS. Two.

120 MR. DAILEY. Let the record show the witness correctly answered the
121 question. Mr. Gallo is in fact holding up two fingers.

122 MR. GALLO. I shoulda held up three fingers. That always works.

123 **TIM WILTON**

124 MR. DAILEY. Mr. Wilton, what is your profession?

125 THE WITNESS. I'm a Forensic Automotive Instructor for the FBI.

126 MR. DAILEY. I am showing you Exhibit 3. What are we looking at?

127 THE WITNESS. Fresh tire tracks outside the Bag-O-Buds on January 4.
128 There are two parallel tracks, each 8.5 inches wide, running 25
129 feet. The right and left tracks are 6 feet apart. Based on the
130 eyewitnesses, we think the killers left these.

131 MR. DAILEY. What conclusions did you reach about these tracks?

132 THE WITNESS. They came from the same model and size as the tires on
133 the Defendants' Skylark. Michelin XGV, size 75-R, 14 inch wheel.

134 MR. DAILEY. Any other incriminating evidence?

135 THE WITNESS. The killers' car left a rubber residue on the
136 pavement. I determined it was the same chemical composition as the
137 rubber on the Defendants' Skylark.

138 THE COURT. Cross?

139 MR. GALLO. Are you sure?

140 THE WITNESS. I'm positive.

141 MR. GALLO. I'm done with this guy.

142 MR. DAILEY. Your Honor, Prosecution rests.

143 THE COURT. Mr. Gallo, your first witness?

144 MR. GALLO. Your Honor, the Defense calls Ms. Mona Lisa Bauer.

145 **MONA LISA BAUER**

146 MR. GALLO. What are your qualifications?

147 THE WITNESS. I worked in a garage. I am related to many mechanics.

148 MR. GALLO. We offer the witness as an expert in general
149 automotive knowledge.
150 MR. DAILEY. No objection. I'm more than satisfied.
151 MR. GALLO. Showing the witness Exhibit 3. What can you conclude?
152 THE WITNESS. These tire marks were not made by a 2014 Buick
153 Skylark. They were made by a 2010 Pontiac Tempest.
154 MR. GALLO. How can you be so sure?
155 THE WITNESS. The car that made these tire marks has positraction.
156 MR. GALLO. Thank you Ms. Bauer. No more questions.
157 THE COURT. Mr. Dailey, would you like to question Ms. Bauer?
158 MR. DAILEY. Uh, no, Your Honor.
159 MR. GALLO. Judge, we recall Sheriff Kade Donoghue.
160 **KADE DONOGHUE**
161 MR. GALLO. Sheriff Donoghue, any new evidence?
162 THE WITNESS. On a hunch, today I researched if any Pontiac Tempests
163 were stolen within 100 miles of the Bag-O-Buds between January 1,
164 2025 and the date of the murder. I discovered that two boys who fit
165 the Defendants' description were arrested for driving a stolen
166 metallic mint green 2010 Pontiac Tempest with a white convertible
167 top, Michelin model XGV tires, size 75R 14. The Bag-O-Buds was just
168 75 miles from the address where the car was reported stolen. And the
169 store is along the route from Kita County, where the car was stolen,
170 to Keyes County, where it was recovered. There was also a 357 Magnum
171 revolver found in the car.
172 MR. GALLO. The Defense rests.
173 THE COURT. Mr. Dailey?
174 MR. DAILEY. Your Honor, the State moves to dismiss all charges.
175 (Matter adjourned.)

Criminal History Report

Name: Joshua David Jones Status: Incarcerated
Date of Birth: September 15, 1999 State: Weems, IL
SID #: LS-203-55782 FBI #: Not Available
Height: 6'2" Weight: 190 pounds



Offense History

1. Armed Carjacking

Offense Date: April 12, 2022 Arrest Date: April 14, 2022
Jurisdiction: State of Lone Star – Keyes County
Case Number: CC-22-4175
Charge: Armed Carjacking (LS Penal Code § 31.09)
Coconspirators: Peter Wahl Jones
Disposition: Convicted by plea
Date of Conviction: September 7, 2022
Sentence: 5 years imprisonment, Department of Corrections, Lone Star State Prison
Parole Eligibility: Standard
Parole Granted: January 1, 2025
Parole Status (First Release)
Parole Start Date: January 1, 2025
Supervision Conditions: No possession of firearms, no new criminal offenses, mandatory reporting to parole officer, travel restricted to State of Lone Star
Status: Revoked due to Parole Violation / New Offense

2. Grand Larceny (Auto Theft)

Offense Date: January 4, 2025 Arrest Date: January 6, 2025
Arresting Agency: Lone Star State Police – Kita County
Case Number: MD-25-1182
Charge: Motor Vehicle Theft (LS Penal Code § 31.07)
Disposition: Guilty plea
Date of Conviction: January 7, 2025
Sentence: Returned to Department of Corrections; remainder of original sentence reinstated; additional time imposed pursuant to parole-revocation guidelines
Current Estimated Release: Pending DOC review

Current Incarceration

Facility: Lone Star Department of Corrections
Status: Active inmate
Incarceration Basis: Armed Carjacking (2022 conviction), Parole revocation (2025), Grand Larceny (2025 conviction)

**Exhibit
13**

Criminal History Report



Name: Peter Wahl Jones Status: Incarcerated
Date of Birth: September 15, 1999 State: Hinson, MA
SID #: LS-203-13480 FBI #: Not Available
Height: 5'11" Weight: 170 pounds

Offense History

1. Armed Carjacking

Offense Date: April 12, 2022 Arrest Date: August 3, 2022
Jurisdiction: State of Lone Star – Keyes County
Case Number: CC-22-4175
Charge: Armed Carjacking (LS Penal Code § 31.09)
Coconspirators: Joshua David Jones
Disposition: Convicted by plea
Date of Conviction: September 7, 2022
Sentence: 5 years imprisonment, Department of Corrections, Lone Star State Prison
Parole Eligibility: Standard
Parole Granted: January 1, 2025
Parole Status (First Release)
Parole Start Date: January 1, 2025
Supervision Conditions: No possession of firearms, no new criminal offenses, mandatory reporting to parole officer, travel restricted to State of Lone Star
Status: Revoked due to Parole Violation / New Offense

2. Grand Larceny (Auto Theft)

Offense Date: January 4, 2025 Arrest Date: January 6, 2025
Arresting Agency: Lone Star State Police – Kita County
Case Number: MD-25-1182
Charge: Motor Vehicle Theft (LS Penal Code § 31.07)
Disposition: Guilty plea
Date of Conviction: January 7, 2025
Sentence: Returned to Department of Corrections; remainder of original sentence reinstated; additional time imposed pursuant to parole-revocation guidelines
Current Estimated Release: Pending DOC review

Current Incarceration

Facility: Lone Star Department of Corrections
Status: Active inmate
Incarceration Basis: Armed Carjacking (2022 conviction), Parole revocation (2025), Grand Larceny (2025 conviction)

**Exhibit
14**

KITA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OFFENSE REPORT



Report Number: BCSD-25-0147 **Date of Report:** January 7, 2025
Officer: Deputy K. L. Powers, Badge #478, Kita County Sheriff's Department
Incident Type: Stolen Motor Vehicle

Victim / Registered Owner

Name: Susan Poehls DOB: 11/03/1980
Address: 919 Albany St, Kita, Lone Star Phone: (661) 317-1083

Vehicle Information

Year/Make/Model: 2010 Pontiac Tempest Color: Mint Green, Cream Convertible Top
License Plate: TYLA026 VIN: 1GPT5341280W95950

Narrative - January 4, 2025

On January 4, 2025, at 1230 hours, I was dispatched to 919 Albany regarding a reported stolen vehicle. At 1242 hours, I made contact with the complainant and registered owner, Susan Poehls. She reports that she returned home from a business trip at 3 a.m. on January 4, 2025 and parked her car in her driveway. When she awoke at noon on January 4, 2025, the car was gone. I spoke to neighbors, but nobody saw anything. I checked for security cameras, but found none. I asked Complainant if the car contained valuables. She said there was an unopened Four Roses 2025 Limited Edition Small Batch bourbon in the trunk. I assured her I would be on the lookout.

Narrative - January 6, 2025

At 1635 hours, Kita County Dispatch advised the vehicle had been located. Two individuals, Joshua Jones and Peter Jones, were stopped by Officer Diego Estes for running a stop sign in Keyes County, Lone Star, which is 250 miles from west of Kita County. When he ran the plate, Officer Estes realized it was a stolen car and placed the driver and passenger under arrest. Inside the vehicle, these items were located:

1. **U.S. Currency totaling \$1,992.00**, inside the glove compartment.
2. **Colt Python .357 Magnum revolver**, loaded with four live cartridges and two spent cartridges, inside center console. Serial number filed off, registered owner unidentifiable.
3. **Nike hooded sweatshirt**, size men's large, on the front passenger floor.

The vehicle was transported to the Kita County impound lot for processing. I checked the VIN; it was a match. On January 7, 2025, the registered owner, Susan Poehls, arrived to inspect and reclaim the vehicle. I told her that the car had been stolen by two individuals named Joshua Jones and Peter Jones. She said she never heard of them. Poehls signed the property disclaimer form acknowledging that the above-listed items were *not* her property. On the last page of this report, I have attached photos of the car and items found therein. All recovered items were booked into Kita County Sheriff's Department Evidence Room.

Exhibit
15-B





Exhibit
15-C



Exhibit
15-D



Exhibit
15-E



Exhibit
15-F

IN THE 51ST DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR KITA COUNTY

Exhibit
16

STATE OF LONE STAR

v.

JOSHUA JONES and PETER JONES,

Defendants.

&
&
&
&
&
&
&

CASE NO. 26-AUTO-CR

TRANSCRIPT OF PLEA AND
SENTENCING HEARING
JANUARY 7, 2025

- 1 THE COURT: Before I can accept your pleas, I must ensure you each understand the rights you
2 are giving up. You both have the right to a trial by jury, the right to confront witnesses,
3 the right to remain silent, and the right to require the State to prove every element of the
4 charges beyond a reasonable doubt. Do you each understand these rights?
- 5 JOSHUA JONES: I do.
- 6 PETER JONES: Yes, Your Honor.
- 7 THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty voluntarily, of your own free will?
- 8 JOSHUA JONES: Yes.
- 9 PETER JONES: Yes, sir.
- 10 THE COURT: Have you both had the opportunity to consult with an attorney?
- 11 JOSHUA JONES: Yes, Your Honor. We spoke with the public defender.
- 12 PETER JONES: Yes, Your Honor.
- 13 THE COURT: I will ask your attorney, public defender Phil Pasquarello, have you advised your
14 clients of their rights and the consequences of waiving them?
- 15 PASQUARELLO: Yes, Your Honor, I have.
- 16 THE COURT: You're getting better. I'll turn back to the Defendants. Joshua Jones, the State
17 alleges that on January 4, 2025, you and Peter Jones stole a Pontiac Tempest worth more
18 than one thousand dollars from Susan Poehls. Joshua Jones, how do you plead to Grand
19 Larceny?
- 20 JOSHUA JONES: That's all true except I don't know whose car it was. We didn't exactly stop
21 and ask for a name, you know?
- 22 THE COURT: Joshua Jones, how do you plead to Grand Larceny?
- 23 JOSHUA JONES: Guilty.
- 24 THE COURT: Peter Jones, the State alleges the same facts against you. How do you plead to
25 Grand Larceny?
- 26 PETER JONES: Guilty.

27 THE COURT: Joshua Jones, the State also alleges that your theft of this vehicle violated the
28 terms of your parole, which included that you not commit any new crimes. How do you
29 admit to Violation of Parole?

30 JOSHUA JONES: Yes, I admit it.

31 THE COURT: Peter Jones, how do you plead to Violation of Parole?

32 PETER JONES: I admit it.

33 THE COURT: The Court finds both pleas to be knowing, intelligent, and voluntary. The
34 Defendants are adjudicated guilty. Before I impose sentence, you have the right to speak.
35 Joshua Jones, do you have anything you'd like to say?

36 JOSHUA JONES: Yes, Your Honor. Have you ever seen this car in person? That Tempest was
37 like a Temptress. It was just calling our name.

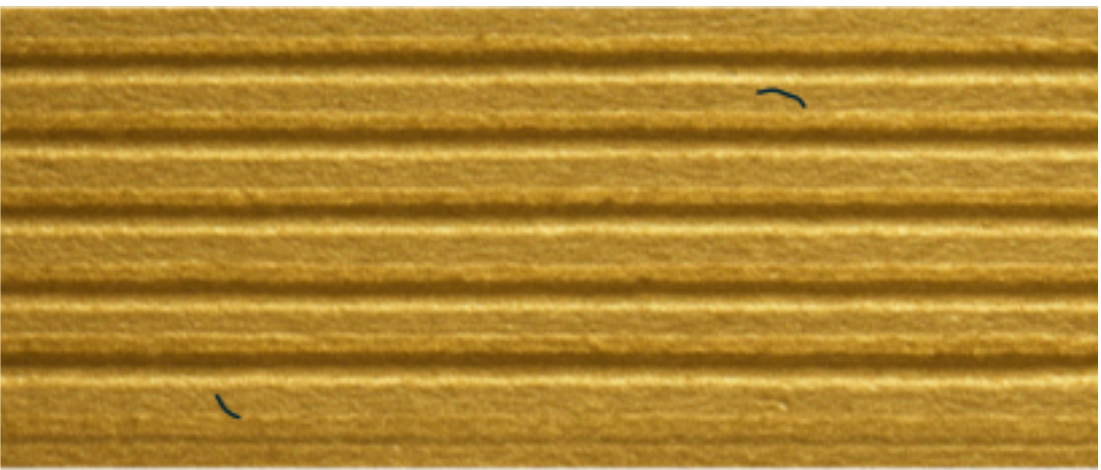
38 THE COURT: Compelling. Peter Jones, anything to say?

39 PETER JONES: Yes, Your Honor. First, I'm from Boston. Second, liberty is the soul's right to
40 breathe. Third, in my defense, my cousin really wanted the car.

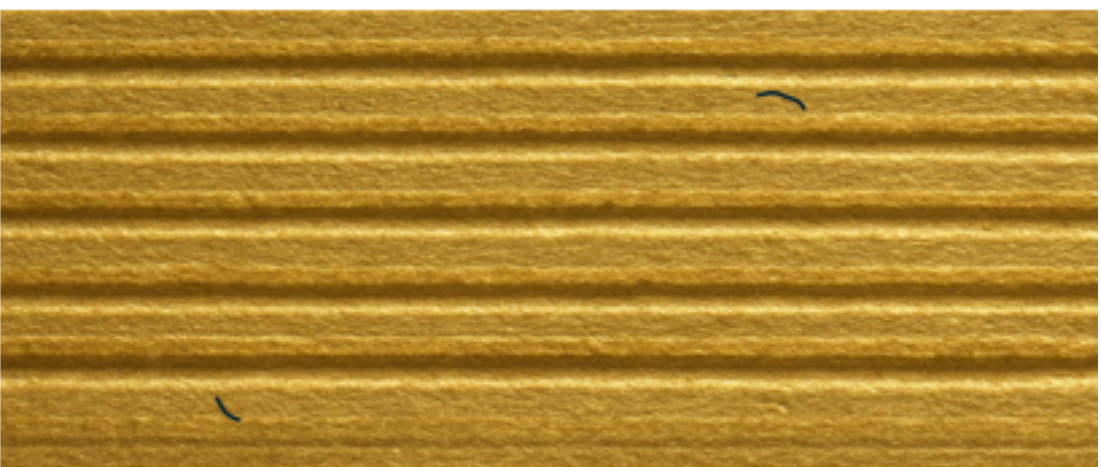
41 THE COURT: These are not valid reasons for committing felonies—particularly while on
42 parole. For each of you, I reinstate your original sentence, add one year for parole
43 violation, and three years for grand larceny, all to be served consecutively. You're lucky
44 the prosecutor agreed not to charge the gun. Court is adjourned.



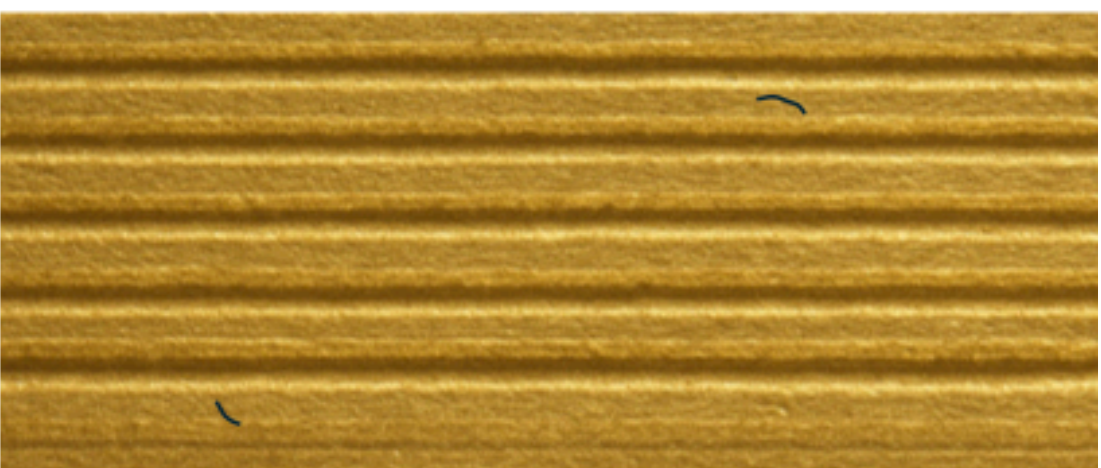
Exhibit
17



EB-01

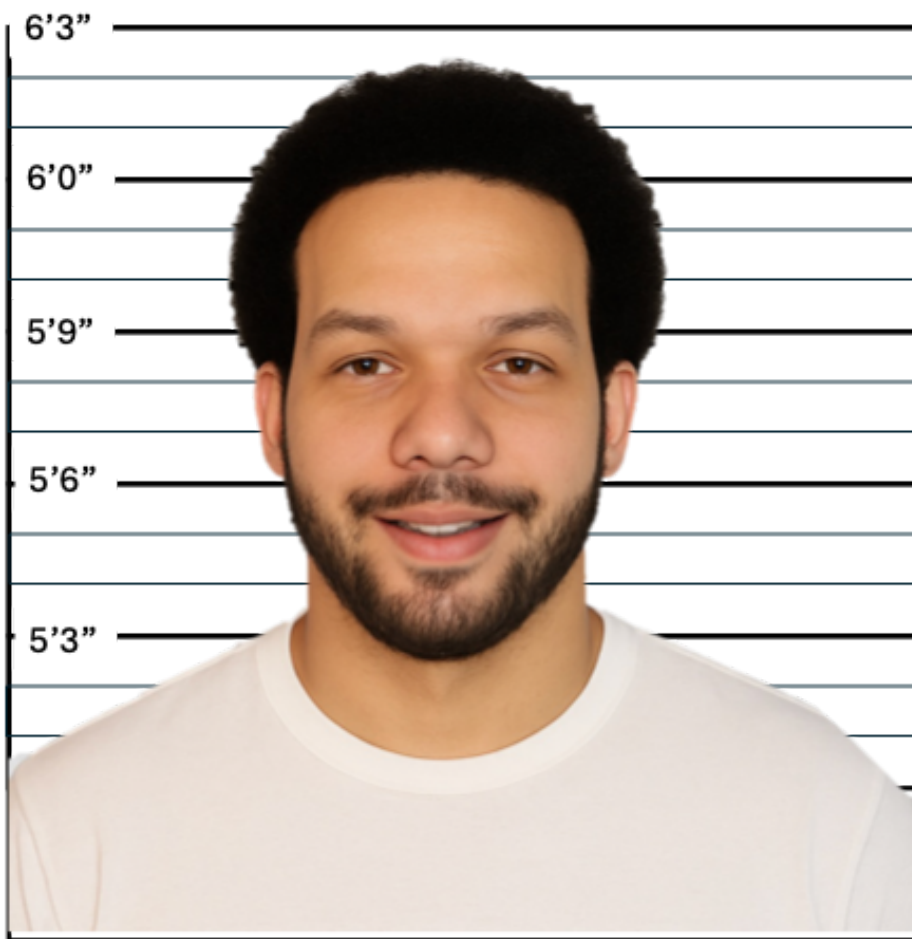


EB-02



TB-01

Joshua Jones (DOB 9/15/1999)



Peter Jones (DOB 9/15/1999)

Exhibit
20-A



Peter Jones (DOB 9/15/1999)

Exhibit
20-B



Peter Jones (DOB 9/15/1999)

Exhibit
20-C



Transcript of Lou Cloud Speech at 2025 American Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys

To the American Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, thank you for this great honor. Defense Expert of the Year ... I am truly humbled.

Criminal defense lawyers and criminal defense experts serve an important purpose. To check the power of the State. To hold police and forensics investigators accountable. To guarantee that every defendant receives a fair trial. Especially defendants who can pay our retainers! (pause for laughter)

It has been a privilege to work alongside so many dedicated defense lawyers over the years, helping ensure that forensic evidence is scrutinized carefully and that investigative procedures meet the highest standards. I especially love working with you defense lawyers because it means I no longer have to be cross examined by you! (pause for laughter)

In all seriousness, I always remember the advice I received from another consultant when I left law enforcement and became a consultant myself. Advice I try to follow. "Every case has reasonable doubt. It's our job to find it."

So to everyone here, thank you for this award and best of luck in your future cases. May you always find that reasonable doubt!

Exhibit
21

Exhibit
22

2 *The witness was sworn on July 8, 2025.*

3 Judge Mason: Mr. Dailey, you may proceed.

4 Q. Please summarize your career in law enforcement.

5 A. I served six years in the United States Army and was honorably discharged as a Sergeant.

6 I came home to Tobin County, graduated from the police academy, and became a patrol

7 officer. I worked my way up to undersheriff. In 2020, I was elected Sheriff of Tobin

8 County, which includes Bayne City. All told, I have 28 years in law enforcement.

9 Q. Sheriff, what kind of training do you have?

10 A. The county requires basic training and continuing education. I'm trained on criminal law,

11 constitutional law, search and seizure, community policing, arrest procedures, lineups and

12 witness identification, evidence collection and preservation, interrogations, you name it.

13 Q. What was your involvement in the death investigation of Jimmy Roberts?

14 A. I was the lead investigator. I arrested Mike Goldeni and Ronnie Rosenblatt on January 4,

15 2025 and later testified in the trial against them. I also later uncovered evidence that

16 exonerated them and tracked down the actual culprits, Joshua Jones and Peter Jones.

17 Q. Showing you Exhibit 5. Do you recognize this man?

18 A. That's Jimmy Roberts. Everyone knew Jimmy. Grew up here in Tobin. Retired from the

19 Lone Star circus and became a clerk at Bag-O-Buds. Nicest guy you ever met. And the

20 second worst fantasy football player.

21 Q. How did your investigation begin?

22 A. On January 4, 2025, we got a 911 call. I was in the office when we got the call.

23 Q. What are Exhibits 1 and 2?

24 A. Exhibit 1 is the 911 call recording. I recognize Jimmy's voice. Exhibit 2 is a transcript.

25 Q. What did you do?

26 A. I drove down to the Bag-O-Buds convenience store. I was the first officer on scene. I also

27 issued an all points bulletin for two men in a mint green convertible.

28 Q. What are Exhibits 3, 6, and 7?

29 A. Exhibit 3 is a photo of the Bag-O-Buds on January 4, 2025. Exhibit 6 is Jimmy – face

30 down, bleeding, and dead. Exhibit 7 is the cash register and counter. There's a small clear

31 strip of Scotch tape on the counter to the right of the register. All three photos show how
32 things looked when I arrived.

33 Q. Describe the condition of the store.

34 A. The parking lot was empty. There was a single pair of tire tracks. Inside the store, no one
35 was there, except Jimmy. The cash register was open and empty. There were no shell
36 casings, which made me think he'd been shot with a revolver. The Bag-O-Buds doesn't
37 have a security camera, but it looked like a robbery-homicide. The back door was closed,
38 but not locked, though there were no footprints in the mud outside the back door. I
39 preserved the scene and waited for the CSI and EMTs.

40 Q. How did you investigate?

41 A. I started with witnesses. There are three homes across the street. Jo Lester said he
42 couldn't see anything because the trees and bushes blocked his view. Emily Stover told
43 me the same thing she said at trial, in Exhibit 12. Marlee Galvez reported hearing two
44 gunshots, then seeing two men run out of the store, jump in a mint green convertible, and
45 drive away. There are no other nearby homes or businesses. I checked the receipts to see
46 who made recent purchases. That could be a source of suspects or, more likely, witnesses.
47 But that was a dead end, since there were no credit card receipts from January 4 and the
48 store didn't have receipts for cash purchases. I talked to store owner Courtney Horton,
49 who gave me the employee list – Jimmy Roberts, Jason Goss, Adam Shlahet – and
50 confirmed only Roberts was scheduled for work that day.

51 Q. What did your forensics team do?

52 A. They fingerprinted everything, including the counter, the cash register, and the doors. The
53 only prints belonged to the employees. I learned that Goss and Shlahet had rock solid
54 alibis. I saw passport stamps that confirmed Goss was out of the country and a video that
55 confirmed Shlahet was at the zoo. Apart from the prints, there was no apparent forensic
56 evidence inside the store. No hairs, fibers, shoeprints, et cetera.

57 Q. What is Exhibit 8?

58 A. Jimmy Roberts's autopsy.

59 Q. What led you to arrest Goldeni and Rosenblatt?

60 A. At 9:35 a.m., a patrol officer spotted a mint green convertible on Highway 16 about 9
61 miles from the Bag-O-Buds. The officer pulled the car over and brought the driver,
62 Goldeni, and passenger, Rosenblatt, in for questioning.

63 Q. Who questioned them?

64 A. I did, in separate rooms. Goldeni admitted to stealing a can of tuna before leaving. I
65 asked, "At what point did you shoot the clerk?" Goldeni said, "I shot the clerk." Months
66 later, after the charges were later dropped, Goldeni told me he said it as a question – like
67 he was so confused at the accusation that he repeated it back to me. "I shot the clerk?"
68 But at the time, I took it as a confession. I arrested Goldeni and Rosenblatt for the murder
69 of Jimmy Roberts.

70 Q. What are Exhibits 10 and 11?

71 A. Goldeni and Rosenblatt at the station house when we booked them on January 4. They
72 were pulled over wearing jeans and the shirts you see in these photos.

73 Q. Did you weigh them when you booked them?

74 A. Yes. Goldeni weighed 180 pounds. Rosenblatt weighed 150 pounds.

75 Q. What physical evidence did you find against Goldeni and Rosenblatt?

76 A. In the car, just a can of tuna. There was no gun, no bullets, or blood. When we searched
77 their persons, Goldeni had 40 dollars in his wallet, and Rosenblatt had no cash. They had
78 no blood on their clothes. Their prints were not in the Bag-O-Buds.

79 Q. Did you perform any gunshot residue tests?

80 A. Yes. There was no GSR on Jimmy Roberts's hands. And both defendants and their
81 clothes tested negative for GSR, which at the time I thought was strange.

82 Q. What description did Marlee Galvez give of the men who ran out of the store?

83 A. The description I stated during the first trial. On January 4, Galvez identified the men in
84 Exhibits 10 and 11 as the men Galvez saw running out of the store.

85 Q. What is Exhibit 12?

86 A. This is the transcript from the Goldeni-Rosenblatt trial. I was present for the whole trial.

87 Q. Explain what led to your second time taking the stand in that trial.

88 A. During the defense case, the defense lawyer asked me to see if any mint green Pontiac
89 Tempests had been stolen or abandoned around the time of the murder. I did some

90 digging and found Exhibit 15, A through F. When I testified to that information, the
 91 prosecutor dismissed the case.

92 Q. How did you feel?

93 A. Devastated. I arrested two innocent men for murder. I'll never forgive myself. But also
 94 glad I had a chance to correct my mistake.

95 Q. What did you do after the charges against Goldeni and Rosenblatt were dismissed?

96 A. I investigated the men found with that Pontiac Tempest, Joshua Jones and Peter Jones.

97 Q. How?

98 A. I reviewed Exhibits 13-20. Exhibits 13 and 14 are their criminal histories. Exhibit 15 is
 99 the police report from their arrest. Exhibit 16 is a record of their guilty plea hearing. As I
 100 understand it, the Joneses agreed to plead guilty to parole violation and grand larceny for
 101 stealing the car, if the State agreed not to charge the gun. Then I obtained the evidence
 102 that had been seized from the car, photographed in Exhibits 15B-F. I noticed a two-dollar
 103 bill with Scotch tape on it, which I photographed as Exhibit 17. I asked the Lone Star
 104 Forensic Investigations Unit to analyze all that evidence. I visited Joshua and Peter Jones
 105 at the Lone Star State Prison. They both asked for a lawyer and refused to answer my
 106 questions. Finally, I reviewed Boorman's report, Exhibit 23.

107 Q. How did Peter Jones and Joshua Jones compare to Marlee Galvez's description?

108 A. They matched, except Peter Jones's tattoo. Much closer fit than Goldeni and Rosenblatt.

109 Q. Did you do anything else to investigate Joshua and Peter Jones?

110 A. Yes. I reinterviewed Stover and Galvez. Stover said that after the charges against Goldeni
 111 and Rosenblatt were dismissed, she was no longer confident in what she saw.

112 Q. And Galvez?

113 A. I went back to Marlee Galvez with Exhibits 15-B, 19, and 20-A. Galvez said, "These are
 114 definitely the men I saw running out of the Bag-O-Buds. And this is their car."

115 Q. What are Exhibits 19 and 20?

116 A. Exhibit 19 is Joshua Jones. Exhibit 20-A is Peter Jones. Exhibit 20-B redacts the tattoo.
 117 Exhibit 20-C is a closeup of the tattoo. The photos were taken when they were arrested
 118 on January 6, 2025, and that's how they looked in person in June 2025.

119 Q. Have you seen that tattoo before?

120 A. Yes, in a gang known for armed robbery. I investigated them extensively.

121 Q. Do you have any traffic camera footage of Joshua Jones and Peter Jones?
122 A. Tobin County doesn't have traffic cameras.
123 Q. Did you investigate any other suspects?
124 A. The evidence didn't point to any other suspects. But I definitely investigated other
125 scenarios. I looked into whether anyone else had a motive to kill Jimmy Roberts. I
126 couldn't find anyone – no angry exes, business partners, or anything like that. No one
127 stood to benefit financially from his death. No one who owed him money, no one to
128 whom he owed money, and his entire \$5,000 estate went to Alabama Football. And there
129 was no evidence pointing to anyone other than the Joneses.
130 Q. Did you investigate Susan Poehls?
131 A. Yes. I spoke to her husband in person, and he confirmed she was home asleep all
132 morning. I watched Ring camera recordings from the Poehls house and their neighbors,
133 which showed that both she and her husband were in their house all morning on January
134 4. And as a five-foot-four woman with shoulder length hair and a blonde-haired man in
135 his 60s, neither she nor her husband look anything like the killers described by Galvez.
136 Q. What did you do after gathering all of the evidence we've discussed?
137 A. We recommended charging Joshua Jones and Peter Jones with this heinous crime.
138 Judge Mason: Defense Counsel, any questions for the witness?
139 Defense Counsel: No, Your Honor. We will save our questions for trial.



State of Lone Star Forensic Investigations Unit

Forensic Report

Exhibit
23

Case No. MCV>LL **Report Date** July 1, 2025
Description Jimmy Roberts homicide **Analyst** Paige Boorman

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On June 10, 2025, I was asked to analyze the forensic evidence from this case. This report includes all my findings. All methods used are considered best practices by the FBI. All conclusions herein are drawn to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty.

ANALYST QUALIFICATIONS

I am Lone Star's Director of Forensic Investigations. My office issues statewide standards to law enforcement regarding preservation, collection, testing, and analysis of forensic evidence, and we examine forensic evidence in cases of great significance or where a second opinion is required. I graduated from Villanova University with a degree in physics and from Georgia State University with a Ph.D. in Forensic Science. I joined the Lone Star Forensic Investigations Unit as a crime scene investigator in 2001 and was promoted to Director in 2019. I investigated more than 500 cases and testified as an expert witness more than 100 times, including on all subjects in this report. I am certified by the American Forensics Board in gunshot residue detection, blood testing, latent fingerprint examination, tire track examination, vehicle identification, and firearm/toolmark examination. I teach ballistics and firearm identification at the FBI Academy.

EVIDENCE REVIEWED

I relied on evidence gathered by the Tobin County police department and forensics team, specifically Exhibits 1-20, as well as the bullets that killed the victim and the victim's fingerprints. I found no contamination. After the arrest of Jones and Jones in June 2025, I examined the stolen car and the evidence collected inside.

FORENSIC FINDINGS

Biometrics

Biometrics are measurable biological characteristics used to identify individuals (e.g. DNA).

No useful biometric evidence was recovered from the Bag-O-Buds crime scene. The blood on the floor was tested by the Tobin County forensics team and determined to belong to Jimmy Roberts. The cash register only had fingerprints from Jimmy Roberts and other employees. The killers did not appear to leave behind any of their own fingerprints, DNA, footprints, hair, clothing fibers, etc. That is typical for a quick grab-and-go robbery/murder like this one.

My lab and I tested the cash in Exhibit 15-C (151 bills), the Colt Python in Exhibit 15-E, and the bullets in Exhibit 15-F using this method:

1. Lift all usable prints from the items.
2. Run those prints through the FBI's national fingerprint system, the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS). IAFIS includes 100 million fingerprint records, from convicted criminals, government and military personnel, and civilians. We included prints from Roberts, Goldeni, Rosenblatt, and Susan Poehls for comparison.
3. If IAFIS finds any matches, another fingerprint examiner and I perform independent visual comparisons. Zac Wynkoop, my Deputy Director, served as the independent analyst in this case. We would only declare a match if IAFIS and both examiners agreed.

This process yielded exactly one print, found on the cylinder of the revolver. It was a match, with 22 points of similarity, to Peter Jones's right index. I did not find, and would not expect to find, usable fingerprints on the cash. Paper currency is thin, porous, and fibrous, which absorbs skin oils rather than preserving clear ridge detail. Bills are constantly folded, rubbed together, and passed from hand to hand, creating friction that smears or destroys any latent prints..

I used a Teichmann crystal test to determine that the red spots on Exhibit 15-D are dried human blood. The entire hoodie – including the blood – was tested for DNA, but the little we found was too degraded for identification or comparison.

Ballistics

Two bullets were recovered from the victim's body and labelled EB-01 and EB-02. ("EB" stands for "Evidence Bullet.") EB-01 and EB-02 are both Winchester 125-grain jacketed hollow point (JHP) .357 Magnum caliber bullets.

The car seized upon the arrest of Joshua Jones and Peter Jones contained a Colt Python revolver. The revolver had bullets in the four of the six chambers and two empty cartridges ("spent shells") in the other two chambers. All six were Winchester 125 grain JHP .357 Magnum. I test-fired one of the bullets, TB-01, from the Colt Python into a 30-foot-long water tank. ("TB" stands for "Test Bullet.") The water slows the bullet gently, without deforming it, and preserves rifling marks, striations, and individual characteristics.

I then performed Toolmark analysis. When a gun is fired, its rifling, manufacturing variations, and historical wear all produce unique microscopic striations (grooves) on the bullet that is fired. Toolmark analysis is examining those markings to assess if they were fired from a particular gun. Exhibit 18 shows microscopic images of EB-01, EB-02, and TB-01 at 30x magnification. All three bullets have the same striation pattern – sequence, contours, and width – and the same two imperfections, which look like scratches. Different Colt Pythons might produce the same striation patterns, but I've never seen bullets with identical scratches this distinctive.

Gunshot Residue (GSR)

GSR is microscopic debris expelled from a gun during discharge. GSR can remain on skin for about 8 hours (so there was no point in testing the Joneses' hands months after the shooting). GSR on clothing can last for years if preserved and undisturbed.

93 I tested the hoodie in Exhibit 15-D for GSR. The hoodie had been preserved since its seizure on
94 January 6. I swabbed it with adhesive stubs and examined the sample with a scanning electron
95 microscope. There were 11 GSR particles (lead, barium, and antimony) on the right cuff and 36
96 GSR particles inside the right pocket.

97

98 **Vehicle Identification**

99

100 There are only two convertibles manufactured since 2000 that come with mint green paint and
101 white/cream convertible tops: the Buick Skylark and the 2009/10 Pontiac Tempest. It is easy to
102 see how eyewitness Marlee Galvez could confuse one for the other. The Joneses' 2010 Pontiac
103 Tempest and Goldeni-Rosenblatt's 2014 Buick Skylark have the same body length, height,
104 width, weight, wheel base and wheel track, as well as the same make, model and size tires. And
105 because both cars were made by GM, both cars were available in metallic mint-green paint.

106

107 Tire marks can help identify the vehicle that left them. Weather reports show it rained on January
108 1, which would have washed away or dulled any tracks made earlier. Multiple eyewitnesses said
109 the perpetrators peeled out and/or burned rubber, and there's only one set of tracks in Exhibit 3.

110

111 But the tire tracks in Exhibit 3 could not have been made by a Buick Skylark. The Skylark has a
112 standard (open) differential, where power goes to the wheel with the least resistance. If one
113 wheel slips on, say, ice or mud, that wheel spins and the car may get stuck. The Tempest has a
114 limited-slip differential (called "positraction" in GM's older cars), which distributes torque more
115 evenly between the wheels on an axle. When one wheel starts to slip, the LSD limits the speed
116 difference and transfers more power to the wheel with grip. When a car with an open differential
117 accelerates hard – as eyewitnesses described here – we would expect one strong mark and one
118 lighter mark, interruptions in the lighter mark, uneven distance between the right and left tire
119 marks, and lateral scrub (sideways sliding or scuffing of a tire across the pavement). When a car
120 with limited-slip differential accelerates hard, we would expect what we see in Exhibit 3: paired
121 continuity (the left and right tire marks appear together and remain unbroken for the same
122 distance), equal distance between right and left marks, and absence of lateral scrub.

123

124 The 2010 Pontiac Tempest is a rare car. Pontiac was an American brand of cars produced by
125 General Motors, but discontinued in 2010. GM released the Pontiac Tempest from 1961-70,
126 1987-91, and 2009-10. Approximately 5,000 Pontiac Tempests were made in 2009, and fewer
127 than a thousand were produced in 2010. All were convertibles with white tops. They were
128 available in black, silver, white, and mint green.

129

130 The tread pattern and track size in Exhibit 3 matches only a Michelin model XGV size 75R,
131 14-inch wheel tire. Tim Wilton found that the rubber at the scene was identical – identical! – to
132 the rubber used in that exact make and model tire. The Joneses' Pontiac Tempest had Michelin
133 model XGV size 75R, 14-inch wheel tires. In 2009 and 2010, GM used Bridgestone tires on its
134 Pontiac Tempest, so that tells me that the Joneses' Tempest did not have the original factory tires.

135 **CONCLUSIONS**

136

137 1. The Colt Python in Exhibit 15-E is the gun that killed Jimmy Roberts.

138

139 2. The Tempest in Exhibit 15-B left the tire marks in Exhibit 3 on January 4, 2025.

140

141 3. The forensic evidence is best explained and fully explained by this series of events:

142

143 The Joneses steal the Tempest on January 4, 2025 and drive to the Bag-O-Buds, where
144 they take the money in the register and the two-dollar bill. They don't touch any objects
145 in the store, so they don't leave any prints or DNA. Peter Jones shoots the victim with the
146 Colt Python in Exhibit 15-E. It's a revolver, so there are no shell casings in the store but
147 two spent casings in the chamber. The shooting leaves GSR and the victim's blood on the
148 blue hoodie Peter Jones is wearing (Exhibit 15-D). He puts his hand in the pocket,
149 transferring GSR. The Joneses flee in the stolen Tempest and leave the tire tracks seen in
150 Exhibit 3.

1

2 *The witness was sworn on July 9, 2025.*

3 Judge Mason: Mr. Dailey, you may proceed.

4 Q. What do you do for a living?

5 A. I'm a school teacher at Hatchliffe High. I teach world history, focusing on Brazil,
6 Argentina, and Chile. I'm part of the National Association of Latin American Educators.

7 Q. Where do you live?

8 A. At 57 Highway 16 in Bayne City, Tobin County, Lone Star.

9 Q. What is Exhibit 4?

10 A. It's a map that shows my house, my neighbors, and the Bag-O-Buds store.

11 Q. What are the gray areas?

12 A. Driveways and parking areas.

13 Q. What are those big green circles?

14 A. Trees.

15 Q. How many entrances does the Bag-O-Buds have?

16 A. Two. Front door and back door. But from my house, you can only see the front door.

17 Q. How would you describe the neighborhood?

18 A. It's not the nicest place in Lone Star. Lots of robberies, break-ins. Jimmy Roberts told me
19 the Bag-O-Buds had been robbed before, including once at gunpoint. Never understood
20 why they didn't install a security camera.

21 Q. Do you recognize Exhibit 5?

22 A. That's Jimmy Roberts. He worked at the Bag-O-Buds, across the street from my house.
23 His nickname was Handsome Jimmy Roberts.

24 Q. How'd he get that nickname?

25 A. No idea. Maybe it was ironic.

26 Q. Do you know if he had any enemies?

27 A. Not that I know of. But I saw he got in a pretty heated discussion a month before he died.

28 Q. What happened?

29 A. He was outside the Bag-O-Buds, smoking with two other people. One was a tall lady,
30 well dressed. The other was a big guy with a beard. Both white and in their forties. They

31 were yelling about “a shipment.” They looked mad. Jimmy went inside, and they
32 continued yelling after him. That was the only time I saw them.

33 Q. Did you tell the police about that?

34 A. No. I didn’t think it was important. Because they definitely weren’t the shooters I saw.

35 Q. What do you remember about January 4, 2025?

36 A. I was at home. Around 9:30 a.m., I heard what sounded like two gunshots from across the
37 street. I looked out my front window, and I saw two young men running out of the
38 Bag-O-Buds. They jumped in a mint green convertible and drove away. The tires
39 screeched like they were burning rubber.

40 Q. How far is the Bag-O-Buds from your front window?

41 A. About 100 feet.

42 Q. When you saw the two men run out of the store, how many cars were parked there?

43 A. Just the convertible they jumped into.

44 Q. Which way was the convertible facing?

45 A. It was facing the highway. The back of the car was facing the store.

46 Q. Showing you Exhibit 3. What is it?

47 A. This is what the Bag-O-Buds looked like that day. The tire marks are where I saw the
48 mint green convertible peel out.

49 Q. Did their convertible leave those tire tracks?.

50 A. I can’t say for sure, but I don’t recall those tire tracks in the parking lot before that day.

51 Q. Which way did the car go?

52 A. They made a right out of the parking lot, heading west.

53 Q. Can you describe the two men?

54 A. The driver was male, 6 foot 2, 185 pounds, about 25 years old. He had light black skin.
55 Dark hair. A beard. Red shirt and jeans. The other man got in the front passenger seat. He
56 was 5 foot 10, 175 pounds. About the same age. White. Dark hair. Clean shaven. Light
57 blue hoodie and jeans. Neither man had tattoos, piercings, jewelry, or anything unusual.

58 Q. How long did you see them?

59 A. A few seconds before they got in the car, a few seconds after they got in the car.

60 Q. Were they carrying anything?

61 A. I don’t know. I didn’t notice.

62 Q. What did you do?

63 A. I was going to call 911, but before I could, I heard sirens. Sheriff Donoghue showed up
64 and then other officers did too. They interviewed me, and I told them what I told you.

65 Q. Showing you Exhibits 9, 10, and 11. What are they?

66 A. These are photos Sheriff Donoghue showed me later that evening, on January 4, 2025. I
67 told the sheriff that Exhibit 9 looked like the car I saw, Exhibit 10 looked like the driver,
68 and Exhibit 11 looked like the passenger.

69 Q. How sure were you that Exhibits 9-11 were the men and the car you saw?

70 A. I was pretty sure. There were some differences. But they looked similar and I figured the
71 sheriff wouldn't be showing me unless these were the guys who shot Jimmy Roberts.

72 Q. Showing you Exhibit 7. Do you recognize it?

73 A. Yes. This is the counter at the Bag-O-Buds. I went there every week.

74 Q. Is this how it looked before January 4, 2025?

75 Q. Yes, except for two things. There had been a two-dollar bill taped to the counter, to the
76 right of the register. Jimmy called it "my lucky two-dollar bill." And I'd never seen the
77 register empty. Usually it looked pretty full. A week before he died, I saw Jimmy count
78 the cash in the register before closing the shop. There was close to two grand.

79 Q. Why would a convenience store in a pretty desolate area carry so much cash?

80 A. If you were going west, this was the last stop for 50 miles.

81 Q. Showing you your testimony from Exhibit 12. Is that what you said in court?

82 A. Yes. I identified Goldeni and Rosenblatt as the men I saw.

83 Q. What happened after the trial?

84 A. It was all over the news. The prosecutor said the case was dismissed because Goldeni and
85 Rosenblatt were innocent. I felt sick to my stomach. Because that meant I identified the
86 wrong men. On June 10, 2025, Sheriff Donoghue came back to my house with three more
87 photos and asked me to take a look at them.

88 Q. How much of your testimony from the Goldeni-Rosenblatt trial do you stand by?

89 A. I'm sure about everything except Goldeni and Rosenblatt being the two men I saw.

90 Q. So did you see Goldeni and Rosenblatt running from the store on January 4, 2025?

91 A. I don't think so. Goldeni doesn't have a beard. Rosenblatt is too short and has the wrong
92 color shirt. Plus, I heard on TV that their car didn't match the tire tracks.

93 Q. Showing you Exhibits 15-B, 19, and 20-A. Is this what Sheriff Donoghue showed you?

94 A. Yes. These were the three photos the sheriff showed me on June 10, 2025.

95 Q. What did you say to the sheriff when you saw the car photos in Exhibit 15-B?

96 A. That looks like the car I saw on January 4, 2025.

97 Q. What did you say to the sheriff when you saw Exhibits 19 and 20-A?

98 A. Exhibit 19 looks like the driver from that day. Exhibit 20-A looks like the passenger.

99 They're an even better match to my description than the boys who were first arrested.

100 Q. Showing you Exhibit 15-D. Does this look like the hoodie the passenger was wearing?

101 A. Yes. It's the same color.

102 Q. Looking at the Defendants today, Joshua and Peter Jones, how far are they from you?

103 A. Right now? About 20 feet.

104 Q. Are those the men you saw running out of the Bag-O-Buds on January 4, 2025?

105 A. They could be. I can't be more definitive. I don't want to make the same mistake twice.

106 Q. Have you talked about this case to anyone else?

107 A. Just my neighbors, Emily Stover and Jo Lester. We talked in July. Emily says she saw

108 Goldeni and Rosenblatt, not the Jones fellows, she's sure of it. Jo is a car aficionado, and

109 he swears it was a Pontiac Tempest.

110 Judge Mason: Defense Counsel, any questions for the witness?

111 Defense Counsel: Not today. The testimony was so good I might call this witness myself.

October 21, 2025

Dear Defense Counsel,

You retained me to evaluate the police investigation and forensic evidence against Joshua Jones and Peter Jones (hereafter “the Defendants”). This expert report contains all my opinions.

Qualifications, Data, and Methods

I am a forensic science and police-practices expert. In 2015, I graduated from Miami University with Bachelor’s degrees in criminal justice and theater. In 2017, I graduated from Catholic University with a Master’s degree in forensic science. From 2017 to 2019, I worked for the Washington, D.C. police department as a forensic investigator. Most of my cases were vehicular and narcotics. I testified at trial for the prosecution twice. In 2019, I opened my own consulting firm, where I review the work of police officers and forensic technicians on behalf of criminal defendants. I have testified at trial for the defense 34 times. My cases have involved DUIs, arson, and narcotics. This is my first murder case. My standard rate is \$750 per hour. I am recognized by the International Association for Identification as a Certified Crime Scene Investigator. I hold Certified Latent Print Technician (CLPT) credentials. I completed training seminars on processing footprints and tire tracks, ballistics, shooting reconstruction, and Toolmark analysis. The tire track seminar was taught by Paige Boorman. In 2025, I won the Expert Witness of the Year Award from the American Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. Exhibit 21 is a transcript of my acceptance speech.

I relied on Exhibits 1-24. I spent six hours on this case. I compared the work of Lone Star law enforcement to the best practices for criminal investigations. I also assessed the limits of the forensic evidence – in other words, what the forensic evidence can and cannot tell us.

Summary of Opinions

I found reasonable doubt as to whether the Defendants killed Jimmy Roberts. To be clear, all of Boorman’s methods were industry standard, and everything in the Forensic Findings sections of Boorman’s report (Exhibit 23) is correct. The only part of Boorman’s report with which I disagree is the Conclusions section on the last page. As explained below, all three of those conclusions are possible, but speculative.

Analysis

Police Investigation

The original investigation of Jimmy Roberts’s death – which led to the arrest and trial of Goldeni and Rosenblatt – was rushed, sloppy, and incomplete.

- The police made an arrest for murder within mere hours of the crime.

- The police proceeded to trial without a murder weapon, especially concerning because Goldeni and Rosenblatt had so little time or opportunity to dispose of a murder weapon.
- The police never checked if their timeline made sense. Eyewitnesses reported shots fired at 9:30 a.m. Five minutes later, Goldeni and Rosenblatt were found 9 miles away.
- The State relied on an eyewitness (Marlee Galvez) whose description of the killers did not match Goldeni and Rosenblatt in multiple ways.
- The police relied on a flimsy theory of motive. People don't often kill over a can of tuna.
- The police failed to record the supposed confession. This created ambiguity about whether Goldeni said he shot the clerk or was repeating the police accusation in disbelief.
- For months, police failed to check DMV and arrest records for other suspects with a mint green convertible.

I have no criticisms of the investigation performed by Donoghue and Boorman that led to the prosecution of Joshua Jones and Peter Jones. I am not aware of leads or suspects they failed to consider, witnesses they failed to interview, tests they failed to perform, or evidence they failed to gather. Still, the failures from the original investigation taint the evidence against the Joneses. I cannot trust an investigation that resulted in (1) an arrest of suspects the police now believe to be innocent and (2) different pairs of men being charged with the same crime.

Fingerprints

I put the fingerprint collected by Paige Boorman under a microscope and performed an independent review. While I agree with all of Boorman's fingerprint opinions, the fingerprint evidence doesn't prove the Defendants killed Jimmy Roberts or even entered the store. Fingerprints tell us *that* an object was touched, not *when*. If the Defendants stole the car from the real killers and then handled the gun, that would explain the fingerprint.

Two-Dollar Bill

There is no forensic evidence that the two-dollar bill in Exhibit 17 is the same two-dollar bill that the victim had taped to the counter. And while two-dollar bills are much rarer than most denominations, according to the US Treasury website, there are 1.5 billion two-dollar bills in circulation worldwide and about a hundred million two-dollar bills printed annually.

Ballistics

The victim was killed with Winchester 125-grain JHP .357 Magnum bullets and that the Colt Python recovered in the stolen Tempest contained Winchester 125-grain JHP .357 Magnums. But other common firearms use those bullets, including Smith & Wesson models 19, 66, and 686; Ruger models GP100, SP101, and Blackhawk; Taurus 66; and Colt King Cobra.

I reviewed Exhibit 18. The bullets that killed Jimmy Roberts are *consistent* with being fired from the Colt Python in the Defendants' car. But consistency only proves the Colt Python in Exhibit 15-E *could* be the murder weapon, not that it *is*. Toolmark analysis is incapable of definitively identifying any particular gun as the source of any particular bullet. Bullet markings

aren't like fingerprints; striation patterns aren't unique. Furthermore, even if that Colt Python is the murder weapon, that would not prove that the Defendants fired it. *Gunshot Residue*

The GSR on Exhibit 15-D does not prove Peter (or Joshua) Jones fired the gun. GSR can be transferred by contact. While GSR can remain on clothing for months or years, that requires the material to be preserved and undisturbed. Perhaps the outside cuff was contaminated after the hoodie was seized. Because the police failed to investigate the Joneses until months after the crime, the GSR test of the hoodie is less reliable and we will never know if there was GSR on their hands. Additionally, there is no forensic evidence that either Defendant wore the hoodie.

Vehicle Identification

I agree that (a) the tire marks in Exhibit 3 came from Michelin model XGV size 75R, 14-inch wheel tires, (b) the tire marks in Exhibit 3 were made by a car with limited slip differential, (c) that the only two convertibles manufactured since 2000 that come with mint green paint and white/cream tops are the Buick Skylark and the 2009 and 2010 Pontiac Tempest, (d) the Tempest has a limited slip differential, and the Skylark has an open differential.

However, I see no proof that the tire tracks in Exhibit 3 were left by the murderers, or even that the tire tracks were left the day of the murder. Rubber deposits on asphalt do not have time-specific indicators, and their appearance changes unpredictably with traffic, sunlight, wind, and moisture. While dark, well-defined marks like those in Exhibit 3 are usually from the last 24 hours, they can persist for a week depending on surface texture and environmental exposure. It rained on January 1, 2025, so those tire tracks could be from January 4 – or from January 1, 2, or 3. Without surveillance video, witness observations, or known traffic patterns, no reliable method exists to assign an exact date or time.

Alternate Suspects/Explanations

There is reasonable doubt as to whether the Defendants killed Jimmy Roberts. Here are some alternate possibilities:

- It is possible that Goldeni and Rosenblatt killed Jimmy Roberts. None of the evidence conclusively exonerates them.
- It is possible that another person or persons stole the 2010 Pontiac Tempest, went to the Bag-O-Buds, murdered Jimmy Roberts with the Colt Python, and stole the cash from the register – and then the Defendants subsequently stole the Tempest with the murder weapon and cash. This would explain almost all of the evidence against the Defendants.
- It is possible another person or persons, unconnected to the Tempest, killed Roberts. Maybe the people seen arguing with Roberts killed him. Or maybe the real killer(s) left through the back door, and the Joneses drove away in fear.