1	NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE		
2	SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION		
3	* * * * * * * * * * * * * *		
4	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA		
5	vs CARTERET COUNTY		
6	DUSTIN WARREN, 14 CRS 50372; 76; 77		
7	Defendant.		
8	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		
9	MOTION FOR APPROPRIATE RELIEF Volume 1 of 1		
10	Wednesday, July 6, 2018 * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		
11			
12	Transcript of proceedings in the General Court of Justice,		
13	Superior Court Division, Carteret County, North Carolina, at		
14	the June 4, 2018, Criminal Session, before the Honorable		
15	Benjamin G. Alford, Judge Presiding, heard in the North Carolina		
16	Superior Court at Beaufort.		
17			
18	APPEARANCES:		
19	David L. Spence, Esq. Beaufort, North Carolina		
20	on behalf of the State		
21	Patrick M. Megaro, Esq. Orlando, Florida		
22	on behalf of the Defendant		
23	Toen Spaights PMP PDP		
24	Jean Speights, RMR, RPR Official Court Reporter		
25	Post Office Box 1122 Lewisburg, NC 24901		

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(The afternoon session of Superior Court is called to order.)

THE COURT: Thank you, sheriff.

SHERIFF: Yes, sir, Judge.

MR. SPENCE: Your Honor, we're here on a Motion for Appropriate Relief.

Mr. Megaro, you can come up here if you'd like and bring your client with you, whoever else you need to assist.

Your Honor, Patrick Megaro is the counsel filing -had filed this license in North Carolina -- filed this back in
2016. Both of us filed Answers, and Your Honor decided, after
much deliberation, that an evidentiary hearing would be
something that probably needed to be had in these kind of cases.

Judge, the File Number is, again, State versus -- State of North Carolina versus Dustin Warren, a Carteret County Case of 14 CRS 50372, 50376 and 50377.

Judge, if I can hand up a couple things that you may not have. There is a -- this case is here because there were some Ineffective Assistance motions that were attempted to be raised, and were raised to some extent on direct appeal.

And I have circled the conclusions of the court and the limitations on, really, what -- what was heard in the Court of Appeals without prejudice. That appears on the last page.

The discussion really isn't that important. But it's sort of limited to --

13:32:12 1 13:32:13 2 13:32:16 3 13:32:22 13:32:27 5 13:32:33 6 13:32:36 7 13:32:43 8 13:32:47 9 13:32:51 10 13:32:58 11 13:33:03 1213:33:03 13 13:33:08 14 13:33:12 15 13:33:17 16 13:33:18 17 13:33:21 18 13:33:25 19 13:33:28 20 13:33:33 2113:33:33 22 13:33:35 23

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(Documents tendered to the Court.)

MR. SPENCE: -- to three things: Was -- was the trial counsel ineffective in not calling either Brandon Elps, not calling Mark Thomas, not calling Cassie Flowers to testify, or, as to -- and to challenge the credibility of State's witness Heather Kennon, who was also a co-defendant at the time.

I believe there's nothing filed in Mr. Megaro's motion regarding Mr. Elps, so I would assume that has been abandoned. And so, really, we're down to whether Mr. Fulcher was ineffective under the Strictland standard by not calling Cassie Flowers and Mark Thomas to challenge parts of her testimony.

And again, if -- Mr. Megaro, if I have incorrectly stated that, please correct me. But that's at least what my understanding is, why we're here, and the limitations on -- on what can be presented or argued.

THE COURT: First of all, let me ask Counsel, for the record, simply to identify themselves and whom they represent.

MR. SPENCE: David L. Spence, State of North Carolina, Bar Number 9477. And I'm Assistant DA in Carteret County.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MEGARO: Good afternoon, Your Honor. I'm Patrick Michael Megaro -- M-E-G-A-R-O -- Bar ID Number is 46770, on behalf of Dustin Warren.

With the Court's permission, my associate, Robert

13:33:45 1 13:33:49 2 13:33:52 3 13:33:55 13:33:56 5 13:33:57 6 13:33:59 7 13:33:59 8 13:33:59 9 13:34:02 10 13:34:05 11 13:34:06 1213:34:12 13 13:34:15 14 13:34:15 15 13:34:18 16 13:34:24 17 13:34:28 18 13:34:32 19 13:34:32 20 13:34:36 2113:34:39 2213:34:43 23

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Bynther -- it's B-Y-N-T-H-E-R -- is present at counsel table. He is not admitted in the State of North Carolina; he is admitted in the State of Florida. And I simply brought him along, simply to observe --

THE COURT: Welcome.

MR. MEGARO: -- could learn something from this.

THE COURT: Welcome.

MR. BYNTHER: Thank you, Your Honor.

MR. MEGARO: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor, with respect to the motion, there were three essential -- three main claims raised in the motion regarding Ineffective Assistance, and that was failure to call Brandon Elps. And in that motion I didn't address that, because that was addressed on direct appeal as well.

And the other two prongs of the motion was with respect to Ms. Cassie Flowers and Mr. Mark Thomas. Mr. Mark Thomas is currently serving an active state prison term, and he has been brought over here today. I did meet with him earlier today.

Ms. Cassie Flowers is presently incarcerated in this county on pending charges. Her counsel is present here in court, and I have had the chance to speak with him earlier today.

Mr. Elps's whereabouts are currently unknown because he has been released from the Department of Adult Corrections,

13:34:49 1 13:34:54 2 13:34:57 3 13:35:01 13:35:06 5 13:35:07 6 13:35:08 7 13:35:09 8 13:35:10 9 13:35:15 10 13:35:17 11 13:35:18 12 13:35:21 13 13:35:24 14 13:35:26 15 13:35:30 16 13:35:34 17 13:35:35 18 13:35:38 19 13:35:41 20 13:35:47 2113:35:52 22 13:35:56 23

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and I have made efforts to locate him, but he's no longer here.

Nevertheless, with respect to that claim, I would be relying upon the official record in this case, because there was a proffer as to what his testimony would have been that was made on the record by trial counsel --

MR. SPENCE: No --

MR. MEGARO: -- if I recall --

MR. SPENCE: -- that was -- no. There was no proffer made. He was not brought over even for a proffer.

MR. MEGARO: Very well.

THE COURT: Well, the record is what the record is.

MR. SPENCE: The Court of Appeals addressed that. He was not brought over for a proffer.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. MEGARO: But in any event, there is an issue that I think we should probably address before the case moves forward.

One of the witnesses that I had proposed to call would have been Ms. Cassie Flowers, who is, as the Court's aware -- is aware, is present here. Her counsel has -- and she had submitted an affidavit in 2016 when this motion was filed prior to the advent of her current charges.

She has since been charged, and her counsel,

Mr. James Upton[sic], is present here in court. And it's my

understanding that -- and I can't fault Counsel for this: He

 13:36:12
 1
 does not w

 13:36:16
 2
 testimony.

 13:36:19
 3
 considered

 13:36:23
 4
 impact any

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does not want to endanger her situation with respect to her testimony. If she were to give testimony that would be considered unfavorable to the State, that potentially could impact any plea negotiations that she may have.

I have discussed this matter with my client, and he has asked me to move forward with Ms. Flowers as a witness. But I would remind the State that she does have pending charges, and not that I'm advocating for her, but I would not seek to elicit any information concerning her pending charges. And she, I believe, would have an absolute right to have her counsel present and advise her and invoke the Fifth Amendment as to those matters, notwithstanding her testimony on other matters. So --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. SPENCE: Mr. Lupton can address that better. I think that he is going to advise her not to testify in the matter because she is -- again, I'll say on the record, whatever she says here is not going to affect any plea negotiations I have on her pending cases with Mr. Lupton. I'm not going to do that.

However, I don't think Mr. Lupton wants her on the stand to possibly maybe commit another crime under oath, testifying under oath, or for whatever reason. I'll let him talk -- speak to Your Honor about that situation. And he's advised Mr. Megaro exactly, I think, what his stance is. Is

that correct, Jim?

MR. LUPTON: Your Honor, may I?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. LUPTON: Your Honor, thank you. Ms. Flowers was brought over earlier today, and I did speak with her and explained to her that if she is called to testify, certainly, the Prosecutor's duty is to impeach or attempt to impeach her as to her credibility.

As he does that, he'll be permitted to speak to her of bad conduct that would be admissible regarding her credibility, which could include conduct for which she is now in this Superior Court for felony charges.

I have advised her that should she testify, she would be subject to discuss, potentially, charges that are now pending, which could affect my ability to defend her, which also, I think, in fairness, could affect -- if the State felt that or perceived that what she was saying was not honest admissions -- might affect how they view the case, not to conform to what the State is asking her, but could affect their view of her and could affect, again, the strength in my ability to defend her.

And therefore, I strongly have instructed her to invoke her Fifth Amendment to not testify, if called.

THE COURT: Well, I'm certainly not going to let

Mr. Megaro or Mr. Spence inquire into any matters for which the

13:37:38 1 13:37:39 2 13:37:40 3 13:37:41 4 13:37:42 5 13:37:45 6 13:37:48 7 13:37:54 8 13:37:54 9 13:37:58 10 13:38:03 11 12 13:38:09

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13:39:00 1 13:39:04 2 13:39:11 3 13:39:15 13:39:16 5 13:39:18 6 13:39:24 7 13:39:27 8 13:39:30 9 13:39:34 10 13:39:39 11 13:39:40 12 13:39:46 13 13:39:48 14 13:39:50 15 13:39:52 16 13:39:55 17 13:39:59 18

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charges are currently pending. But to say that she doesn't want to testify because if she testifies inaccurately the State may have some repercussions in the way of perjury, that's not a good enough reason not to testify.

But I am going to order, Mr. Spence, and Mr. Megaro, do not get into anything for which this woman is currently charged in Carteret County or in any other county.

And I don't think they intend to do that. I think they intend to reserve their questioning as to anything that she knew about the case involving Mr. Warren.

MR. MEGARO: That's correct, Your Honor. My -- my intention is to confine her testimony probably exclusively to the four corners of the affidavit that was submitted in this Motion for Appropriate Relief.

THE COURT: But I do want, Mr. Lupton, if you would, can you be here and stay? And if you feel like there's something that's being asked that calls upon her to comment, in any way, on any charges that are pending against her anywhere, to intercede with an objection and give me the reason why.

MR. LUPTON: Your Honor, I thank you for that. And I'd also ask if I would be allowed to speak to her when she comes over, because Mr. Spence did share to me -- with me how he may impeach her. And I'd like to advise her about that and just speak to her --

THE COURT: Sure.

13:40:251 13:40:26 2 13:40:273 13:40:29 4 13:40:31 5 13:40:34 6 13:40:36 7 13:40:42 8 13:40:48 9 13:40:49 10 13:40:50 11 12 13:40:53 13:40:56 13 13:40:59 14 13:41:00 15 13:41:02 16 13:41:04 17 13:41:07 18 13:41:07 19 13:41:09 20 13:41:12 2113:41:12 2213:41:14 23 13:41:17 2413:41:18 25

MR. LUPTON: -- before she takes the stand.

THE COURT: Absolutely.

MR. LUPTON: And I will stay in here.

MR. SPENCE: Again, I will avoid all that stuff. I wasn't intending on getting into it. However, I have some things from her Facebook account which I pulled off yesterday.

And just now finding out she will be testifying, that might lead her to testify in contravention of her affidavit.

THE COURT: Well --

MR. SPENCE: And, again, if I could -- if I could share that with Mr. Megaro, because, again, I just pulled it off the computer just as an abundance of caution. But I'll be glad to share that with him.

THE COURT: As it potentially impeaches her affidavit, it's fair game.

MR. SPENCE: Yes, sir. I knew that. But in fairness, I would like to at least show this to him. I've shown it to Mr. Lupton this morning also, and found it yesterday on her Facebook.

THE COURT: Is Ms. Flowers over here, back in the back?

SHERIFF: I will bring her right now.

THE COURT: Yes. Please bring her so that Mr. Lupton can have a conference with her.

THE SHERIFF: Yes, sir.

```
THE COURT:
                                       And if you would share that with Mr.
13:41:19
           1
13:41:20
           2
                Megaro --
                          MR. SPENCE:
                                        T will.
13:41:22
           3
                          THE COURT: -- and give him a moment to look at it.
13:41:23
                                (Mr. Spence and Mr. Megaro confer.)
13:41:25
           5
                          MR. SPENCE:
13:43:49
           6
                                        Ann Scadden, who is with -- Dustin
13:43:49
           7
                Warren's affidavit -- has some documentation that I told you
13:43:49
                about.
13:43:49
                          MR. MEGARO:
                                        Right.
13:43:49
          10
                          MR. SPENCE:
                                        Ann, you can come up with that.
13:43:49
          11
                sure I've got the right ones. Let me see the notes.
                                                                        She can
13:43:49
                just show you what she has --
          12
13:43:51
          13
                          MR. MEGARO:
                                        Sure.
13:43:51
                          MR. SPENCE: -- real quickly.
          14
13:43:52
                                (Ms. Scadden tenders documents to Mr. Megaro.)
          15
13:43:52
          16
                          MR. SPENCE:
                                        Ann, could you leave those with me, so I
13:43:52
          17
                can --
                          MS. SCADDEN:
                                         This?
13:43:52
          18
13:43:52
                          MR. SPENCE:
          19
                                        Yes.
13:43:52
          20
                          MS. SCADDEN:
                                         You have them.
13:43:52
          21
                          MR. SPENCE:
                                        I know that.
13:45:34
          22
                          MS. SCADDEN:
                                         I'll make copies.
                                                             Yeah.
                                (Rodney Fulcher is present in the courtroom.)
13:45:36
          23
                                        Your Honor, if I could address a couple
13:48:36
          24
                          MR. SPENCE:
13:51:33
          25
                preliminary matters.
                                       I don't want to interrupt your reading.
```

37 1 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. SPENCE: Before we start back, before I forget it, mainly, the State would -- for purposes of this hearing, move to introduce the entire court file which contains the transcript of the court proceedings, and ask that be made -- made part of the record on this motion.

I also have obtained from Ms. Speights a transcript of the continuance motion made by Mr. Fulcher a month before, and some of the things that were said in there by Mr. Warren, and his -- his -- his intentions. And I have sent a copy to Mr. Megaro last night by email, and I'll hand up -- this is -- it's basically a two-page colloquy --

(Documents tendered to the Court.)

MR. SPENCE: -- maybe even before Your Honor in the August session, prior to the September trial session.

THE COURT: Judge Paul Jones heard this.

MR. SPENCE: Okay.

THE COURT: But it's part of the record, and the Court will receive it.

MR. SPENCE: Yes, sir, it is. And also, in the court file, of course, I filed a motion -- I filed a response, and a lot of my response was dealing with the credibility of the witnesses that were intended to be called. And I attached their criminal histories.

In order to maybe save some time, when they take the

13:51:3713:51:37 2 13:51:39 3 13:51:45 13:51:48 5 13:51:52 6 13:51:53 7 13:51:59 8 13:52:03 9 13:52:07 10 13:52:1211 13:52:16 12 13:52:18 13 13:52:18 14 13:52:23 15 13:52:30 16 13:52:32 17 13:52:33 18 13:52:35 19 13:52:35 20 13:52:38 2113:52:42 2213:52:46 23

13:52:50

13:52:51

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stand, I'd just let Your Honor know, the criminal histories are 1 available inside the file and I have them here if you need to 2 look at them. 3

> I think the relevant criminal histories in this particular case are what I could have cross-examined them on in 2014, the 10-year window, because that was -- that was the calculation by trial counsel, whether to call them or not with what they could be cross-examined about at that time.

I think, in addition, this hearing, which takes place a little over three and a half years later, if they have anything additional, it affects their credibility at this hearing.

So I would ask for that window, which is a little bit more expansive than the 8C 10-year limitation should apply at this hearing. And, again, I would just leave that up to Your Honor, but let you know that the actual records are in my Answer.

Okay. Well, I'll deal with it if it comes THE COURT: up at the hearing. Mr. Megaro, is Ms. Flowers intending to be your first witness?

MR. MEGARO: Yes, Your Honor. I would -- since she's on the County's time and Mr. Lupton's time, I would call her first, and then --

> THE COURT: 0kay.

-- I would intend to call Mr. Mark Thomas MR. MEGARO:

13:52:55 13:52:59 13:53:02 13:53:05 4 13:53:07 5 13:53:15 6 13:53:19 7 13:53:21 8 13:53:24 9 13:53:27 10 13:53:30 11 13:53:33 12

13:53:34 13 13:53:36 14

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13:54:09 20

13:54:10 21

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23 13:54:16

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13:54:16 25

second, since he's on also the County's time, and call my client 13:54:19 1 13:54:22 last. 13:54:23 3 THE COURT: Okay. 13:54:23 (The Court confers with his bailiff.) 13:54:52 MR. MEGARO: Your Honor, does the Court permit laptops 5 at counsel table? 13:54:53 13:54:56 THE COURT: Absolutely. 13:54:57 8 MR. MEGARO: I always have to ask. 13:54:58 9 THE COURT: I can't imagine, with that sort of 13:55:00 10 technology available to us -- and I think that we have wi-fi in 13:55:04 11 the Carteret County Courthouse, which you can access. MR. MEGARO: Thank you. You'd be surprised. 13:55:0712 13:55:09 13 THE COURT: I probably would. 13:55:10 (An unrelated matter was heard before the Court.) 14 13:56:04 (Ms. Flowers is present in the courtroom with her 15 14:00:22 16 counsel, Mr. Lupton.) 14:00:33 Judge, if I could have one moment to tidy 17 MR. SPENCE: up some loose ends here. 14:00:36 18 14:00:38 (Mr. Spence exits the courtroom, returns 19 momentarily and tenders documents to Mr. Lupton.) 14:00:40 20 14:03:39 21 THE COURT: Are the parties ready to proceed? State ready? 14:03:59 22 14:04:01 23 MR. SPENCE: I'm ready. 14:04:03 24MR. LUPTON: Your Honor, Mr. Spence just gave me some 14:04:05 25more information; he just now handed it to me. If I could have

1	a moment to share this with Mr. Flowers. Thank you.
2	(Mr. Lupton and Ms. Flowers exit courtroom and
3	return after several minutes.)
4	THE COURT: Mr. Megaro, you may call your first
5	witness.
6	MR. MEGARO: Thank you, Your Honor. The defense would
7	call Ms. Cassie Jean Flowers.
8	(The witness was duly sworn.)
9	(The witness took the witness stand.)
10	MR. MEGARO: Your Honor, would the Court require me to
11	stand when questioning the witness or be seated? It's up to
12	you.
13	THE COURT: The State rules provide that questioning
14	is done by Counsel from the counsel table in a seated position.
15	MR. MEGARO: Thank you.
16	THE COURT: Yes, sir.
17	
18	CASSIE JEAN FLOWERS,
19	having been first duly sworn, at 2:08 p.m. was called as a
20	witness on behalf of the Defendant and testified as follows:
21	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MEGARO
22	Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Flowers. How are you?
23	A. I am doing doing good. How are you?
24	Q. Can you speak into the microphone? I'm having a
25	little hard time
	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

14:08:15 The microphone doesn't work. 1 THE COURT: Just speak 14:08:17 2 up. 14:08:17 BY MR. MEGARO 3 14:08:17 Q. Speak up. 14:08:17 Α. All right. 5 14:08:18 I just want to make clear, as we get started, I do not 6 Q. want to ask you and I do not want you to answer anything about 14:08:21 7 any pending charges in any county right now. 14:08:24 8 14:08:28 9 Α. Yes, sir. 14:08:29 10 Q. All right. Thank you. How do you know Dustin Warren? 14:08:33 11 Α. I met him in September of 2013, and we dated for a 14:08:36 12 couple months up until about Christmas. 14:08:38 13 Q. Okay. Christmas of 2013? 14:08:41 Yes, sir. 14 Α. Yes. 14:08:41 15 And did there come -- is that when your relationship Q. 14:08:45 terminated? 16 14:08:46 17 Α. For the -- yes. I tried calling him and Yeah. 14:08:48 texting him and he wouldn't answer my calls. 18 14:08:52 19 Q. After your relationship terminated, were you on 14:08:54 speaking terms, or not at all? 2014:08:56 21Α. No. Did you know a young lady named Heather Kennon? 14:08:58 22 Q. 14:09:01 23 K-E-N-N-O-N. 14:09:04 24Α. Yes, sir. I know of her. And --

And what is -- what -- in late 2013, what was your

14:09:05

25

Q.

```
14:09:09
                relationship with Ms. Kennon?
           1
                          Me and Heather never got along. We -- she was -- I
14:09:11
           2
                    Α.
                believe she was jealous of me --
14:09:14
           3
14:09:16
                          MR. SPENCE:
                                        Objection.
14:09:16
                           THE COURT:
                                       Overruled.
           5
14:09:20
           6
                BY MR. MEGARO
                           Now, did you have any relationship with Heather Kennon
14:09:20
           7
                    Q.
                in January of 2014?
14:09:23
           8
14:09:26
           9
                    Α.
                          No -- not at all.
14:09:27
          10
                    Q.
                          Did you ever associate with her or hang out with her,
14:09:30
          11
                socialize?
14:09:32
                           No.
          12
                    Α.
14:09:34
          13
                    Q.
                           Now, I want to draw your attention to the evening of
14:09:37
          14
                January 28th and January 29th, 2014. Do you recall where you
14:09:42
          15
                were?
                           The 28th and 29th? Yes, sir.
14:09:43
          16
                    Α.
                                                           I do.
14:09:45
                          And where were you that day?
          17
                    Q.
14:09:47
                           I was snowed-in at my place in Morehead City.
          18
                    Α.
14:09:50
                          Who were you living with at the time?
          19
                    Q.
                           I was by myself. I had my dog there too.
14:09:52
          20
                    Α.
14:09:56
          21
                    Q.
                           Is that a chocolate Labrador?
14:09:58
          22
                    Α.
                          Yeah.
                                  That's Rusty.
14:10:00
                          Did the dog ever alert you as to whether people were
          23
                    Q.
14:10:04
                being -- approaching the house?
          24
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MR. SPENCE:

Objection to what the dog did.

14:10:05

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Did you

14:10:08 1 THE COURT: Overruled. 14:10:08 2 BY MR. MEGARO Would the dog bark if someone came up to the front --14:10:09 3 Q. 14:10:11 MR. SPENCE: Objection. 14:10:12 THE WITNESS: Yes. 5 THE COURT: 14:10:126 Overruled. BY MR. MEGARO 14:10:13 7 14:10:13 8 Q. Okav. On January -- on the evening of January 28th and January 29th of 2014, did anyone come to your house on 14:10:17 9 14:10:23 10 either of those days? 14:10:2411 Α. No one came by. I couldn't even leave my house 14:10:27 12 because I -- no one came by. 14:10:28 13 Q. And that was going to be my next question: 14:10:30 leave your house at any time during those two days? 14 14:10:32 15 Α. I have a two-wheel drive vehicle, and I did No. 14:10:34 16 not -- I couldn't leave the house. I didn't even have dog food 14:10:37 17 there. Okay. Did anyone have the key to your home other than 14:10:3718 Q. 14:10:40 19 yourself? Definitely not. 14:10:41 20 No. Α. 14:10:43 21Q. At any point during the time -- evening of January 28th to January 29th, 2014, did you ever hear your dog 14:10:46 22 14:10:51 23 barking to alert you? 14:10:55 24Not -- not once. Α.

Did there come a point in time when you learned that

14:10:56

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Q.

14:10:59 1 14:11:01 2 14:11:02 3 14:11:03 14:11:08 5 14:11:13 6 14:11:13 14:11:15 8 14:11:20 9 14:11:22 10 14:11:24 11 14:11:31 12 14:11:33 13 14:11:38 14 14:11:41 15 14:11:44 16 14:11:44 17 14:11:46 18 14:11:50 19 14:11:52 20 14:11:54 2114:11:56 22 14:11:57 23 14:11:59 24

14:12:01

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Dustin Warren had been arrested? Α. Yes. Yes, sir. When was that? Q. Α. That was after I got out of jail. After I was arrested for some assault charges, I saw his face on the paper. Q. 0kay. In the -- on the news. Α. Q. All right. Now, when was the next time that you heard from Dustin Warren? Α. Let's see. I was in prison -- it was, like, two years December of 2015 I believe he sent me a Christmas card later. and showed me some trial transcripts that Heather Kennon said stuff about me in court that was not true. All right. And when you say "trial transcripts," Q. you're referring to Ms. Kennon's testimony? Α. Yes, sir. Okay. And did you review those transcripts? Q. Yes, sir. I did. Α. What did you notice about the content of those Q. transcripts? Α. I noticed that she lied and said --MR. SPENCE: Objection.

THE COURT:

THE WITNESS:

Overruled.

been by my house, and that's the day that it snowed, and I was

I noticed that she said that she had

14:12:05 1 14:12:08 2 14:12:08 14:12:09 14:12:10 5 14:12:116 14:12:14 14:12:14 8 14:12:16 9 14:12:23 10 14:12:28 11 14:12:30 12 14:12:37 13 14:12:40 14 14:12:43 15 14:12:47 16 14:12:49 17 14:12:54 18 14:12:54 19 14:12:56 20 14:12:58 2114:13:00 22 14:13:00 23 14:13:03 2414:13:05 25

snowed in. And I know for a fact no one came by. No one at all.

BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. Would you have allowed her into your home --
- A. No, I would not have.
- Q. -- in January of 2014?
- A. No. No, sir.
- Q. At any point in time on the evening of January 28th, 2014, or at any point in time on January 29th, 2014, did Dustin Warren ever come to your home and ask you for a cold pack or any other items in order to make drugs?
 - A. No, sir.
- Q. And as of January 28th, 2014, to January 29th, 2014, were you even on speaking terms with Mr. Warren?
 - A. No, no. We weren't talking.
- Q. Now, you mentioned that you were incarcerated for a period of time in 2014, right? I just need you to answer out loud for me.
 - A. What did you say? I'm sorry. I couldn't --
- Q. You mentioned earlier that you were incarcerated for a period of time in 2014?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Okay. Do you remember the date of your arrest?
 - A. When I got arrested?
 - Q. Yes.

- 14:13:051
- 14:13:07

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- 14:13:54 25

- On January 30th --Α.
- Q. 2014?
- -- for the assault -- or when I went to prison? Α.
- When did you go -- well, let's start with that. Q. When did you go to prison in 2014?
 - Α. It was February 14th, 2014.
 - Q. 0kay.
 - Or, was it '15? Α. '15?
 - Q. Some time in mid-February --
 - Α. Yeah.
- Q. -- of 2014? And did you remain incarcerated throughout the rest of the year?
 - Α. Yes, sir.
- Okay. And do you remember where you were Q. incarcerated?
- I was incarcerated at Raleigh. I did about a year Α. there, and then I went to minimum security in Maury, North Carolina.
- When you were incarcerated, were you incarcerated Q. under your current name, Cassie Jean Flowers?
 - Α. Yes, sir.
- And did you use any alias or any different dates of Q. birth or any identifying information?
 - Α. No, sir.
 - At any point in time in 2014, did anyone identifying Q.

- 14:13:59 themselves as a lawyer from Mr. Dustin Warren or an investigator 1 for Mr. Warren's defense team ever come to interview you? 14:14:05 2
 - Α. No, sir.
 - Did anyone ever request that you call them on the Q. phone or make a phone call to the women's prison and speak to you regarding the facts of the case?
 - No, sir. Α.
 - Q. When was the first time that anyone had contacted you to speak to you about the facts of Mr. Warren's case?
 - Α. When I got the Christmas card --
 - Q. Okay.
 - -- I guess. Well, he didn't -- he just said, "Look Α. what Heather says. She -- she's lying about you."
 - And obviously, it was lies, but he didn't say anything at the time --
 - Q. Okay.
 - -- about stating the truth or anything. I didn't know Α. who was -- all this was going to happen.
 - Q. Did there come a point in time when you and I spoke regarding the facts of the case?
 - Α. Yes, sir.
 - Q. All right. And is that when you submitted the affidavit?
 - Yes, sir. Α.
 - Okay. And the affidavit that you submitted, that was Q.

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- 14:14:48 20
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14:14:59 signed and dated October 3rd, 2016; is that right? 1 14:15:01 2 Α. Yes, sir. Thank you very much, ma'am. No further 14:15:02 3 MR. MEGARO: questions for Ms. Flowers. 14:15:04 Cross-examination, Mr. Spence? 14:15:06 5 THE COURT: 14:15:08 6 MR. SPENCE: Yes, sir. CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SPENCE 14:15:08 7 14:15:08 8 Q. Ms. Flowers, where were you when you signed this affidavit? 14:15:10 9 What's the date on that affidavit? 14:15:11 10 Α. 14:15:13 11 Q. October 3rd, 2016. 14:15:17 I was released from prison. I was -- I don't know 12Α. 14:15:22 13 where I got it notarized at, but I was home. 14:15:26 14 Q. How did you get this? Did you type this up? 14:15:30 15 I wrote it out, and then it was edited. Α. 14:15:34 16 Q. Okay. You wrote it long-hand? 14:15:36 Yes, sir. 17Α. And who did you send it to? 14:15:36 18 Q. 14:15:38 I sent it to my mother. 19 Α. 14:15:41 20Q. Okay. And --14:15:43 21Α. And edited it. Did you have instructions for her to give it to 14:15:44 22 Q. 14:15:46 23somebody? 14:15:48 24No, sir. Α.

So you -- where is that piece of paper?

14:15:48

25

Q.

Okay.

14:15:53 1 14:15:56 2 14:15:58 3 14:16:02 4 14:16:04 5 14:16:07 6 14:16:07 7 14:16:09 8 14:16:10 9 14:16:11 10 14:16:13 11 14:16:15 1214:16:16 13 14:16:18 14 14:16:20 15 14:16:24 16 14:16:25 17 14:16:2518 14:16:28 19 14:16:32 20 14:16:35 2114:16:37 22 14:16:38 23 14:16:40 24

14:16:41

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Q.

your mother still have it? No -- what do you mean? Α. Why did you fill -- why did you even write out a piece Q. of paper about what happened? Why did you do that? Because I was sent the trial transcripts where Heather Α. Kennon lied. Who sent you those? Q. Okay. Dustin sent me those. Α. From jail? Q. Α. Yes. Q. Did he tell -- did Dustin tell you what to put -- put to write down? Α. No, he didn't tell me what to write down. He just sent you those transcripts; there was no Q. instruction, and no talk about what you should mention in this letter? No. Α. So you just -- you just made -- you just figured on Q. your own to draft a document and give it to your mother? Well, I wrote down facts about the case. Α. Q. Why? With help. Α. Who? Q. With Dustin. Α.

With Dustin's help?

14:16:42 1 Α. Yes. Okay. Were you-all in the same prison area? 14:16:42 Q. 14:16:45 3 Α. No. No. Communicating, though, by letter? 14:16:45 Q. 14:16:47 Yes. 5 Α. 14:16:48 6 Q. From prison to prison? 14:16:50 7 Α. Yes. 14:16:50 8 Q. And Dustin would tell you things to put, and you would 14:16:54 9 write them down? 14:16:54 10 Α. No, he never asked me to lie or anything like that. 14:16:56 11 Q. I know that. 14:16:57 I'm only here to state the truth. 12Α. Yes, sir. 14:16:59 13 I understand that. Because you're a truthful person. Q. 14:17:02 14 But did Dustin tell you what you should mention in your letter? 14:17:06 15 Α. The facts that I need to mention, yes, sir. 14:17:08 16 Q. He told you -- he suggested things you should mention? 14:17:11 I'm not -- I wouldn't never say anything that I 17Α. wouldn't say by myself. 14:17:13 18 14:17:14 19 Q. You weren't here for the trial, correct? Correct. I was not. 14:17:16 20Α. 14:17:17 21Q. You had nothing to do and you have no idea what happened on January 28th or 29th, 2014, by your own testimony, 14:17:19 22 14:17:23 23 correct? 14:17:25 24Α. 2014?

The date this happened?

14:17:26

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Q.

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- Α. Yeah.
- The date Dustin was arrested. Q.
- I was not there when he was arrested. Α.
- Exactly. You don't know anything about what happened Q. dealing with that meth lab, do you?
- No, I don't -- I don't know about the meth stuff, but Α. I can tell you that I was home at that time and no one came by That's what I'm here saying. my house.
- Q. Okay. So the only thing you know about is the cold packs?
- Α. I didn't know what a cold pack was at the time, but now I do.
- Q. So anyway, your testimony is limited to one That either Dustin or Heather didn't come by your house, thing: or you didn't see them come by your house on that one day?
 - Α. Yes, sir.
- Q. That's the only thing you can possibly add to this case, right?
 - Α. That no one came by my house.
- Okay. Did you leave your house at all by Q. Right. foot?
 - Α. No. No, sir.
 - It was a bad snow, wasn't it? Q.
 - Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Α.
 - As a matter of fact, that highrise bridge from Q.

14:18:15 Atlantic Beach to Morehead was closed, wasn't it? 1 14:18:18 2 Α. Yes, sir. It was. You couldn't get over it, could you? 14:18:18 3 Q. 14:18:21 Α. No, sir. Where did you live in Morehead City? 14:18:24 Q. 5 Actually, it was Wilson's(sic) Trailer Park. 14:18:26 6 Α. 14:18:29 7 Q. Okay. I had a trailer there. 14:18:29 8 Α. 14:18:30 9 Q. And who -- was that your trailer? 14:18:32 10 Α. Yes, sir. Well --14:18:32 11 Q. In your name? 14:18:33 I was renting it in my name. Yes, sir. 12Α. 14:18:35 13 Okay. And what was your rent there? Q. 14:18:39 Like, 4- or \$500 a month. 14 Α. 14:18:41 Okay. You have a lot of friends that come visit that 15 Q. 14:18:43 16 trailer, right? 14:18:44 17 Α. Yes, sir. And did any of them happen to stop by that day? 14:18:44 18 Q. 14:18:48 No, sir. Nobody came by at all. 19 Α. No. You just couldn't get around to Morehead City? 14:18:50 20Q. 14:18:52 21Α. No, I couldn't. I didn't -- I was sleeping. Okay. Did you have Internet access? 14:18:54 22 Q. I'm pretty sure my phone did. 14:18:58 23 Α. 14:19:01 TV? 24Q.

Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

14:19:02

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Α.

Yeah.

14:19:02 Q. What did -- what did you do -- you testified 1 0kay. that you were there all day the 28th and 29th. What did you 14:19:04 2 have for lunch the day of the 28th? 14:19:08 3 Cereal and Ramen noodles. 14:19:10 Α. 14:19:12 Q. Okay. 5 I was -- yeah. 14:19:14 6 Α. How about for dinner? 14:19:15 7 Q. I don't remember. 14:19:18 8 Α. What time did you go to bed? 14:19:18 9 Q. 14:19:20 10 Α. I probably slept all those two days. You know, 14:19:23 11 sleeping, waking up. 14:19:24 12 Q. Okay. At that time, you were addicted to drugs, 14:19:27 13 weren't you? 14:19:28 14 Yes, sir. Α. 14:19:29 15 What drugs? Q. 14:19:33 16 Α. Xanax. Methamphetamine. 14:19:36 17 Q. Methamphetamine. And do you know a person named Brandon Hobbs? 14:19:40 18 14:19:41 19 Yes, sir. Α. How do you know him? 14:19:41 20 Q. 14:19:43 21Α. I know him. How do you know him? 14:19:44 22 Q. 14:19:46 23 I know him from outside. Α. I know that. 14:19:48 24Q. How?

From Facebook.

14:19:50

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Α.

14:19:52 Have you ever met him, or are you just on Facebook 1 Q. with him? 14:19:54 I've met him. 14:19:55 3 Α. 14:19:55 Q. And you hung around him, haven't you? 14:19:57 Α. Yes, sir. 5 Hung around him and Dustin? 14:19:57 6 Q. Yes, sir. 14:19:59 Α. Where do they live? 14:19:59 Q. I do not recall. I think at the Beach. 14:20:01 9 Α. 14:20:03 10 Q. You ever been to Dustin's house when you were dating 14:20:0511 him? 14:20:06 12 One time. Α. 14:20:06 13 Q. Only one time? Would he come to your house all --14:20:09 14 most of the time? 14:20:10 15 Α. Yes, sir. 14:20:11 16 Q. You dated him how long? 14:20:14 17 Briefly. About four months. Α. So again, four months at a time. How many times did 14:20:1518 Q. 14:20:18 19 he come to your house? Um, numerous times. 14:20:19 20Α. You go to his house more than once, ever? 14:20:21 21Q. 14:20:2522 Α. No. No, sir. 14:20:26 23 Did Brandon live with him? Q. 14:20:28 24No, sir. No. No, sir. Α.

Where did Brandon live?

14:20:29

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Q.

14:20:30 I'm not sure about Brandon at that time. 1 Α. Okay. You know what Brandon does, don't you? 14:20:32 2 Q. 14:20:35 know what he -- he's involved in drugs? 3 14:20:36 Α. Yes, sir. Cooks it. Cooks meth, doesn't he? 14:20:37 Q. 5 14:20:39 No, sir. Not that I'm aware of. 6 Α. You don't know about that? 14:20:40 Q. 14:20:41 8 Α. No, sir. Who did you get your meth from? 14:20:41 9 Q. 14:20:44 10 Α. On the street. 14:20:4511 Q. Who? 14:20:47 12 Just -- I don't know. Α. 14:20:48 13 Q. Same people? 14:20:49 14 I don't know. Α. 14:20:49 15 Tell us who you bought meth from, to -- you're a meth Q. 14:20:52 addict; you bought meth, right? 16 14:20:54 17 Α. I would get it from my friends. 14:20:56 Q. Who? Give us some names. 18 14:20:58 19 I don't recall. Α. MR. LUPTON: Objection. 14:20:59 20 14:20:59 21THE COURT: Sustained. BY MR. SPENCE 14:21:0722 14:21:14 23 Q. So where were you when this trial occurred in September of 2014? Were you incarcerated? 14:21:17 2414:21:25 What date was it?

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Α.

Yes.

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- Q. September of 2014.
- A. September, I don't believe I was.
- Q. Did you have pending charges then from -- different pending charges -- not these -- but different ones at that time that had been resolved?
 - A. Yes. I had pending charges.
 - Q. Okay. Who was your lawyer in those cases?
 - A. Jim Lupton.
 - Q. On the cases that were pending in 2014?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. And you had no idea what was said at the trial, who testified to what at the trial, or anything like that, did you?
- A. Well, I did receive the transcripts, but that's -- that's --
 - Q. I'm talking first-hand knowledge.
 - A. No, sir.
- Q. Okay. When did you first hear from Mr. Megaro about filing this affidavit?
- A. Well, I had -- I wrote up some stuff while I was in prison, but I -- after I got out, that's when I spoke with him.
- Q. Okay. Now, you said you wrote it up in prison; you gave it to your mother?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Do you know what she was supposed to do with it?

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- A. Just to edit it, look for mistakes.
- Q. How would she know?
- A. I mean, like, you know, punctuation and stuff.
- Q. Okay. And when did you receive this typed affidavit?
- A. Um, I received that while I was in prison.
- Q. Okay. And did the things you write -- wrote in your handwritten letter, are they exactly the same as here, the facts?
- A. Yes. And some of the stuff wasn't necessary so they left that out.
 - Q. What was that stuff?
- A. I don't remember, but the -- I don't remember. It wasn't factual.
 - Q. Well, what was it?
 - A. I can't recall.
- Q. Did it have to do with what you were talking about, the case and the transcript?
 - A. No, sir.
 - Q. Dustin told you to write about the transcript, right?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. And you wrote some stuff in there?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And then somebody -- you took it out?
- A. We're just sticking to the facts. The facts, just to keep it simple.

14:23:25 Now, your criminal history, if I could just go 1 Q. Okay. over your criminal convictions. I think they're all less than 14:23:352 14:23:40 10 years old. And just tell me, yes or no, whether these -- you 3 were convicted of those crimes. You're Cassie Jean Flowers; 14:23:43 date of birth 2/21/89? 14:23:47 5 14:23:516 Α. Yes, sir. Convicted in Carteret County in May of 2007, 14:23:53 7 Q. Misdemeanor Larceny? 14:23:56 8 14:23:59 9 Α. Yes, sir. 14:24:01 10 Q. Speak up, please. Guilty on -- convicted on 14:24:04 11 January 28th, 2008, Resisting a Public Officer? 14:24:09 Α. Yes, sir. 1214:24:10 13 Q. Possession of Malt Beverage Under Age in -- on 14:24:14 14 August 2007? 14:24:15 Α. Yes, sir. 15 14:24:20 16 Q. Possession of Stolen Goods, misdemeanor version, on 14:24:23 17 October 8th, 2008, in Carteret County? 14:24:25 Yes, sir. 18 Α. 14:24:29 Assault Inflicting Serious Injury, convicted on 19 Q. 12/12/2008, in Carteret County? 14:24:32 20 14:24:34 21Α. Yes, sir. Another Misdemeanor Larceny conviction in Carteret 14:24:3722 Q. 14:24:38 23 County on 10/10 -- I mean, I'm sorry -- 10/1/2010; is that correct? 14:24:43 24

14:24:44

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Α.

Yes, sir.

And Mr. Lupton represented your whole entire history 14:24:45 1 Q. in court, correct? 14:24:49 2 14:24:50 3 Α. Yes, sir. 14:24:54 Q. Convicted of Shoplifting in Carteret County, 4 14:24:57 April 1st, 2013? 5 14:24:59 6 Α. Yes, sir. Convicted of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia on 14:25:01 7 Q. May -- I'm sorry -- April 1st, 2013? 14:25:07 8 Yes, sir. 14:25:11 9 Α. Convicted on -- of Maintaining a Vehicle or Dwelling 14:25:14 10 Q. 14:25:17 11 for the Purpose of Storing, Using or Selling Controlled 14:25:20 12 Substances, on October 9th, 2012? 14:25:24 13 Α. Yes, sir. 14:25:27 14 Convicted of Felonious Possession of Stolen Goods in Q. 14:25:31 15 Carteret County on October 9th, 2012; correct? 14:25:34 16 Α. Yes, sir. 14:25:37 Felonious Breaking or Entering conviction, 4/16/2014, 17Q. 14:25:39 in Carteret County? 18 14:25:44 Α. Yes, sir. 19 And you got a 10-to-12-month sentence; is that 14:25:44 20 Q. 14:25:46 21correct? Yes, sir. 14:25:4722 Α. 14:25:47 So that's what you would have been in jail on in 23 Q. September of 2014, correct? 14:25:49 2414:25:5125Α. Yes, sir.

14:26:01 Another conviction for Maintaining a Dwelling or 1 Q. Vehicle for the Purpose of Using, Possessing or Selling 14:26:04 2 14:26:07 Controlled Substances, April 16, 2014? 3 14:26:11 Α. Yes, sir. And at some point, you went down to Costa Rica; is 14:26:12 Q. 5 that right? 14:26:16 6 Yes, sir. 14:26:17 7 Α. When did you go down to Costa Rica? 14:26:17 8 Q. I went to Costa Rica October 23rd -- was it 2016? 14:26:20 9 Α. 14:26:27 10 Q. And how long did you stay down there? 14:26:29 11 Α. I stayed down there until February 3rd. 14:26:32 12February 3rd, 2017? Q. 14:26:35 13 (Witness nods her head). Α. 14:26:35 14 And what would -- why did you go to Costa Rica? Q. 14:26:38 15 I went to Costa Rica to get clean. Α. Okay. 14:26:41 16 Q. 14:26:41 In a 90-day drug program. 17Α. 14:26:43 Okay. So you were a drug addict or drug user during 18 Q. 14:26:51 19 September of 2014, of course, right? 14:26:54 Yes, sir. I was in active addiction. 20 Α. 14:26:5721Q. And how often would you use? All day, every day. 14:27:0022 Α. 14:27:01 23 All day, every day. And you said it was Xanax and Q. meth? 14:27:03 2414:27:04 25Yes, sir. Α.

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- Q. And what effect would it have on your ability to recall things?
 - A. Quite a lot.
 - Q. And you said you slept most of the time?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. So if somebody had come by your house -- and just come by your house -- you wouldn't have heard it, but you said your dog would have heard it?
 - A. Yes, sir. My doors are always locked.
- Q. Okay. Again -- I understand that. But you're -- what you're saying is that since the dog didn't wake you up, you concluded that no one came by, correct?
- A. Yes. Nobody came by my house. I'm a hundred percent sure.
 - Q. Why is that, if you were asleep?
 - A. I would have woken up. That's for sure.
 - Q. Why would you have woken up?
- A. Because they would have knocked at the door, my dog would have (demonstrating). He would have started barking.
- Q. Okay. So essentially, you're relying on the dog to wake you up if someone's at your door; is that your testimony?
 - A. Well, dog or not, I would have woken up.
- Q. Okay. Did they say -- did the transcript say they pounded on your door?
 - A. No, sir.

14:28:02 Did they say they knocked on your door? 1 Q. They said they came in the house. 14:28:03 2 Α. They said they came in? 14:28:05 3 Q. My doors are definitely locked. 14:28:06 Α. This is Willis's Trailer Park we're taking about. 14:28:08 5 14:28:12 So it was a trailer? 6 Q. 14:28:13 Α. Yes. Dustin ever have a key to it? 14:28:14 Q. No, definitely not. 14:28:15 9 Α. 14:28:17 10 Q. Ever? 14:28:17 11 Α. No, sir. 14:28:18 Ever use a key? 12Q. 14:28:18 13 No, sir. Α. 14:28:18 Never used it? 14 Q. 14:28:19 No, sir. 15 Α. 14:28:20 16 Q. Ever use your car? 14:28:21 He used my car. 17 Α. Yes. 14:28:22 Was your -- was your house key on the -- on the key 18 Q. 14:28:24 19 ring? 14:28:24 20 Α. No. No, sir. 14:28:25 21Q. It was a separate key? I kept it in my pocket at all times. 14:28:26 22 Α. Yes. 14:28:28 Okay. Now, when you came back, why did -- why did you 23 Q. 14:28:30 come back from Costa Rica? 24

Well, I came back to -- to spend my birthday with my

14:28:32

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Α.

- 1 family, and my father passed away that day.
 - Q. What, on the 3rd?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. And so his funeral arrangements were done the subsequent week; is that correct?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. And so you just got back to Carteret County, and you were -- you actually got new charges and pled guilty to those charges while you came back for that short period of time, correct?
 - A. What were those charges?
 - Q. Well, they were Simple Possession of a Schedule-IV Controlled Substance, a date of offense -- well, actually, pending warrants. 2/15 of 2017 you took care of that with Mr. Lupton in court, correct?
 - A. Yes, sir. That happened before I went.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. I didn't take care of it until after.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. I remember.
 - Q. I got it. So while you were here, you took care of these court dates?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. And you have a conviction out of Craven County for Obtaining Property by False Pretenses that occurred on

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6/26/2014, correct?

- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And a District Court conviction for Assault with a Deadly Weapon, conviction date 6/27/2014, correct?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. So you're in jail; they brought you back to plead to those while you were in jail?
 - A. Yes, sir.

MR. SPENCE: That's all I have.

THE COURT: Any redirect?

MR. MEGARO: Your Honor, before Mr. Spence concludes his cross-examination, my client just handed me photocopies that he had in his folder of the handwritten statement of Ms. Flowers. It's not signed. And I also have one from Mr. Thomas. I didn't have these prior. And I think in all fairness, Mr. Spence should be allowed to look at them. Like I say, there doesn't appear to be anything materially different other than just long-windedness, but I'll hand these up.

THE COURT: He can take a look at them while you conduct any redirect that you want to conduct.

MR. MEGARO: Thank you.

THE COURT: And then I'll let you re-cross if you find it's necessary.

MR. SPENCE: Yes, sir.

MR. MEGARO: One moment, please.

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(Mr. Megaro confers with his client.)

MR. MEGARO: Judge, I have no redirect for
Ms. Flowers. But if Mr. Spence has additional questions based
on these of pieces of paper, I'm fine with it.

THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

(Mr. Spence examines documents.)

MR. SPENCE: Is it back to me?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

(State's Exhibit MAR Number [1] marked for identification.)

EXAMINATION BY MR. SPENCE

- Q. Ms. Flowers, I'm going to mark for identification this handwritten document -- I think it's four pages -- as State's Exhibit [1] -- State's MAR Exhibit [1]. I'm going to hand you this and ask you if you can identify that.
 - A. Yes. This is my handwriting. I wrote this.
 - Q. And when did you write that?
- A. Let's see. I don't know the exact date, but while I was incarcerated.
 - Q. Okay. Hand that back. But this is your handwriting?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And did you -- is this -- is this the handwritten thing you wrote?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Why did you put this caption on it, this legal

- 14:32:42 1 caption, on some handwritten note that you did?
 - A. I'm not sure. Just to make it look like a court document.
 - Q. Make it look official?
 - A. Yes, sir. I guess.
 - Q. And, again, let me just go down there. And you said -- you said, "I, Cassie Jean Flowers, being at least 18 years of age and of sound mind, after first being duly sworn, does depose and state the following:" Did you write that?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Why did you write those words if you were just going to write a letter about what happened?
 - A. To make it look like a court document.
 - Q. Did you -- well, did you know those words?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. "After being fully -- being duly sworn does depose and state the following." You knew how to put that down in a letter?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. You say, "I am currently incarcerated at the North Carolina Department of Corrections located at Maury, North Carolina"?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. You wrote that down? Did you write all these numbers down and these paginations and margins, stuff like that, all

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- 14:33:44 24
- 14:33:47 25

- 14:33:51 1 that by yourself?
 - A. Just little paragraphs and numbers. Yes, sir.
 - Q. So this is how it went to Dustin's mother, just like this?
 - A. To my mother, yes.
 - Q. To your mother?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. So this was the only thing -- there's not another writing anywhere that went to your mother about this?
 - A. No. No, sir.
 - Q. Okay. It says, "I am and was a willing witness in Dustin Warren's case, but I was not given the opportunity to testify at the trial despite a court order writ of habeas corpus that was issued by the judge to have me brought to trial from the Department of Corrections." You wrote that?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. How did you learn all this legal language?
 - A. It's a prison. There's plenty of legal help there.
 - Q. So did you -- did you use someone to guide you?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. What -- and who gave you that?
 - A. The other girls there, the women there that had been through the same thing.
 - Q. The same thing what?
 - A. The same -- this kind of -- a Motion of Appropriate

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- Relief and --
 - Q. Trying to help somebody else out?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. So they told you how to write an affidavit up?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Did they tell you what to say in it?
 - A. No, that's -- that was me.
- Q. Okay. You've had no communication with Dustin Warren since December of 2013, correct?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. But he communicated with you in December of 2014?
 - A. In 2015, when I was in Raleigh in prison.
 - Q. 2015 or '14?
 - A. It was '15. Whatever that says.
 - Q. This says '14.
- A. Does it? Well, that's when he commun -- he sent me a Christmas card with some transcripts.
- Q. Well, the trial was in September. Did he have the transcripts before then?
 - A. Well, he had them at that time.
- Q. So you were home alone, and if anyone had come to your house, your dog Rusty would have barked to warn you?
 - A. Yes, sir. I would have woken up. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. You write -- or you said in this that, "There's never been any ingredients to make homemade drugs in your home."

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Α.

Is that correct? Α. That's correct. Not for the use of making drugs. Yes, sir. But there have been drug ingredients in your home, Q. paraphernalia? Α. Paraphernalia. Okay. Are you familiar how meth is made? Q. Α. No, sir. Not at that time. Q. It says, "Sleet, snow and ice, because subzero temperatures made travel extremely dangerous in the hours of January 29th, 2014." Is that correct? Yes, sir. Α. Q. Said, "And the bridge was closed," right? Yes, sir. Α. Q. You knew where Mark Thomas lived at that time? No, sir. Α. So it would not have been possible for him to drive Q. his car from Morehead to Atlantic Beach on those days, would it? Α. Not unless he was already at the Beach. You couldn't get over the bridge, right? Q. Α. Yes, sir. So if he says he drove from Morehead to Atlantic Beach Q. on those two days to visit Anique Pittman, that would not be true, would it?

If he was already from Morehead to the Beach?

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If he -- if he drove over there on those days
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           1
                    Q.
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                when the bridge was closed.
                           Maybe -- maybe if he had a two -- a four-wheel-drive
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                    Α.
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                vehicle.
                          But I know I wasn't going to take my two-wheel-drive
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                over it.
           5
                                  But you said -- you said the bridge was closed.
14:37:26
           6
                    Q.
                           Okay.
                                 There's people who would still drive over it,
14:37:32
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                    Α.
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           8
                but it was closed.
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                           MR. SPENCE:
                                        Offer State's MAR [1] into evidence, just
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          10
                to --
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                           THE COURT:
                                       Any objection?
14:37:44
                                        No, Your Honor.
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                           MR. MEGARO:
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                           MR. SPENCE:
                                         -- corroborate whatever it was.
                           THE COURT:
                                       It is received. Madame Clerk will make a
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                copy so that the defendant may get another copy.
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                                (State's Exhibit MAR Number [1] received in
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                                evidence.)
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                          MR. MEGARO:
                                         Thank you.
                           MR. SPENCE:
                                         That's all.
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                                       Any redirect?
                           THE COURT:
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                           MR. MEGARO:
                                        No, Your Honor.
                                                           Thank you.
                                       Thank you, ma'am. You may stand down.
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                           THE COURT:
                                (The witness stepped down from the witness
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                                stand.)
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                           THE COURT:
                                       Call your next witness.
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Defense would call Mark Thomas. 14:38:04 1 MR. MEGARO: 14:39:14 2 THE COURT: Clerk, swear the witness. 14:39:15 3 14:39:17 (The witness was duly sworn.) 14:39:27 5 14:39:27 6 THE COURT: You may inquire. 14:39:27 MR. MEGARO: Thank you, Your Honor. 14:39:27 14:39:27 9 MARK THOMAS, 14:39:27 10 14:39:27 11 14:39:27 12 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MEGARO 14:39:42 13 Q. 14:39:44 Yes, sir. 14 Α. 14:39:45 15 Q. 14:39:48 16 Α. I'm in Marion. Marion Correctional. 14:39:52 17Q. date of your current sentence? 14:39:56 18 14:39:59 Α. January 31st, '21. 19 14:40:02 20Q. 14:40:09 21Α. 14:40:13 22 23 14:40:16 We had a brief relationship. I have only known him maybe a 14:40:20 2414:40:25 25year, year and a half.

All right. If you would, please, Madame (The witness took the witness stand.) having been first duly sworn, at 2:39 p.m. was called as a witness on behalf of the Defendant and testified as follows: Mr. Thomas, are you currently incarcerated? In which prison are you currently housed in? Now, I want to -- by the way, what is your release Thank you. Mr. Thomas, how do you know Dustin Warren? He's a good friend of mine. I really don't know Dustin all as much as I do his brother. I was -- his brother was, like, my best friend. That's how I came to meet Dustin.

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- Q. Okay, sir. I want to draw your attention now to January 29th, 2014. Were you in the company of Mr. Warren on that date?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. And when did you leave his company on January 29th, 2014?
 - A. I'm assuming it would be when we got arrested.
 - Q. You were both arrested together?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And was it at that point that you two were separated?

 THE COURT: Hold on one second. There's somebody back there talking.

THE SHERIFF: I think it's -- they're working on the --

THE COURT: Oh, it is?

THE SHERIFF: Yeah. I think they're up --

THE BAILIFF: I think they're in the attic.

THE COURT: All right. I beg your pardon. You may continue, sir.

BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. Since January 29th -- I'm sorry. Were you arrested on January 29th, 2014, or January 30th, 2014?
 - A. I'm not -- no --
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. -- 100 percent sure neither. The same day -- whatever

date Dustin was arrested. We was both arrested at the same 14:41:21 1 Different charges, but the same time. 14:41:25 2 All right. What were you arrested for on that date? 14:41:26 3 Q. 14:41:28 Α. Um, Larceny of a Motor Vehicle, or Possession of a 4 Stolen Motor Vehicle. 14:41:34 5 Possession of a? 14:41:35 6 Q. Stolen Motor Vehicle. 14:41:36 7 Α. 14:41:37 8 Q. Okay. Just, if you could, keep your voice up. 14:41:40 9 Α. Yes, sir. 14:41:40 10 Q. I'm having a little trouble hearing you. And did 14:41:44 11 whatever you were arrested for, did that have anything to do 14:41:47 12 with what --14:41:47 13 Α. Nothing at all. 14:41:48 Q. -- Mr. Warren was arrested for? 14 14:41:49 Nothing at all. 15 Α. 14:41:50 16 Q. Were you ever charged with anything that Mr. Warren 14:41:53 17 had been --14:41:53 18 Α. No, sir. 14:41:53 -- arrested and charged with? 19 Q. 14:41:56 20 Nothing. Α. 14:41:58 21Q. When was the last time -- when was the next time that you saw Dustin Warren? 14:42:0022 14:42:01 23Α. Today.

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Q.

today?

So you haven't seen him since January 2014 until

14:42:06 1 Α. No. Mr. Thomas, when you were arrested on January 29th or 14:42:09 2 Q. 14:42:13 30th, 2014, were you incarcerated for the remainder of that 3 vear? 14:42:17 I --14:42:18 5 Α. No. 14:42:21 -- were you released --6 Q. I'm sorry. I didn't hear you. 14:42:21 7 COURT REPORTER: 14:42:21 8 THE WITNESS: No, I -- I was not. BY MR. MEGARO 14:42:21 9 14:42:21 10 Q. Okay. 14:42:2311 Α. I got out. I got out that dame day. 14:42:26 12 Q. All right. 14:42:26 13 Α. And I was re-arrested in March. I have been locked up 14:42:29 14 since March. 14:42:30 15 Q. March of 2014? 2014. 14:42:31 16 Α. 14:42:32 17 Q. And is that for the sentence that you're currently 14:42:34 serving? 18 14:42:35 19 Α. Yes, sir. So if you were arrested in March of 2014, were you 14:42:36 20 Q. 14:42:39 21incarcerated in September of 2014? Yeah. 14:42:43 22 Α. 14:42:43 23 Were you incarcerated? Do you know? Q. September, I think I was in Pender. 14:42:47 24Α.

Pender?

Q.

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- A. No, no. I was sent -- I was -- I was still in Guilford County Jail.
 - Q. At the Guilford County Jail?
 - A. Yes, sir. In September of 2014.
 - Q. Did you have charges pending?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. All right. Did you ever have the opportunity to speak with a Ms. Ann Scadden regarding Dustin Warren?
 - A. Yes, I did.
- Q. And was it your understanding that Ms. Scadden was an investigator from Mr. Warren's defense attorney?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. When you spoke with Ms. Scadden, did you give her information regarding the case?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And did she ask you questions about what you knew?
- A. I vaguely remember that. I don't -- she didn't ask very much. She said that somebody would be getting back in touch with me.
 - Q. Okay. Did anyone ever get back in touch with you?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Did anyone visit you at the Guilford County Jail --
 - A. No.
- Q. -- prior to September 2014, other than Ms. Scadden, to speak to you regarding your --

14:43:43 1 Α. No. -- information? Where did you meet with Ms. Scadden? 14:43:43 Q. Here at the Public Defender's Office. 14:43:47 3 Α. 14:43:49 Q. Okay. Or somewhere right here in the back of the courthouse. 14:43:50 5 Α. Okay. So at this building, you believe? 14:43:52 6 Q. Yeah. 14:43:54 7 Α. And when was that; do you remember? 14:43:55 8 Q. Within two or three days of Dustin being arrested. 14:43:58 9 Α. 14:44:00 10 Q. Okay. Did you ever speak -- other than Ms. Scadden, 14:44:07 11 did you ever speak with any attorneys regarding Dustin Warren's 14:44:11 12 case? 14:44:11 13 Α. No. 14:44:12 Did anyone ever contact you by letter, by telephone, 14 Q. 14:44:16 or send a message through somebody else --15 14:44:18 16 Α. No. 14:44:19 -- that they needed to speak to you about this? 17Q. 14:44:21 18 Α. No. 14:44:22 Who was the first attorney that you spoke to regarding 19 Q. Dustin Warren's case? 14:44:24 2014:44:25 21Α. You. And do you recall when that was? 14:44:26 22 Q. Today. 14:44:2723 Α. Prior to today? 14:44:28 24Q.

I mean, you sent me notifications that we had

14:44:29

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Yeah.

Α.

- 14:44:34 1 the trial or we might be coming for this hearing or whatever.
- 14:44:37 2 Q. Okay.
 - A. But as far as speaking to you personally? Today
 - Q. Did there come a point in time when Dustin Warren sent you any information as to -- to review anything regarding this case?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And when was that, if you recall?
 - A. It would probably be in 2015.
 - Q. All right.
 - A. Maybe when I was -- I was at Burgaw. I was at Pender Correctional then.
 - Q. All right.
 - A. I think this is after he had already acquired you.
 - Q. After -- I'm sorry?
 - A. After he had already spoke with you. He had you in his -- in his case or whatever.
 - Q. Okay. Did -- and what did Mr. Warren ask you to do?
 - A. He just asked me, would I be willing to testify to what happened that night, you know what I mean. The events and everything that happened.
 - Q. And can you tell the Court what happened that night that you were in Mr. Warren's company?
 - A. Yeah.
 - Q. Go ahead.

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Um, well, it started out, I called Dustin. Because me Α. and my wife was arguing, I needed a place to stay. So I called him up, and I don't know what he was doing. He was busy. He was doing something. But he has his girlfriend come and pick me She picked me up in Newport around -- I think it was Paradise East. I was at another friend's house. She picked me up, and we went to her apartment or condo -- it's called A Place At The Beach on Atlantic Beach -- and waited for Dustin to show up.

Before we got there we stopped at the Harris Teeter right there in Morehead City, and we bought some food and we bought hot dogs, chips, drinks, stuff like that. And we went back to her condo, waited for Dustin. He got there -- I don't know, maybe an hour later, something like that. We cooked, hung out for a little bit, that was it. I mean, he went to bed. Ι hung out in the living room.

- Were you ever in the company of the young lady named Q. Cassie Jean Flowers on that evening?
 - Α. No.
 - Do you know who that person is? Q.
- Α. I don't personally know her at all. I mean, I have seen her around, but I don't know her.
 - Q. Okay. You're acquainted with her, or --
 - Not really. Α.
 - Q. -- exchange words with her? Hello? Anything?

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- I mean, we're Facebook friends, but I mean, Α. No. that's pretty-much it.
 - Have you ever socialized with her? Q.
 - Α. No.
 - Hung out? Have you ever been to her home? Q.
- I -- I have, but not for her. I do construction work, Α. and I actually replaced some shingles on her house for her dad, you know what I mean.
 - Q. Okav. But that was in a professional capacity?
 - Α. Yeah. Yeah.
 - Q. So, not like you were hanging out with her?
 - Yeah. See, I don't even think she was there. Α.
 - 0kay. Q.
 - I don't even think she was there. Α.
- On the night of January 29, 2014, did you at any point Q. in time go with Dustin Warren to Cassie Flowers's --
 - Α. No.
- -- home? At any point in time on December -- I'm Q. Are you familiar with the woman named Heather Kennon? sorry.
 - Α. Yes.
 - Q. Did you see her on January 29th, 2014?
 - Α. Yes.
- Can you tell the Court how you -- under what Q. circumstances you saw her?
 - She came in. Α. Dustin and Anique was already in the

14:47:46 bedroom, and Dustin had told me she was outside. I guess she 1 was waiting for somebody to come pick her up. 2

- Q. By the way, where was this?
- A Place At The Beach, Anique's condo. Α.
- Anique's condo? Q.
- Yes, sir. Α.
- Q. Okay. Go ahead. I'm sorry.
- Α. And I was in -- I was in the living room, Dustin and Anique was in the bedroom, and Heather came in. We talked a little bit, you know what I'm saying. She was -- she was wanting me to do something for her, like, she was having problems.

She was -- we -- we was -- me and Heather was doing drugs, and she was having a problem with hers or whatever. And so she asked me to do her a favor and I wouldn't, so she left.

And I just continued. I was on the -- on the phone, arguing back and forth with my wife. I guess -- I don't know. A little bit of time went by, an hour maybe. She came back in. She kept going in and out, in and out.

- And when you say she kept going in and out, are you Q. referring to leaving --
 - Yeah --Α.
 - -- the condo? Q.
 - -- leaving -- leaving the condo. Α.
 - Q. Okay.

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A. She kept, like, because the night -- the door, if you didn't turn the handle to the door, it would open itself. You know what I'm saying. Like, the little catch, the lock, would not lock. You had to actually twist it to get it to lock. And she kept running in and out, and she wouldn't twist the door, so that the door would swing open.

I mean, it was January 29th. So it was -- it was snowing. It had been showing for, like, two or three days. It was cold. And I kept hearing the door banging, banging, banging. So I'd go back over there and I'd shut the door, and then I'd come back in, she would run back in, you know what I'm saying, and she would leave out again, she'd leave the door open again. So finally, I locked the door.

Q. What time was that?

A. 1, 2'o'clock.

Q. A.M.?

A. Yeah. Yeah. Maybe -- probably about 2`o'clock.

Because I think she had -- yeah. She had -- she had asked me to take her somewhere. I don't have no license, you know, so I woke Dustin up. I was trying to get rid of her, you know what I'm saying. She was getting on my nerves. You know what I mean. She was pretty-much on her own. She was doing her own thing. Nobody was really associating with her. You know what I mean. Dustin and Anique was in the bedroom. I was in the living room arguing back and forth on the phone with my wife.

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So, I mean, I was just trying to get rid of her.

Dustin told me to take her wherever she wanted to go, but I didn't want to drive, you know what I mean. So I just told her I couldn't do it.

Q. Okay. And after you locked the door between 1 or -- 1 or 2:00`a.m., did you hear from Heather Kennon again?

A. No.

Q. Okay.

A. I went to sleep a little bit after that.

Q. All right. What was the next thing you knew when you woke up?

A. I got up that morning; Dustin was still asleep. I woke up, and I was in there by myself, smoked my last cigarette. And finally Dustin got up. When he got up I asked him to take me to the store to get some cigarettes, and I told him I'd buy his breakfast. I offered to buy breakfast for us.

Q. Okay.

A. And we left. We went to the -- we went to the store, but that's when we seen the incident at the Seashore Motel. And so we went across the street to see what was going on. That's when I -- I didn't even know that's where she was at.

I remember he said, you know, there was a motel key laying in his car seat, and we -- first of all, when we left to -- the apartment that morning to go to McDonald's, when we walked out there, the passenger's side window where I was

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getting in was probably about halfway down, and, I mean, the car looked like somebody had been having a little party in there, you know what I mean. And there was a motel key, whatever, and so Dustin said we needed to go pick up Heather. After we -after we eat breakfast we need to go pick up Heather. it's only, like, 9'o'clock, you know what I mean. Hotel, I think, check-out time is, like, 11 or something like that.

So we get in the car. After he cleans up a little bit we get in the car and we're going down the road, we pull into the Kangaroo -- I think it's Kangaroo -- it might be a Scotch Man. I don't know. But we pulled in there to get cigarettes and we seen all the commotion across the street at the -- at the motel.

And that's when I found out that the motel Heather was at was that -- at the Seashore. And so we pulled over there to check on her. You know, he was checking -- he was worried about her he seemed like, and that's when everything just -- we got swarmed.

- Q. Okay. At any pint in time on January 29th, 2014, did you, Dustin Warren, and Anique Pittman ever participate in manufacturing methamphetamine?
 - Α. No. No.
 - Combining chemicals together? Q.
 - Α. No.
 - Mixing chemicals? Anything like that? Q.

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- A. No.
- Q. Was Heather Kennon at the condo when you woke up the next morning?
 - A. No.
- Q. Did you see her or hear from her at any point in time from the time that you locked the front door at 2:00`a.m. --
 - A. No.
- Q. -- until the following morning when you were picked up by the police?
 - A. No.
- Q. All right. Now, going back to the night before, did

 Dustin ever call you to tell you he was on his way over to

 Anique Pittman's condo?
- A. I can't say for sure. I called him and asked him to come -- if I could come stay with him. And like I said, I don't know what he was doing, but Anique was right down the road from where I was at. So she was close -- closer to picking me up than he would have been. So he's like, "I'm going to send Anique to pick you up," he's like, "and I'll be there shortly."
- I think -- I'm -- I'm pretty sure we -- we did have some kind of contact afterwards, maybe at the grocery store when we was getting something to eat. I might have called and asked him what he wanted, you know, or something like that. I don't know.
 - Q. Well, let me ask you, would reviewing your affidavit

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refresh your memory as to the content of your conversation with Dustin Warren before you saw him on the night of January 29th, 2014?

A. Yeah. I mean, that should -- that would be fine.

MR. MEGARO: Your Honor, may I approach the witness?

THE COURT: You may.

BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. And if you can, please take a look at this document.

 I'm going to direct your attention to paragraph number four.

 Just take a look at it and look up when you're done.
 - A. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. That's right. He did -- we did -- I don't know if he called me or if I called him. That was probably when we was at the -- at the grocery store.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. You know, and he did say he had to drop her off.

 That's right.
 - Q. When you say "he" you're talking --
- A. Yeah. Dustin said he had to drop Heather off at the motel first, and then he would meet us there, at Anique's condo.
- Q. Okay. Did he -- during that conversation, did he ever tell you that he was going -- tell you anything about going into the room with Heather or doing --
 - A. No.

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- Q. -- anything inside the room with her?
- A. No. He just said he had to drop her off and he'd be right there.
- Q. Okay. And how long after you spoke to Dustin did you see him over at Anique Pittman's condo?
- A. It couldn't have been long. I mean, it was -- all this happened, it was still -- I want to say it was still daylight.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. From the time she picked me up and we went to the -she picked me up in Newport, we came through Morehead, stopped
 at the grocery store and went straight to her apartment. Dustin
 was right behind us, maybe 30, 45 minutes at the most.
 - Q. Do you recall about what time it was?
- A. Like I said, it was still daylight. So this time of year, it would have to be before 5`o'clock.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall whether the bridge to Atlantic Beach was open or closed?
- A. It was -- it was definitely opened. I mean, we didn't go all the way to Emerald Isle to come back around. We went from Morehead City straight across the bridge.
- Q. Did you see any other cars on the bridge when you passed over the bridge?
- A. That, I can't tell you. I mean, it's been a long time. But I can tell you that we went across the bridge.

Thank you. No further questions 14:55:151 MR. MEGARO: Okay. 14:55:212 for Mr. Thomas, Your Honor. Cross-examination, Mr. Spence? 14:55:23 3 THE COURT: 14:55:25 MR. SPENCE: Yes, sir. 4 14:55:25 5 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SPENCE What were you -- what's -- what were you serving a 14:55:256 Q. sentence for? What are you serving a sentence for right now? 14:55:27 7 14:55:30 8 Α. I'm serving a sentence for Robbery with a Dangerous 14:55:33 9 Weapon. Out of Guilford County? 14:55:34 10 Q. 14:55:35 11 Α. Yes, sir. How many different robberies? 14:55:35 12Q. 14:55:37 13 No, sir. Α. 14:55:38 One? 14 Q. 14:55:39 15 One robbery. One Robbery With a Dangerous Weapon, and Α. 14:55:44 16 one Attempted Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon. 14:55:47 17 Q. Okay. So two different places? Yes, sir. 14:55:50 18 Α. 14:55:51 19 With a gun? Q. 14:55:52 20 No. Α. 14:55:54 21Q. With a knife? 14:55:55 22 Α. Yeah. So Anique Pittman came and picked you up in Newport? 14:55:59 23 Q. 14:56:01 24Yes, sir. Α.

And what kind of car did she have?

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Q.

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- A. I could not tell you. It's a little hatchback. I do know that.
- Q. Okay. And you -- the roads were clear enough, or she could drive you from Newport all the way to Atlantic Beach?
 - A. Yeah.
 - Q. The roads weren't closed?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Weren't icy?
 - A. No.
 - Q. There was other traffic on the road?
- A. Oh, yeah, yeah. There was plenty of traffic on the road.
 - Q. Plenty of traffic?
 - A. Yeah.
- Q. And no reason somebody couldn't drive around Morehead City at the time, could they?
 - A. No.
- Q. Okay. And what did you do -- the day of the 28th, where did you spend that day?
 - A. I'm -- I'm not sure about the dates.
 - Q. Well, the day before you got arrested.
- A. Okay. The day before I got arrested I was in Newport at a friend's house, and me and my wife were -- had been arguing, so I didn't want to stay there with her and the -- and the friend. That's the night that we went to -- I went to

14:56:59 Anique's. 1 Were you arguing the whole day? 14:57:00 2 Q. Unfortunately. 14:57:02 3 Α. Yeah. About what? 14:57:02 Q. 14:57:04 Α. Ask her. 5 What was she mad about? 14:57:056 Q. 14:57:08 7 Α. Everything. Were you doing drugs? 14:57:08 8 Q. No, no. We -- that's a different -- totally different 14:57:09 9 Α. 14:57:13 10 story. 14:57:13 11 Q. Okay. 14:57:13 12 That's -- me and my wife, you know what I mean, we --Α. 14:57:15 13 that's just the way we are. 14:57:17 14 Q. Were you addicted to drugs at the time? 14:57:19 15 No, I wouldn't say addicted to drugs. Α. 14:57:20 16 Q. Using drugs? 14:57:2117 Yeah. Now, hold on. Slow down a little bit. Α. the time that me and my wife were arguing? What are you saying? 14:57:2618 14:57:29 19 Q. No. What are you asking? 14:57:29 20Α. 14:57:30 21Q. This period of time. And what are you asking? 14:57:31 22 Α. 14:57:32 23 Were you a drug user during this period of time? Q. I had used drugs, yes. 14:57:34 24Α. During this period of time, were you using drugs? 14:57:36 25Q.

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- A. At that moment?
- Q. No.
- A. During that time period?
- Q. During the time that week. How about the week of January 28, 29?
 - A. I'm sure that I might have used some drugs that week.
 - Q. And what was your drug of choice?
 - A. Marijuana is my drug of choice.
 - Q. Okay. What were you using, though? Methamphetamine?
 - A. I may have, yes.
 - Q. And did you get that from Brandon Hobbs?
- A. I couldn't have got it from Brandon Hobbs, because I'm pretty sure he was in jail.
 - Q. He was in jail?
 - A. Yeah.
- Q. But if he wasn't in jail, you'd probably gotten it from Brandon, wouldn't you?
 - A. Maybe not.
 - Q. But he cooks some good meth, doesn't he?
 - A. Nah.
 - Q. He doesn't?
- A. As a matter of fact, Brandon Hobbs was arrested and put in jail before I ever moved back to Carteret County. I didn't move back to Carteret County from High Point until December the 10th.

If he doesn't

The names of your friends who would sell meth

14:58:20 You know Brandon Hobbs --1 Q. Okay. I do know Brandon Hobbs. 14:58:21 2 Α. -- you know him to cook meth? 14:58:21 3 Q. I don't know about his action, but I know Brandon 14:58:24 Α. 14:58:25 Hobbs. 5 Where would you get your meth from? 14:58:276 Q. I mean, from meth dealers. 14:58:28 7 Α. Who? 14:58:31 Q. Is that something -- I don't know. Specific names? 14:58:32 9 Α. 14:58:35 10 Q. Yeah. Names. 14:58:37 11 Α. I don't know if I -- I -- if I can tell you names 14:58:39 12 right now. Why not? 14:58:40 13 Q. 14:58:40 14 I mean, that's --Α. 14:58:41 Q. Under oath. Be honest. 15 Your Honor, I object. I think --14:58:42 16 MR. MEGARO: 14:58:44 17 THE COURT: Overruled. If he knows. know, he can say he doesn't know, but if you know, answer the 14:58:46 18 14:58:48 19 question. BY MR. SPENCE 14:58:48 20 14:58:48 21Q. Give me some names. I really don't know. I really don't know. 14:58:51 22 Α. Let's see. Are they anonymous people or friends you'd call up? 14:58:59 23 Q. They'd be friends. 14:59:02 24Α.

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Q.

Okay.

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- to you?
 - A. Okay. I would buy it from Troy Brown sometimes.
 - Q. Okay. Who else?
 - A. Troy Brown. Walt Richardson. You know.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. Those are the -- those are the two main people that I messed with. Those -- those were friends.
 - Q. Okay. Would they make it or just sell it?
 - A. They sold it.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. I don't think either one of them ever made it.
- Q. Okay. And Dustin Warren is Brandon Hobbs' brother, correct?
 - A. Half-brother, yeah.
 - Q. Okay. Used to live together?
 - A. Excuse me?
 - Q. Did they used to live together?
- A. Nah. I mean, growing up, I would assume they -- they lived together. At that time that -- that I knew Dustin he had his own home.
- Q. Okay. When did you first get involved with this particular proceeding here, as far as writing documents, filing affidavits, anything like that?
- A. I immediately tried to get involved in it when I heard that Heather was trying to say that everything was Dustin --

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- Dustin was doing this, Dustin was doing that. I tried to talk to his attorney within days of him getting locked up.
- And what information were you trying to give Q. Okay. him? Because you weren't even there at the motel, were you?
- Α. No, I was at Anique Pittman's house with him where he was at.
- So the only thing you can testify about is the Q. Okay. things that happened at Anique Pittman's house, correct?
 - Α. Yes, sir.
 - Q. And then getting arrested a few moments later?
 - Α. Yup. Not a few moments. The next day.
- But as far as when the lab was constructed or Q. Okay. when it was checked in or what happened at the Seashore or who saw what at the Seashore, you don't have any knowledge of that, do you?
 - Α. I was never at the Seashore.
- And you don't know what happened during that period of Q. time before, in the evening of 1/29, correct?
 - On 1/29 Dustin was with me at Anique's house. Α.
- I got that. But before that, the day before that, you Q. have no idea what was going on at the Seashore, were you?
 - Α. No. If the day before --
- Okay. Let me -- what time did you get to Anique's Q. house, and what time was Dustin at Anique's house with you?
 - I'm not sure what day. The day before we got Α.

- 15:01:06 arrested. I'm not sure what day it was, whether it was the 29th 1 15:01:08 2
 - Α.
 - Q. The day before you were arrested, you were at Anique's house that evening?
 - Α. All afternoon. All night.
 - Q. Okay. When did Dustin show up?
 - Α. Maybe 30 minutes after I got there.
 - Q. What time?

 - Q.
 - It was daylight. It was daylight. Α.
 - Okay. But it was in the afternoon? Q.
 - Yes, sir. Α.
 - Q. So the entire day of that -- before that, the entire time before that of the 29th, you had no idea what was going on at that motel, did you?
 - the 29th or the 28th. No, I don't know what happened at that motel. I was not at that motel.
 - So you could not have known what evidence was Q. Right. there, what the cops found, or who did what?
 - No. Α. No.
 - Had you -- have you ever read the transcript of this Q.

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- 15:01:31 15
- 15:01:31 16
- 15:01:35 17
- 15:01:38 18
- 15:01:41 19
- 15:01:43 20
- 15:01:46 21
- 15:01:48 22
- 15:01:51 23
- 15:01:54 24
- 15:01:54

- or the 30th. If you can refresh my memory --15:01:11 3 Q. Okay.
 - -- what day that we got arrested.
 - - Α. I would say 5'o'clock. 4, 4:30, 5'o'clock.
 - So --

 - I don't know what day it was that -- whether it was Α.
- 25

15:01:56	1	case?	
15:01:56	2	Α.	No.
15:01:57	3	Q.	It was never sent to you?
15:01:59	4	Α.	Yeah. A piece of it was sent to me.
15:02:01	5	Q.	Who sent it to you?
15:02:02	6	Α.	I think Mr. Megaro.
15:02:06	7	Q.	Okay. And how did you end up drafting these
15:02:08	8	affidavits?	
15:02:09	9	Α.	That's my written statement. I drew those up.
15:02:12	10	Q.	This typed-up one is not your written statement?
15:02:14	11	Α.	No, I wrote those. A handwritten there should be a
15:02:17	12	handwritt	en somewhere that was notarized by me.
15:02:20	13	Q.	Okay. We'll talk about that in a second. But the
15:02:22	14	typed one	, how did that get done?
15:02:27	15	Α.	I Mr. Megaro had it typed up.
15:02:29	16	Q.	Okay. And he sent it back to you to sign?
15:02:32	17	Α.	No, it was already yes. Yes. He sent it back to
15:02:35	18	me to have it notarized.	
15:02:36	19	Q.	Okay. And the handwritten one, is that something you
15:02:39	20	did yours	elf?
15:02:40	21	Α.	Yes.
15:02:40	22		MR. SPENCE: May I approach?
15:02:40	23		THE WITNESS: Yup.
15:02:43	24		THE COURT: Yes, sir.
15:02:44	25		

```
(State's Exhibit MAR Number [2] marked for
15:02:44
           1
15:02:44
                                identification.)
           2
                BY MR. SPENCE
15:02:44
           3
15:02:44
                    Q.
                           What I have got marked as State's MAR [2], would you
                look at this and see if that is the document you're referring
15:02:47
           5
15:02:51
                to?
15:02:51
                    Α.
                           Yes, that's my handwriting.
15:02:52
                    Q.
                           Okay. And did you do all this stuff?
15:02:54
           9
                    Α.
                           Yeah.
15:02:55
          10
                    Q.
                           Now, this has got a legal caption on it, correct?
15:02:58
          11
                    Α.
                           I got that information.
15:02:59
                           From where?
          12
                    Q.
15:03:00
          13
                           From Dustin.
                    Α.
                           So he gave it to you?
15:03:01
          14
                    Q.
15:03:02
                           From his attorney.
          15
                    Α.
15:03:03
          16
                    Q.
                           Okay. Wait a second.
                                                   The information for this, who
15:03:05
                did you get it from?
          17
                           Which -- the information at the top, his name and the
15:03:06
          18
                    Α.
15:03:09
                case number?
          19
                           This legal caption. Yes, sir.
15:03:10
          20
                    Q.
15:03:11
          21
                           Yeah.
                                  I got all that from his attorney.
                    Α.
                the -- that was what I was told, the legal way to do it.
15:03:14
          22
                           What -- what -- what instruction did his attorney give
15:03:17
          23
                    Q.
15:03:19
          24
                to you about drafting this?
```

He just asked me to write my statements of what

15:03:20

25

Α.

- 15:03:22 happened that day, as I could remember them. 1
 - And did he tell you to put a caption on it like this? Q.
 - He didn't tell me to put it like that. I took No. Α. that upon myself.
 - Q. Okay. And all these statements in here, it says, "I, Mark Thomas, being at least 18 years of age and of sound mind, after first being sworn, does depose and state the following." Did you write that?
 - Α. Yes.
 - Q. Did you make that up out of your own head?
 - Α. No. That was jailhouse attorneys. I mean, we -- you know, I'm in prison. I got all kinds of people helping me out.
 - Q. So is there a standard form down there for doing these things at the jails?
 - Α. No, I wouldn't assume.
 - Q. Have you seen -- have you seen the one Cassie did?
 - Α. No.
 - So you've got all this legal language here, and that's Q. just -- that's -- who advised you?
 - Um, the -- just talking with people that filed motions Α. for their selves[sic] in prison.
 - Q. 0kay.
 - I mean, that's a pretty standard thing for an Α. affidavit.
 - Q. Have you ever done one of these before?

15:03:242

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15:03:30 5

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15:03:39 10

15:03:41 11

15:03:44 12

15:03:48 13

15:03:51 14

15:03:52 15

15:03:52 16

15:03:55 17

15:03:59 18

15:04:01 19

15:04:04 20

15:04:07 21

15:04:09 22

15:04:09 23

15:04:12 24

15:04:12 25

15:04:14	1	Α.	No.
15:04:14	2	Q.	Okay.
15:04:16	3	Α.	Not that I can recall.
15:04:16	4	Q.	But do you recognize this as your as something that
15:04:19	5	you signe	d and submitted?
$15\!:\!04\!:\!21$	6	Α.	Yes, sir.
15:04:21	7	Q.	It's your handwriting?
$15\!:\!04\!:\!22$	8	Α.	It definitely is.
15:04:23	9	Q.	All that print?
$15\!:\!04\!:\!24$	10	Α.	Yes, sir.
15:04:24	11		MR. SPENCE: Okay. Move to admit State's MAR [2] to
15:04:29	12	corrobora	te his testimony.
15:04:32	13		THE COURT: Thank you, sir. It is admitted, without
15:04:32	14	objection	
15:04:32	15		(State's Exhibit MAR Number [2] received in
15:04:32	16		evidence.)
15:04:32	17		COURT REPORTER: Counselor, I didn't hear what you
15:04:32	18	said.	
15:04:36	19		MR. MEGARO: I said "without objection." Sorry.
15:04:39	20	BY MR. SP	ENCE
15:04:39	21	Q.	So you have not read the transcript, have you?
15:04:44	22	Α.	No, sir.
15:04:44	23	Q.	You don't know what Anique Pittman testified to, do
15:04:47	24	you?	
15:04:47	25	Α.	No.

15:04:47 You don't know if she didn't testify to the same 1 Q. things you would have testified to, do you? 15:04:49 2 I don't know. I don't know what she testified 15:04:51 3 Α. No. 15:04:53 to. So without knowing that, you have no idea what you 15:04:54 Q. 5 could possibly have added to this case, do you? 15:04:56 6 15:04:59 7 Α. No. 15:04:59 8 Q. Okay. Your criminal history is pretty lengthy, 15:05:03 9 correct? 15:05:04 10 Α. You could say that. 15:05:06 11 Q. Well, let's go over it, then. We'll let the Judge 15:05:08 decide. Were you -- you are Mark Alan Thomas, and your date of 1215:05:13 13 birth, 6/3/1980? 15:05:15 14 Α. Yes, sir. 15:05:16 Let me ask if you were convicted of the following 15 Q. 15:05:18 16 crimes: Communicating Threats, September in 2011 in Carteret 15:05:21 17 County? Yeah. 15:05:2418 Α. 15:05:25 Yes or no? 19 Q. 15:05:25 20 Yes. Α. 15:05:27 21 Q. Second Degree Trespass, 9/22/11, Carteret County; yes 15:05:30 22 or no? 15:05:31 I don't recall that Trespassing, but --23 Α. 15:05:32 Could be? 24Q.

-- it could be.

15:05:33

25

Α.

15:05:35 Hard to remember sometimes, right? 1 Q. 15:05:37 Α. Sure. 2 Misdemeanor Larceny, March of 1987? 15:05:38 3 Q. 15:05:41 Yes. Α. Two counts of that? 15:05:45 5 Q. Sounds correct. 15:05:48 6 Α. Felonious Breaking or Entering in Carteret County, 15:05:50 Q. 15:05:52 8 1999. Were you put on probation for 60 months? 15:05:57 9 Α. Yes. 10 15:06:03 Q. Several counts of that, right? 15:06:07 11 Α. No. Not just one break-in; there were several? 15:06:08 12Q. 15:06:09 13 No. It was just one. Α. 15:06:10 Just one? 14 Q. 15:06:11 Yeah. Just one. 15 Α. 15:06:13 16 Q. Fictitious Information to an Officer, 2003, in 15:06:15 Carteret County? 17I don't recall that. 15:06:16 18 Α. 15:06:18 July 1st, 2003, Carteret County, Fictitious 19 Q. Information to an Officer. You got credit for time served after 15:06:21 20 15:06:24 21 you pled guilty? I must have. 15:06:26 22 Α. PWISD Counterfeit Controlled Substance, 2004? 15:06:2723 Q. Okay. 15:06:33 24Yeah. Α. What was that controlled substance? 15:06:34 25Q.

15:06:36	1	Α.	Obviously, it was counterfeit.
15:06:37	2	Q .	I know that.
15:06:39	3	Α.	It was
15:06:39	4	Q .	What's it supposed to be?
15:06:41	5	Α.	Counterfeit cocaine.
15:06:42	6	Q .	You told somebody it was cocaine?
15:06:44	7	Α.	Yes, sir.
15:06:44	8	Q.	Okay. That was a lie, right? That wasn't true, was
15:06:48	9	it?	
15:06:48	10	Α.	No. It wasn't cocaine.
15:06:49	11	Q.	Did they give money?
15:06:50	12	Α.	Yes. Yeah.
15:07:01	13	Q.	Possession of Felonious Possession of Stolen Motor
15:07:02	14	Vehicle,	Forsyth County, of 2006?
15:07:09	15	Α.	Yup.
15:07:09	16	Q.	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Guilford County,
15:07:11	17	2005?	
15:07:14	18	Α.	Yeah.
15:07:19	19	Q.	Attempted Felonious Hit-and-Run, Guilford County,
15:07:22	20	1999?	
15:07:27	21	Α.	Yeah.
15:07:27	22	Q.	DWI, Guilford County, 2000?
15:07:31	23	Α.	Yup.
15:07:31	24	Q.	Assault on a Female, Guilford County, 2001?
15:07:35	25	Α.	Yup.
i			

15:07:45 Soliciting to Obtain Property by False Pretenses, 1 Q. Guilford County, 2003? 15:07:48 2 I don't -- I don't recall that. 15:07:54 3 Α. 15:07:58 Q. Might be? I --15:08:00 Α. 5 15:08:00 6 Q. Could be? I don't remember ever being charged with a Soliciting 15:08:02 7 Α. 15:08:04 8 to Obtain Property by False --That was what you were pled to. You were charged with 15:08:06 9 Q. 15:08:08 10 Obtaining by False Pretense. It was knocked down to a misdemeanor and you pled guilty, right? 15:08:10 11 15:08:12 May -- yes. 12Α. 15:08:13 13 Q. Got put on probation? 15:08:15 Yes. 14 Α. 15:08:16 Had that revoked. Communicating Threats in 2005 in 15 Q. 15:08:22 16 Guilford County? 15:08:23 17 Α. Yeah. 15:08:24 DWI; another DWI, level I, 2005, in Guilford County? 18 Q. 15:08:28 Yes. 19 Α. Resisting a Public Officer, 2006, Guilford County? 15:08:32 20 Q. 15:08:34 21Α. Yes. Drug Paraphernalia, Guilford County, 2006? 15:08:36 22 Q. 15:08:38 23 Yes. Α. Drunk and Disruptive, Guilford County, 2007? 15:08:40 24Q. 15:08:43 25Α. Yup.

```
15:08:44
                           Common Law Robbery, Guilford County, 2007?
            1
                    Q.
15:08:48
            2
                    Α.
                           Yup.
                           So that was the Armed Robbery reduced to Common Law,
15:08:49
            3
                    Q.
                right?
15:08:52
15:08:54
                    Α.
                           Yes.
            5
                           So it's another Armed Robbery?
15:08:55
            6
                    Q.
                           Uh-huh.
15:08:56
                    Α.
15:08:57
            8
                    Q.
                           That's three. Was that a gun?
15:08:59
           9
                    Α.
                           No.
                           Knife?
15:08:59
           10
                    Q.
15:08:59
          11
                    Α.
                           No.
15:09:00
                           What?
          12
                    Q.
15:09:01
          13
                           A bottle.
                    Α.
15:09:02
                           A bottle.
                                       Okay. And again, you've got -- looks
           14
                    Q.
15:09:11
          15
                like -- looks like two convictions for Robbery with a Dangerous
                Weapon -- actually, one for Attempted, which is the same crime,
15:09:14
          16
15:09:16
          17
                and one for Robbery; is that right? 2014?
15:09:19
           18
                    Α.
                           Yup.
15:09:20
                                  Who's Charles Jarvis?
          19
                    Q.
                           Okay.
                           That is -- old friend, associate.
15:09:26
          20
                    Α.
15:09:34
          21
                    Q.
                           You saw him on the 29th, didn't you?
                           I would assume it would be the 28th.
15:09:39
          22
                    Α.
15:09:41
                                  Did you see him on the 28th?
          23
                    Q.
                           Okay.
15:09:43
          24
                           Yes.
                    Α.
15:09:44
          25
                           Where did you see him?
                    Q.
```

15:09:47	1	Α.	At Anique's.
15:09:47	2	Q.	Okay. Did you ever use his car that day?
15:09:52	3	Α.	Yes.
15:09:55	4	Q.	And was he the one that charged you with unauthorized
15:09:57	5	use	
15:09:57	6	Α.	Yes.
15:09:58	7	Q.	of his car that day?
15:09:59	8	Α.	Yes.
15:09:59	9	Q.	And where did you take his car?
15:10:04	10	Α.	I took his car to Newport.
15:10:07	11	Q.	From where, the Beach?
15:10:09	12	Α.	From the Beach.
15:10:10	13	Q.	You were at the Beach on the 28th?
15:10:12	14	Α.	I think this one was I think this was two days
15:10:14	15	before we	got arrested, so it would be the 27th.
15:10:17	16	Q.	Okay. You took his you wrecked it somewhere,
15:10:20	17	right?	
15:10:20	18	Α.	No, I did not wreck it.
15:10:21	19	Q.	Didn't wreck it on 20th Street?
15:10:23	20	Α.	No. I told him I wrecked it.
$15\!:\!10\!:\!24$	21	Q.	But that was false, right?
$15\!:\!10\!:\!25$	22	Α.	That was false. That was false.
15:10:28	23	Q.	So where was it?
15:10:29	24	Α.	It was parked at Wal-Mart.
15:10:33	25	Q.	Why did you tell him you wrecked it?

- 15:10:35 1 15:10:40 2
- 15:10:42 3
- 15:10:43
- 15:10:44 5
- 15:10:45 6
- 15:10:45

- 15:10:47 8
- 15:10:48 9
- 15:10:48 10
- 15:10:51 11
- 15:10:56 12
- 15:11:03 13
- 15:11:07 14
- 15:11:11 15
- 15:11:12 16
- 15:11:15 17
- 15:11:15 18
- 15:11:20 19
- 15:11:23 20
- 15:11:26 21
- 15:11:29 22
- 15:11:32 23
- 15:11:34 24
- 15:11:39 25

- A. Okay. Um, the whole thing is, Jarvis stole my money while I was asleep.
 - Q. What, that night?
 - A. The night before.
 - Q. At Anique's house?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Was he at Anique's house that weekend?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. This was two days before we got arrested. Two -- two days prior to any of this happening with Dustin. And so when he -- he stole my money, I borrowed his car. He had loaned me his car, you know what I mean. And so as a pay-back to him for stealing my money, I kept his car longer than I was supposed to.
 - Q. Were you going -- were you going to keep it for good?
 - A. No. I wasn't -- I just wasn't taking it back to him.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. I left his car parked -- I left his car parked at Wal-Mart and told his wife, because his wife was burning my phone up, looking for him. And he wouldn't answer the phone for his wife, so she was -- started calling my phone, harassing me, looking for him. So I told her where to go get his car. I wouldn't tell him where it was at. I told him I wrecked it on 20th Street. Which was not true. The car was in perfect shape, sitting at Wal-Mart, with more gas in it than when I took it.

15:11:44 1 15:11:47 2 15:11:47 3 15:11:49 4 15:11:49 5 15:11:54 6 15:11:58 7 15:11:59 8 15:12:00 9 15:12:01 10 15:12:0511 15:12:061215:12:06 13 15:12:10 14 15:12:14 15 15:12:20 16 15:12:20 17 15:12:2118 15:12:25 19 15:12:27 20 15:12:31 2115:12:36 22 15:12:37 23 15:12:38 24

15:12:41

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- Q. Okay. So that makes it all good, right?
- A. No.

THE COURT: Let's -- let's move on.

BY MR. SPENCE

- Q. Did Charles Jarvis call you and Anique Pittman and talk on the phone about your car? About that car?
 - A. No. He called my phone.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. He was -- he was texting me.
- Q. Okay. Did he tell you to take something out of that car?
 - A. I don't think -- nothing about taking --
 - Q. Like a plastic bag?
 - A. I don't -- any of that.

MR. SPENCE: That's all I have.

THE COURT: Any redirect?

MR. MEGARO: Very brief, Your Honor.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. Mr. Thomas, did you read the portion of Heather
 Kennon's testimony and Mr. Warren's trial where she said that
 you and her cooked meth at Anique Pittman's condo?
 - A. Yes, I read that page.
 - Q. True or false?
- A. False. Also, on that, if I can, on that same page, she said that we were all smoking and injecting drugs together.

- 15:12:46 1
- 15:12:47 2
- 15:12:50

- 15:12:53 4
- 15:12:54 5
- 15:12:56 6
- 15:13:01 7
- 15:13:05 8
- 15:13:06 9
- 15:13:08 10

11

15:13:12

- 15:13:18 12
- 15:13:22 13
- 15:13:25 14
- 15:13:27 15
- 15:13:28 16
- 15:13:29 17
- 15:13:31 18
- 15:13:32 19
- 15:13:32 20
- 15:13:35 21
- 15:13:35 22
- 15:13:37 23
- 15:13:41 24
- 15:13:44 25

- Q. True or false? And then --
- A. That's false. She even goes back to say it again on that same page. She said it herself. That Dustin didn't even do any drugs.
- Q. Okay. Did you see in the transcripts where Ms. Kennon testified that she was at Anique Pittman's condo the morning on January 29th, 2014, when you woke up?
 - A. No, I didn't read that.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. I don't -- I don't remember that.
- Q. During the evening of January 28, 2014, into the early morning hours of January 29, 2014, did you ever see anything -- see Dustin Warren's spare car key?
- A. I didn't see it. I seen it in the seat the next morning.
 - Q. When you say "in the seat?"
 - A. His car.
 - Q. In his car?
 - A. Yeah.
 - Q. And that was where the window was rolled down?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. All right. Did Dustin ever make a comment to you about not being able to find his spare car key?
- A. It was -- it -- she had took his key off the rack by the door.

15:13:45 1 15:13:46 2 15:13:47 3 15:13:49 15:13:50 5 15:13:50 6 15:13:53 7 15:13:55 8 15:13:56 9 15:13:57 10 15:13:58 11 15:13:581215:14:05 13 15:14:09 14 15:14:13 15 15:14:14 16 15:14:14 17 15:14:16 18 15:14:17 19 15:14:18 20 15:14:18 21 15:14:21 22 15:14:2223 15:14:23 24

15:14:28

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- Q. Off the key rack by the door?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And you mentioned earlier about her going in and out --
 - A. Yeah.
- Q. -- slamming the door and opening the door. Was she going into Mr. Warren's car?
 - A. I would assume that's what she was --

MR. SPENCE: Objection.

THE COURT: Sustained.

BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. Was Dustin Warren in your company continuously from January 28th, 2014, from the time you met up with him at Anique Pittman's house, until the following morning when you were both picked up by the police?
 - A. Yes.

 $$\operatorname{MR}.$$ MEGARO: Thank you, sir. I have no further questions for Mr. Thomas.

THE COURT: Re-cross?

RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SPENCE

- Q. You weren't with him on the 28th; you were fighting with your wife, right?
 - A. On the phone at Anique's.
- Q. Okay. What day did you get arrested on this charge, on your charge? The 30th?

- 15:14:32 1 A. I don't -- I don't know. The same day that Dustin got 15:14:34 2 arrested. I don't know the dates. I can't remember the dates.
 - Q. Okay. Now, I meant -- I meant to ask you: You said you and Heather were doing drugs at the house?
 - A. Yes.

15:14:36

15:14:46

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- Q. What? What drugs?
- A. Meth.
- Q. Where did you get that?
- A. I just told you earlier the two names. I had had my own. I don't know. Heather had hers. Heather had her own, so --
 - Q. Okay. Have any effect on you? Yeah
 - A. What I had?
 - Q. About your memory or anything like that you recall?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Has no effect?
 - A. No.
 - Q. What effect does it have?
 - A. It just keeps you up.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. I mean, everybody -- different people do different things, depending on how much you do.
- Q. And again, you don't know what Anique Pittman testified to?
 - A. No, I have -- I have no clue what Anique said.

$15\!:\!15\!:\!28$	1	Q. She might have said everything you're saying?
15:15:29	2	A. She might have.
15:15:30	3	MR. SPENCE: Okay. That's all I have.
15:15:31	4	THE COURT: Anything else?
15:15:32	5	MR. MEGARO: No, sir.
15:15:33	6	THE COURT: You may stand down.
15:15:35	7	(The witness stepped down from the witness
15:15:35	8	stand.)
15:15:36	9	THE COURT: You may call your next witness.
15:15:38	10	MR. MEGARO: Your Honor, I would call my client,
15:15:40	11	Dustin J. Warren.
15:16:01	12	THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Warren, step right over there
15:16:03	13	to the Bible, please, sir.
15:16:05	14	(The Defendant was duly sworn.)
15:16:12	15	(The Defendant took the witness stand.)
15:16:12	16	THE COURT: You may inquire.
15:16:12	17	MR. MEGARO: Thank you.
15:16:12	18	
15:16:12	19	DUSTIN J. WARREN,
15:16:12	20	having been first duly sworn, at 3:16 p.m. was called as a
15:16:12	21	witness on behalf of the Defense, and testifying in his own
15:16:12	22	behalf, testified as follows:
15:16:12	23	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MEGARO
15:16:26	24	Q. Mr. Warren, is it safe to say you know the two

witnesses who have just testified?

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- A. Yes, sir, I do.
- Q. Did there come a point in time in the last couple of years where you asked either one of them to review any documents concerning your case and to possibly help you as a witness?
 - A. Yes, sir, I did.
 - Q. And how did you approach them?
- A. Um, I approached them through letters. Um, I sent transcripts. I sent Cassie a Christmas card and I explained to her what had happened to me.
- Q. Okay. And at any point in time did you direct either one of those witnesses as to what to say, what you wanted them to say?
- A. I was adamant, because this -- these-type situations make people uncomfortable, so I was adamant about, all I wanted was the truth, no matter what. And I was adamant about that.
 - Q. Okay. Did you ask either one of them to lie?
- A. No, sir. That's been my whole defense, to have them to be a part of this, is to ask them, you know, I just wanted the truth.
- Q. Okay. Now, in this particular case, Heather Kennon started out as your -- as your co-defendant, or your -- was she separately charged, or was she charged as a co-defendant in this case?
- A. She -- she was -- they were trying to treat it as a co-defendant situation.

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- Q. Do you know where she got arrested and -- where she got arrested?
 - A. No, I don't.
- Q. After your arrest on this case, who represented you initially?
- A. When I -- when I first got arrested, which was January the 3rd, I was assigned -- court-appointed James Wallace, III, and given his detective, Ms. Ann Harris Scadden, as the detective in the case as a court-appointed. He -- she did talk to I think Mark, and did some other stuff, and that was one of the reasons why I had her subpoenaed. But they never -- even though she was an Officer of the Court they never brought her forward.
- Q. Okay. Did there come a point where you changed lawyers?
- A. Yes, sir. I changed -- um, between January 30th to March 2nd, 2014, I was referred to Rodney Fulcher as an affordable lawyer by a guy that I was in the county jail with, said he was an affordable lawyer. I just got my tax money, which was \$2,500.

I had approached him, asking him would you -- I let him know my situation, that's all the money I had, would he be willing to represent me for \$2,500, because I heard that's what he would charge for some representations. And -- and he -- he said at the time that he was actually court-appointed for

Heather Kennon who was the -- the -- my -- supposed to be my 1 co-defendant, and that he might could finagle something to make 2 it happen where he could come off her case and he could take my 3 money.

> When he did take my money, he -- it just seemed like he lost total interest in my case.

- I'm going to -- I'm going to stop you just --Q.
- Α. Sure.
- Q. -- so we can kind of --
- Α. Yes, sir.
- Q. -- go step-by-step. You mentioned that he represented Heather Kennon?
 - That's what he --Α.
 - Or he told you that he represented --Q.
 - That's what I was told. Yes, sir. Α.
- Q. Did anyone ever go over with you a conflict of interest waiver form or a conflict of interest rights or anything like that?
 - No, sir. I know nothing of that. Α.
 - Okay. Do you know what a conflict of interest is? Q.
- I kind of understand the concept of it, but there's, Α. like, so much types of conflicts of interest. And I never looked at it as that, being a conflict of interest, on that issue.
 - So kind of, sort of --Q.

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- A. Somewhat.
- Q. -- you're familiar with the term?
- A. Yes, sir. I am familiar with the term.
- Q. All right. Now, after Mr. Fulcher started representing you, did you have conversations with him about the facts of the case?
- A. He was -- he did talk briefly about my situation, and I asked him some things that I would like for him to talk to witnesses, and -- and, you know, we -- I did talk a little, briefly about -- all he wanted me to take was a 57-month plea bargain. He wasn't really interested in doing any kind of work, leg work.
 - Q. Well, let me go step-by-step.
 - A. Okay.
 - Q. Did you ever give Mr. Fulcher the name of Mark Thomas?
- A. Yes. I definitely gave him -- actually, Mark Thomas, when I had the court-appointed lawyer, James Wallace, he was adamant about coming down, and he did talk to Ms. Ann. He was wanting to do whatever he could to tell his side of the story.
- Q. My question is, did you tell Mr. Fulcher that you had a willing witness with Mark --
 - A. Yes, sir, I did.
 - Q. -- Thomas?
 - A. Yes, sir, I did.
 - Q. And did you give -- did you give him Mark Thomas's

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A. Yes. Yes, sir, I did. Actually, I think Mark called down there and he was turned away. He kept saying that he would talk with the witnesses after the suppression --

MR. SPENCE: Objection to what anybody else said about a conversation.

THE COURT: Sustained. Sustained.

MR. MEGARO: Try to stay away from what other people say. Just --

BY MR. MEGARO

Q. Okay. So that -- my point is, at a given point in time, where -- Mr. Fulcher did have Mr. Thomas's information?

A. Oh, he had all his information. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. What about Ms. Flowers?

A. I didn't really know Ms. Flowers even involved in the case until, like, the third version of Heather's story that came to me. She -- they kept giving me versions of the story where she came up with. Cassie Flowers doesn't even involve in this case, so nowhere in the narrative or anything that happened.

She was --

Q. Right. Let me stop you there.

A. But -- yes. But when this came up, I did ask him to please get in -- it was adamant that, you know, because this is the witness that -- actually, the State witness against me brought forward. So, yes. Let's bring her forward and see what

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- she's got to say. I did.
- Q. You mentioned the third statement. Are you referring to a -- a report or statement made by Heather Kennon to law enforcement prior to trial?
- A. It was a -- it was a statement that did ask -- one of the statements that I seen she wrote that was on a recorded statement that I was -- I was -- I reviewed on September the -- the 2nd, 2014, prior, for a week -- the week before trial.
- Q. And was this in a packet of discovery or court documents?
- A. He -- he let -- he -- he had reviewed it beforehand but he hadn't told me, "Let me actually see it," but I -- we had known that Cassie Flowers was involved through the witness -- the State witness. And he had a -- well-enough time to know that she was needed in this case.
- Q. When did you tell Ms. Fulcher -- I'm sorry -- Mr. Fulcher that Ms. Flowers was not -- was a potential witness in the case?
- A. As soon as he told me the version of Heather Kennon's story, that we went and -- over that bridge and went to Cassie's house and got cold packs.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. And I was probably three months, four months prior to trial.
 - Q. Okay. So just so I have the time period down --

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- Α. Yes.
- -- several months prior to trial --Q.
- Several months. Α.
- -- you found out that Ms. -- Ms. Kennon had implicated Q. That's when you told --Cassie Flowers.
 - Α. Yes, sir.
 - -- Mr. Fulcher? Q.
 - Α. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. That's what I -- where was Ms. Flowers at the time of your trial?
 - Α. She was incarcerated.
- And did you know this? Did you know where she Q. Okay. was?
- I -- I found out that she was incarcerated through a Α. friend, Anique, and she -- she contacted her for me, um, and sent her a Christmas card, and I let her know what happened. sent some of the transcripts to let her review them.
 - Q. 0kay.
- And I told her that I was, you know, about -- I was found guilty of this and that I needed her to "fight" a affidavit, a truthful statement of what happened on that night.
- Q. Are you familiar with an individual named Brandon Elps?
 - Yes, I am. Α.
 - And can you tell the Court how you know Mr. Elps? Q.

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A. Um, I met Brandon Elps while I was in the county jail here. I used to -- I had contacts then, so I would have to come out of the blocks and go to the medical to clean my contacts out. And they have a crab pot here, which is in the middle, single cell that's in away from the -- away from the other blocks. And Brandon Elps, he was out there in that single cell and I got to talking to -- with him.

And I come to find out that he was actually in here on charges which actually were secret indictments of him, and Ms. -- Ms. Kennon selling meth -- methadone on a school property, and I actually have evidence of that here. Daniel Black was the narcotics officer.

He started telling me about her and how he -- she got --

MR. SPENCE: Judge, I object. He's not even in this hearing. He's not even -- there's no issue about --

THE COURT: Overruled. Go ahead.

MR. SPENCE: -- Brandon Elps' testimony or anything else. It's not been brought forth by affidavit.

THE COURT: I'm going to allow a little bit of it.

THE WITNESS: He just told me that she had been untruthful on him, and that she had him in trouble, and he'd be willing to testify to her pattern of behavior at my trial, if that happened.

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BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. And this information that you came by from Mr. Elps, was that prior to your trial?
- Oh, yes. He was -- it was prior before my trial. Α. was here -- the day of my trial, he was in custody in the crab pot here.
- Now, prior to trial, did you pass that Q. Okay. information along to Mr. Fulcher?
- Α. And he filed for the subpoenas. Actually, I think he went through the wrong way of even subpoenaing a inmate that's in jail custody. But he did try to subpoena him, and they asked him would he -- would they be willing to offer proof, but he didn't do it. I don't know why.
- Q. Okay. At any point in time during your pretrial proceedings up until the point of trial, did Mr. Fulcher ever give you any information as to whether he had spoken with either Mr. Elps, Ms. Flowers, or Mr. Thomas?
- Mr. Fulcher did not review any evidence. Α. He didn't examine any evidence. He didn't talk to any witnesses. didn't -- he didn't do anything. All he wanted me to do was take a plea bargain. He was not -- he kept reminding me that I hadn't paid him enough to go to trial.
- Did there come a point in time when Mr. Fulcher sought Q. to be relieved as your attorney?
 - Α. Yes.

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- Q. Do you remember when that was?
- A. Yes. Okay. The -- there's a lot of things that happened in the first process to get here. But he -- it was right -- right -- I guess it was -- it was September the 1st or 2nd.
 - Q. Okay. Go ahead.
- A. It was September the 1st and 2nd. And, um -- we, um -- he came to me and the first thing he said was, "We're being forced to trial, September 8th."

He said that -- he said that, basically, you know -- I asked him, you know, "Is there some kind of time limit, you know, that" -- oh, yeah. He told me that we were forced to trial, and that -- yeah -- I needed to take this 57-month plea bargain.

And I said, "Well," I said, "is there any time limit I have, to notify or secure witnesses prior to a trial? I mean, there's only a couple days."

He said -- and he said yes. I asked him. "Well, is a three-day notification of subpoena, you know, a witness, is it not enough time?"

And he agreed. I asked him to file a continuance because we were not ready for trial. He basically -- he said -- I said, "Nor can my witnesses be brought, you know, in time."

He said he would but, you know, the Judge probably will deny it. He said a lot of things with respect to the Trial

Judge, but he also said he didn't like going in front of the 1 Trial Judge. And I asked him, "Well, if you feel that way, 2 would you please ask for another Judge so we can -- that you 3 have a better relationship with."

> He said he couldn't do that; it was out of his hands. He said that -- I remarked that other people I knew had to pay lawyers, they could choose their Judges. And he said, well, he couldn't in this case, and he said that he -- he told me that he -- the Prosecution wanted me. He advised me to take this plea because if I didn't, he felt like I would lose.

I told him if he felt like that, then he needed to withdraw from my case. And I told him that he had not took my case in serious consideration; that all he did from the beginning was assume that I would take a plea bargain. reminded him that he had even turned away witnesses of mine.

When I called at his office to make an appointment, give affidavit statements, he did not respond to that but said he would bring me before the Judge to request for withdrawal of counsel. He said I had not paid him enough for a trial anyway.

- Okay. I knew you -- you're reviewing your notes. Q.
- Α. Right.
- Are these the notes that you prepared? Q.
- Yes, I have. Α. Yes.
- 0kay. Q.
- It's a lot of stuff to cover. Α.

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- I know. Let me just kind of slow you down. Q.
- Α. 0kay.
- Take you bit by bit. And I know that the transcripts Q. are on file. But did there come a point in time where Mr. Fulcher sought to be relieved in court?
- Α. We had -- the withdrawal hearing was the two days after that, which was on a Friday. The Honorable Judge asked him would he -- you know, why was he trying to withdraw off my case. He stood up, he said, "You know, Your Honor, I can't -- I feel like I can't zealously defend Mr. Warren."

He said he -- we didn't see eye to eye, and he said that -- that he -- he falsely said that I hadn't finished paying him.

Q. Okay. Let's -- we'll leave that alone for the time being.

Did Ms. Kennon ever send you any attorneys -- I'm sorry -- Ms. Kennon ever send you any letters while your case was pending for trial?

This was at the beginning right after I hired Α. She began writing me letters from the jail. Mr. -- Mr. Fulcher. She was -- there was about five letters I had. She was asking me not -- you know, begging me not to talk to the police; saying just to calm down, you know, everything -- she was going to tell the truth about what happened, just trying to, you know, ease -and every -- you know, ease me, tell me everything is going to

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be all right. Just begging me not to talk to -- anything to any officers or any investigators.

I gave four of those letters to Mr. Fulcher. One of them wasn't -- wasn't as strong, I kept myself. And I did try to bring those -- those letters in trial, but I was refused at, because he failed to do some -- go through some process to get them in.

- Q. Were any of those -- that was going to be my next question: Were any of those letters introduced at trial?
- A. He had the four, and he -- she got on the stand and she did admit to writing those letters, and when we --

THE COURT: He just asked you did any of them get admitted into evidence. Listen to the question --

THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry.

THE COURT: -- and answer just that.

THE WITNESS: Sorry. No. They wasn't unable to.

MR. MEGARO: Okay. Thank you. I'm sorry. Bear with me just a moment.

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

(Pause in proceedings.)

BY MR. MEGARO

Q. During the trial, as you've heard Heather Kennon's testimony where she testified that you were with her all night at Anique Pittman's house, and she had testified that she had mixed chemicals to make meth at Anique Pittman's home, all those

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other things that -- and she was with Cassie Flowers -- at that point during the trial, did you tell her attorney that -- that those statements were not true and that there were other witnesses that were able to contradict those statements?

- A. You say, during trial?
- Q. Yeah.
- A. He already knew it wasn't true. I've already discussed this with him. That was the whole purpose of having these witnesses there. That was the importance of it. But, yes, he knew it was untrue.
- Q. And, obviously, neither Mr. Thomas nor Mr. Elps nor Ms. Flowers testified at your trial; would that be correct?
 - A. That's correct, sir.
- Q. Okay. Now, did there come a point during the trial where a bag of evidence was opened and the contents displayed to the jury?
 - A. No. But the SBI agent was asked about it.
- Q. Okay. And the bag of evidence, is that the evidence which was recovered from the hotel room?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. All right. And is it safe to say that your defense at the trial was that the contents of the hotel room were Heather Kennon's and Heather Kennon's alone, and that you had no involvement or no knowledge of those items?
 - A. Um, could you repeat the question, please?

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- Q. Was it your defense at trial that the contents of the hotel room that were found, the precursors to meth --
 - A. Right.
 - Q. -- the meth lab --
 - A. Right.
- Q. -- that those items were Heather Kennon's, Heather Kennon's alone, and that you knew nothing about it, you didn't possess those items?
- A. I don't know who's the possessor of it, whose that stuff was, but it wasn't mine.
- Q. Okay. Did there come a point in time during the trial that you found out that one of the items recovered from the hotel room in that bag of evidence was a box of tampons?
- A. I think they said tampons. I don't know if it was a box, but I know that the evidence wasn't in the discovery.
- Q. Okay. And the fact -- when you say that evidence was -- wasn't in discovery, are you talking about an inventory?
 - A. Yes, sir. I have that at home.
 - Q. Tampons were not listed on the inventory?
 - A. No, sir.
- Q. And the first time you learned of the presence of tampons was when?
- A. We were sideswiped in trial with it. It should have been the centerpiece of the defense.
 - Q. Was that ever mentioned by the defense?

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- A. No.
- Q. The tampons?
- A. He just let it go. He just let it go. I -- due to our -- our interpersonal conflict, he just -- he let -- he just -- he let stuff like that go. He didn't pounce on it.
- Q. Okay. Now, I want to draw your attention to the first day of the trial. Did there come a point in time where you asked Mr. Fulcher where your witnesses were, on the first day of trial?
- A. That was the first day of trial. I walked into this courtroom and I asked Mr. -- I've had a feeling that my -- my witness -- there was no way possible to get them here, and I asked him first thing, "Are my witnesses here?" He asked the Madame Clerk, "Are the witnesses here?"

And she said, "I'm sorry. But the sheriff forgot to serve the subpoenas."

- Q. Do you know what other efforts were made to bring those witnesses to court?
- A. He didn't object to it. He didn't object to it at all. But I don't -- there was no -- there was -- there was no -- no, sir.
 - Q. Okay. How well did you know Heather Kennon?
- A. I met her a couple times through my brother. He used to date her. I knew she had a son.
 - Q. Do you know whether Heather Kennon had any medical

15:34:53 1 15:34:55 2 15:34:58 3 15:34:59 15:34:59 5 15:35:01 6 15:35:01 7 15:35:04 8 15:35:07 9 15:35:07 10 15:35:10 11 15:35:16 1215:35:21 13 15:35:24 14 15:35:27 15 15:35:28 16 15:35:32 1715:35:36 18 15:35:38 19 15:35:39 20 15:35:52 21 15:35:53 22 15:35:54 23

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issues or medical problems?

A. Well, I wanted -- I knew through Brandon Elps that, you know, she was --

MR. SPENCE: Objection.

THE COURT: Sustained.

BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. What did you personally know about -- what, if anything, did you personally know about Heather Kennon's condition?
- A. That she -- that she was notorious for faking injuries, and could get drugs. She had a bad record, criminal record. Driving record, terrible driving record.
- Q. Now, the part about faking injuries or going -- going to the doctor to get drugs, did you pass that information along to your attorney as well?
- A. I asked him to -- to obtain that information. And I had some information he didn't even use, but he didn't even make any effort to get -- to look at that. He said that was impossible to get.

MR. MEGARO: All right. Thank you. I have no further questions for Mr. Warren, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Cross-examination Mr. Spence?

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SPENCE

Q. Mr. Warren, did you do some handwritten notes and give them to Mr. Megaro in this case?

15:36:00	1	Α.	Yes, sir. Quite a bit.
15:36:02	2	Q.	Where are they?
15:36:03	3	Α.	My handwritten notes?
15:36:04	4	Q.	Yeah.
15:36:04	5	Α.	I think Mr. Megaro has them.
15:36:07	6		MR. MEGARO: They're
15:36:07	7		MR. SPENCE: The handwritten ones?
15:36:12	8		MR. MEGARO: The handwritten notes are right in front
15:36:13	9	of them.	
15:36:14	10		THE COURT: He's got them.
15:36:16	11		MR. SPENCE: Oh. You've got them.
15:36:17	12	BY MR. SP	ENCE
15:36:17	13	Q.	So they haven't been introduced; they've been just
15:36:19	14	been up h	ere
15:36:21	15	Α.	I want them introduced. Actually, we didn't go over
15:36:23	16	everythin	g that needed to be
15:36:24	17	Q .	So he's not really done his job, has he?
15:36:26	18	Α.	No. He's gone a great job.
15:36:30	19	Q .	Okay. Thank you. This here, what is that?
15:36:32	20	Α.	This is just a time line of stuff that happened.
15:36:33	21	Q.	Is this something you gave Mr. Fulcher?
15:36:36	22	Α.	No, sir.
15:36:37	23	Q .	Because it wasn't done at the time, was it?
15:36:40	24	Α.	I don't understand the question.
15:36:41	25	Q .	When did you write this?
1			

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- A. About two months ago.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to call that MAR Number [4] -- I
 mean, [3]. And I'm going to have to write it on there.

 (State's Exhibit MAR Number [3] marked for

BY MR. SPENCE

- Q. And this is your writing?
- A. Yes, sir. That's my writing.

identification.)

- Q. Two months ago; is that right?
- A. Just about.
- Q. So this is just a list of 24 things that you think weren't done correctly, correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Did you get them all out with Mr. Megaro up here, or, you got something else you want to get out in front of the Judge, of this stuff?
 - A. Are you willing to let me -- allow to talk about it?
- Q. I'm not asking you. I'm just saying, is there anything in there you think the Judge ought to hear about that you didn't -- that you weren't asked about?
 - A. Yeah. I would like a couple things said.
 - Q. Go ahead.
 - A. I appreciate it, Mr. Spence. Thank you.
 - Q. Thank you.
 - A. I just want to say, you know, for -- you know, our

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motion for a continuance, you know, after we -- you know, while I was -- while I was there we had a withdrawal, and he was asking me -- the Judge asked me to stand up and state my case, how -- why did I want to withdraw for him off my case?

And, you know, when I stood up I said, you know, "He hasn't -- he hasn't been effective. He hasn't -- he hasn't, you know, analyzed any evidence. He hasn't -- he hasn't talked to any of my witnesses. He's been ineffective on every account.

All he was concerned was my money."

As I'm talking, I'm looking down at Mr. Fulcher and he's turning purple. He's very embarrassed in open court. He was angry with me. And this -- by me having to state my -- my complaints with this man in open court, it really caused more -- it was more than a conflict of interest: It caused a conflict of interpersonal relationship between us. It was a gulf between us after this.

And, you know, we -- we -- we denied -- you know, I was denied that. You know, I was stuck with this guy to go all the way through the trial. And there was times he should have objected, he should have objected to, and there's things he should have done. He just let -- like the tampons, he should have -- you know, he should have been -- he should have pounced on it. There was a animosity between us.

Q. Okay. Now, you're talking about the hearing in August where all this took place?

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- A. The double hearing. The double withdrawal hearing.

 That was part of it. Yes, sir.
 - Q. In August?
 - A. I think so. Yes, sir.
- Q. And didn't you tell the Court and tell Mr. Fulcher you were going to hire your own lawyer?
 - A. I wanted to. Yes, sir.
- Q. Well, you told him you were going to retain a lawyer, to hell with him, you were going to do your -- do it yourself?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. So what did you expect him to do after you told him you were going to hire your own lawyer?
- A. I was just -- I was really frustrated. I just felt like I was being railroaded. I felt like he was not -- he was not having my -- my best interest in mind.
 - Q. Okay. Did you try to hire a lawyer?
- A. I was never allowed to, um, get rid of him. It was denied.
 - Q. No. You're free to get rid of him.
- A. No, I -- I was denied that fact. We were -- like, the trial was coming up. I was denied that.
 - Q. You were denied the right to represent yourself?
 - A. I was told that's not wise to do.
- Q. Okay. Did you -- but in August, you had a month between August and September to hire a lawyer. Did you make an

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attempt to do that?

- A. Well, none of the evidence had been analyzed. None of the witnesses had been talked to. I was still stuck, like, from day one.
 - Q. Okay. The answer would be no, right?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. And you said these tampons, that was -- you think that was just a big -- a big part of the trial?
- A. It was a haymaker-type-thing. We never had a chance to analyze it. I was wondering why it was even missing. I even looked at you and you were flabbergasted by it. I mean, when the jury -- I looked at the jury, I looked at my lawyer, I mean, I looked at you and you didn't even know it -- because evidently, you hadn't been presented with the evidence too.

And I think it should have been -- because the whole time, this whole situation, it was of who this bag belonged to. This woman with -- the day I picked her up, I'm at that motel. I shouldn't have been at that motel, but I was there with a married woman at that motel. I ran into her just by chance.

- Q. Okay.
- A. I wasn't -- I wasn't just -- it was -- it was a chance. She just asked me for a ride.
- Q. Okay. My question is, the tampons came out in the trial?
 - A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. And the tampons, the presence of tampons in that, that would not have been favorable information for the State, would it? It's not going to hurt your case, would it? It would hurt my case?
 - A. I think it would have helped my case.
 - Q. How?
- A. I think it would have showed -- it would have gave more direction to who -- where the bag came from.
 - Q. Okay. It was just you and Heather, right?
 - A. Um, for --
 - Q. They weren't your tampons, were there?
 - A. No, sir. They were not my tampons.
- Q. So if the jury sees a woman and man together and some tampons, they probably can do the math and figure out whose tampons, right?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. So the tampons would show that it was Heather Kennon's stuff, right?
- A. I don't know whose -- I think she was -- really, honestly, I think she was partying with those people at that motel. And, I mean, that was just trashing their little party they had. I don't -- I don't really think it was her stuff, but it wasn't mine.
 - Q. Of course it wasn't yours.
 - A. No, sir. It was not mine.

15:41:23 And a jury would know that? 1 Q. I would -- I would think so. Everything got out. 15:41:25Α. 2 15:41:273 Yes, sir. 15:41:31 Q. You testified at your trial under oath, right? 4 15:41:34 Yes, sir. 5 Α. And you were able to tell your whole story at trial? 15:41:35 6 Q. 15:41:39 Α. Yes, sir. 15:41:43 8 Q. And Anique testified, right? 15:41:45 9 Α. Right. 15:41:46 10 Q. She told her whole story under oath, right? 15:41:51 11 Α. Yes, sir. Two other people testified, correct, for you? 15:41:54 12Q. 15:41:57 Yes, sir. 13 Α. They told their story under oath, correct? 15:41:58 14 Q. 15:42:00 Well, the reason I had those people there is because, 15 Α. 15:42:02 16 one --15:42:02 He just asked you, did they testify. 17 THE COURT: 15:42:04 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 18 15:42:04 BY MR. SPENCE 19 Is there anything Anique Pittman would testify 15:42:04 20 Q. 15:42:09 21to that Mark Thomas could add anything to? 15:42:1222 Α. Yes, sir. 15:42:13 23What? Q. 15:42:15 24 Well, the fact is, is that it's really important Α. 15:42:18 25that -- because Mark was up with Heather. He could see her

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going in and out of the house. She took my keys, my car keys.

He can -- she can -- Mark can testify that, you know, "Hey.

There's another witness that we did not -- we were not out partying making methamphetamine like she claimed, with six other people."

He could -- he could claim a lot of things on that version. Only thing I have in this -- in this case is to attack her -- her untruthfulness and her pattern of behavior. That's all I have.

- Q. Okay.
- A. That was my only angle.
- Q. I got it. Now, Judge Alford did issue writs for both -- for Mark Thomas and Cassie Flowers, correct?
 - A. Sir?
- Q. Didn't Judge Alford issue writs during the -- for those two people?
 - A. Yes, sir. He did.
 - Q. So Mr. Fulcher is not to blame for that, is he?
- A. Well, that's the part -- I was trying to say with the -- your rebuttal in the case of State, they're saying that it would have been deficient to bring them. But it was never a fact of being deficient to bring them. It was never a trial strategy. It was the point that he knew about the importance. He did. He filed it late, but he did file it. But it was never really part of his -- his thing. It was the State that failed

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to bring them. He failed to object to it. That was his failure. He allowed it to happen.

- Q. Allowed what?
- A. He allowed them not to be there without objecting to it. The writs were filed. The Judge did file. The State -- when I got here, they said the State had forgot to serve the subpoenas, these writs.
- Q. But the Judge who ordered the writs would have allowed these people to come in?
- A. They were in State custody. They had no way to get down here. It was the State that had to bring them down here.
 - Q. So it was my fault?
- A. No, sir. I don't blame you. I know you didn't have nothing to do with this.
 - Q. Okay. Now, you paid Mr. -- Mr. Fulcher \$2,500?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. From a tax return?
- A. That's all I had. Yes, sir. That's every bit of money I had.
- Q. Before I forget about it, let me go over your criminal history.
 - A. Yes, sir.

THE COURT: We went over it in the trial. I'll take judicial notice of it.

MR. SPENCE: Okay.

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15:44:02
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                BY MR. SPENCE
15:44:02
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                     Q.
                           Who paid Mr. Megaro in this case?
                           A friend paid for --
15:44:07
            3
                    Α.
                           Who?
15:44:08
                     Q.
15:44:09
                           Ms. Silvia Flowers paid for him.
            5
                     Α.
                           So Cassie Flower's mother --
15:44:11
            6
                     Q.
15:44:13
                    Α.
                           Yes, she did --
15:44:13
                     Q.
                           -- paid Mr. Megaro --
15:44:13
           9
                     Α.
                           Yes, sir.
15:44:14
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                     Q.
                           -- to help you?
15:44:15
           11
                    Α.
                           Yes, sir.
                           How much?
15:44:16
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                     Q.
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                           Is that even --
                     Α.
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                     Q.
                           Yeah --
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                           Is that even --
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                    Α.
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                           THE COURT:
                                        I don't need to hear that.
                                                                       You don't have
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                to answer that.
                                          Thank you, sir.
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                           THE WITNESS:
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                           MR. SPENCE:
                                         That's all I have.
           19
                                        Anything further?
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                           THE COURT:
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                           MR. MEGARO:
                                         No, Your Honor.
                                                            Thank you.
15:44:37
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                           THE COURT:
                                        Thank you, sir. You may stand down.
                                          Thank you, Judge.
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                           THE WITNESS:
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                                 (The Defendant stepped down from the witness
15:44:40
           25
                                 stand.)
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15:44:40	1	THE COURT: Call your next witness.
15:44:43	2	MR. MEGARO: Your Honor, at this time, we would rest.
15:44:45	3	(The Defense rests.)
15:44:45	4	THE COURT: All right. Does the State wish to call
15:44:47	5	any?
15:44:48	6	MR. SPENCE: Very briefly.
15:44:50	7	THE COURT: Please.
15:44:50	8	MR. SPENCE: Rodney Fulcher.
15:44:52	9	THE COURT: Please swear the witness, Madame Clerk.
15:44:53	10	(The witness was duly sworn.)
15:44:53	11	MR. MEGARO: Your Honor, my client brought his "card"
15:45:05	12	down, but I believe this has been admitted by the State.
15:45:06	13	THE COURT: I don't think it's been admitted.
15:45:08	14	MR. SPENCE: I didn't admit it.
15:45:09	15	MR. MEGARO: Oh, okay.
15:45:09	16	THE COURT: thank you.
15:45:09	17	(The witness took the witness stand.)
15:45:09	18	
15:45:09	19	RODNEY FULCHER,
15:45:09	20	having been first duly sworn, at 3:45 p.m. was called as a
15:45:09	21	witness on behalf of the State and testified as follows:
15:45:09	22	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SPENCE
15:45:14	23	Q. State your name, please, for the Court, sir.
15:45:16	24	A. Rodney Fulcher.
15:45:17	25	Q. And, Mr. Fulcher, you're a North Carolina Bar member

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since what year?

- A. 1999.
- Q. And in that time, do you take criminal appointed cases? Criminal retained cases?
 - A. Both.
- Q. Okay. In this case, just to clear this up, did you ever represent Heather Kennon in this case?
- A. No. I think Mr. Suggs was the one who was representing her.
- Q. Okay. So there was no conflict to even be dealt with, correct?
 - A. I never spoke with Heather Kennon about anything.
- Q. Okay. Tell the members -- tell His Honor -- and we can limit this to August, September, during the time this is being prepared for trial -- your relations and what you did or what Mr. Warren asked you to do regarding this case.
- A. Beginning in August, we were -- we knew at that point Mr. Warren was going -- certainly was going to reject any plea offers, and I think Your Honor put them in -- even made that clear to us.

So shortly after that, we began to -- we met several times over in the jail down by the fingerprinting room and began to discuss, "Hey. What is our plan to go?"

And I had said, "Listen. The evidence in this case is very strong against you. The risk/reward is certainly a lot

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that you'd be looking at if you're convicted."

The more we went, the more adamant he was we was going to try it, and the differences of opinion that we have was on the evidence of the case and the direction to go on doing that.

I was of the assumption that we needed to attack the evidence that the State had. There was a state lab official coming; there was several officers that were to be there. And Mr. Warren was -- seemed to be more wanting to attack credibility at that point than attacking what the State was going to present. That was the huge difference that we had at the time.

- Q. And did he tell you that the two witnesses that you needed to call on his behalf were Cassie Flowers and Mark
 Thomas?
- A. We had talked about Cassie Flowers and Mark Thomas, but at that point, we really did not know that Heather Kennon was even going to testify in that case, because she was a co-defendant, and Mr. Suggs was representing her in that case. So at that point, we didn't know that she was going to testify against us.
 - Q. She was a charged co-defendant?
 - A. She was a charged co-defendant.
- Q. Okay. And at what point did you find out or were you informed that she was going to actually plead guilty and testify for the State?

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- I believe it was when we -- we rejected -- Mr. Warren Α. finally rejected the offer on the table, is when you let me know and Mr. Suggs let me know, that at that point, she was going to be a State's witness, testifying.
 - Q. 0kay. And after that, did the names Cassie Flowers --
 - Α. Yes.
 - Q. -- and Mark Thomas come up?
 - Α. Absolutely.
- Q. And did they come up -- what month or what time period are we talking about?
- Α. It would be mid- to late August before -- it was very close to trial time.
 - Okay. And had you read all the discovery? Q.
 - I had read all the State's discovery that we had. Α.
- And in your opinion, were you prepared to try Q. Okay. the case based on what the State -- the open-file discovery from the State?
- I was prepared to try the case on what the State's Α. evidence was, but I was not prepared to go forward with any information to cross-examine any of these witnesses that Mr. Warren only had. One, I didn't know anything about them. Two, they were all -- every one in the Department of Corrections or in custody. And I informed him that their credibility would be at issue.
 - Q. Now, how long have you known, from hanging Okay.

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- around Criminal Court, the name Cassie Flowers?
 - Α. Ever since I have been practicing.
- And do you think that she would have made a credible Q. witness on the stand, given her criminal history and your knowledge of her credibility and drug use?
- Α. And that was part of the conflict between me and Mr. Warren.
 - Q. Okay. Did he insist that you call them?
 - Α. Yes.
- Q. And, of course, strategically, you're in charge of who to call?
 - That's correct. Α.
 - And did you make a strategic decision not to call her? Q.
- I -- he insisted, and I issued the writ. Judge Alford Α. signed it, and we sent it.
 - Q. Right.
- But it was my intention that I would not call her, Α. because I could get the same testimony of what he wanted to get out of -- out of Ms. Anique Pittman, who was a lot-more-credible witness.
 - Q. Okay. Ms. Pittman had no prior criminal history --
 - She did not. Α.
 - -- or very little? Q.
 - She did not. Α.
 - And the same with Mark Thomas: At the time you Q. Okay.

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were having to bring him over, he was facing -- or he was being -- serving time for armed robbery?

- A. He was in the Department of Corrections as well.
- Q. Okay. So what did you advise Mr. Warren about -- about calling Mr. Thomas as a strategic move to rebut some minor part of Heather Kennon's testimony?
- A. It was the same deal with Cassie Flowers: That she -he would not be very credible, and the only thing that he would
 be able to do would refute anything that she said. And I didn't
 know that -- what she was doing to testify until you made it
 known that late in the ball game.
- Q. Okay. And, again, you would be calling Cassie Flowers basically to talk about the cold packs and rebut that little --
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. -- piece? And in order to rebut that small piece of testimony, her whole criminal history would be -- will be exposed?
 - A. That was my thinking.
- Q. And also, she would become associated with the defendant you were trying to help?
- A. It was her -- be honest with you, it was her background and her record that really bothered me, anything she would say and testify.
- Q. Okay. And the same -- same thing would apply to Mark Thomas?

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- A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. In preparation for this hearing, has Mr. Megaro ever talked to you about this case?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Has he ever tried to subpoena your file?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Ever tried to subpoena your notes?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Issued any discovery that you know of?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Has he applied for any discovery, posttrial?
 - A. No.
 - Q. When did we finally get to talk about this case?
 - A. Probably late last week.
 - Q. And did I hand you the MAR and let you read it?
 - A. You let me read it.
- Q. Okay. Is that the first time we've even talked about it?
 - A. That's correct.
- ${\tt Q}.$ And what was my instruction to you after I gave the MAR?
- A. That I needed to kind of get myself familiarized with what -- the MAR, be able to answer any questions that you need or Megaros[sic] asked.
 - Q. Now, the name Brandon Elps came up. Are you familiar

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- with that name from coming to court?
 - Α. Tam.
- And was there some -- something Mr. Elps was being Q. asked to provide in this case?
- Α. Very similar situation: To refute anything that Heather Kennon would testify to, and her credibility.
- Q. Okay. And was his testimony going to be something like, at some point in the past she tried to get him in trouble?
- That was what Mr. Warren's -- our MO would be with Α. him. And, once again, he was in custody, and I was weighing the evidence, credibility issues of what he could possibly help the case was, and I was very much dead against that.
- Q. Now, what about the tampon issue? Do you Okay. remember that coming up at trial?
 - Α. I don't remember that at all.
- Q. 0kay. It would be in the transcript if it came up and how it came up?
 - Correct. Α.
 - Okay. Mr. Warren was -- testified in his own defense? Q.
 - He did, and that was against my wishes as well. Α.
 - Q. Okay. Why did you advise him not to testify?
- I advised him that if he was to testify, that Α. certainly, you would delve into his criminal history.
 - Which included convictions for Second Degree Murder? Q.
 - Correct. Α.

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- Q. And other things?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. And, probably not be received too well?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And, just based on your -- your experience working in Carteret County, practicing law, for all this period of time?
- A. It was my -- it was my thought from the very beginning that the State had a very strong case and that we were not going to win this case if we tried it. That was part of the reason why I kind of moved -- pushed us towards, "Hey, taking a plea," because I knew the amount of time that was hanging over his head.

Once he insisted, I moved to continue, obviously, to get these people that he demanded that we get here, and then at trial I cross-examined and directed, and then we called Anique Pittman and our witnesses, because they were the only people that could testify that I didn't think's credibility would be at issue that could add any light to what Mr. Warren was asking. But I thought the State had a stronger case than we did.

- Q. And, again, the downside was horrific?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And the upside was at least manageable?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And also, the State has the burden of proof. Isn't it the defense lawyer's job to sit and listen and pick a case apart

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- as it evolves?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And how many -- how many cases have we tried together in this court?
 - A. Several.
- Q. Okay. Did you do anything in this case that you -- or handle this case any differently because of the way Mr. Warren spoke about you or spoke about you in court?
- A. No. I -- when His Honor said that I was to stay in the case, I gave it the same amount of preparation and response to the discovery as I would have as if he'd had paid me \$10,000.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. Because that was my -- I took an oath to uphold the law, and that's what I did. And I tried, to the best of my ability, what was before me.
- Q. And, also, Judge Alford's been the Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief Resident since you've been practicing?
 - A. He has.
- Q. And you know Judge Alford, what he will do as far as his continuances at the last moment, motions to withdraw at the last moment, things like that; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And did you sort of know what was going to -- how it was going to play out?
 - A. I knew that that late in the ball game, it would be

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very hard for this case to be continued.

- Q. Okay. What about Mr. Warren's expressed intent to hire another attorney? Tell us about that briefly.
- A. When we were down discussing and I really informed him of the weakness of our case, the strength of the State's case and that it was my opinion that the case should be pled, that's when he said, "I guess you and I don't see eye to eye, and I need to hire another attorney."
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. "Or I need another attorney."

MR. SPENCE: Okay. And that's all I have of Mr. Fulcher.

THE COURT: Cross-examination, Mr. Megaro?

MR. MEGARO: Yes, Your Honor. Briefly, may I check something with Madame Clerk?

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. MEGARO: Your Honor, may I approach the witness?

THE COURT: You may.

MR. MEGARO: Thank you.

MR. SPENCE: It's a probation violation.

MR. MEGARO: Right. But this is our whole file.

MR. SPENCE: It's a probation violation on the case, but he doesn't represent her on the underlying case. She violated her probation three years later.

MR. MEGARO: This is not the entire court file?

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MR. SPENCE: No, it is.

MR. MEGARO: Oh, okay.

MR. SPENCE: But if you're trying to say he represented her at some time on -- as a co-defendant in this case, that's not true.

MR. MEGARO: I'm just going to ask.

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. Mr. Fulcher, I'm going to ask you to take a look at the official court file: Docket Number 14 CRS -- I believe that's 50380. Did I get that number correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. I'm actually going to ask you -- well, go ahead. I'm sorry. Take a look at that and just let me know when you're done.

(Mr. Fulcher examines documents.)

THE WITNESS: Yes. I understand.

BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. I'm going to ask you, on the outside of the file in front of the file, the file jacket, there's a handwritten space or name of a defendant, and that contains the name Heather Kennon?
 - A. It does.
- Q. And to the right of that file, it contains a last name of an attorney?
 - A. Mr. Suggs.

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- And next to Mr. Suggs' name is the name Fulcher, but Q. that's crossed out, correct?
 - That's correct. Α.
 - Have you ever represented Heather Kennon? Q.
- I just represented her at the first of this Α. year on this probation violation in which she was to enter into a rehab center, and she did and I believe has almost completely successfully completed it, when I spoke to her probation officer.
 - Q. Had you ever represented Heather Kennon, prior?
- Α. It's -- not to my -- I don't believe I have. I know in this case I did not. I never spoke to her about this case before.
 - About a prior case? Q.
- I don't remember if I have. Nothing that would have Α. been involved with Mr. Warren.
 - Well, whether it was involving Mr. Warren or not? Q.
- I don't -- I don't recall if I ever represented her Α. before.
- Now, you testified earlier that Mr. Warren was Q. adamant about going to trial?
 - Α. He was.
- And is it safe to say he was adamant about going to Q. trial from day one?
 - Α. Yes.

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- Q. You also talked about a difference of opinion: Your opinion as to how to attack the case would be to attack the Prosecution's evidence?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And his opinion was to attack the credibility of the Prosecution's witnesses?
- A. Once we found out that Heather Kennon was going to testify against him, yes. But before that, it was just the evidence that was before us, and that was only the officers involved and what was found at the site at Atlantic Beach.
- Q. Okay. And when he talked about attacking credibility of the witnesses, one of those -- one of his thought processes was to file a motion to suppress evidence, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Was a motion to suppress evidence ever filed in this case?
 - A. Yes, it was.
 - Q. Was there a hearing on that motion?
 - A. Yes. Judge Alford heard it.
- Q. And after that suppression hearing, you knew a little bit -- is it safe to say a little bit -- knew a little bit more about the case since you had seen witnesses testify?
- A. We knew at that point that, certainly, our case was not going to be dismissed. The information concerning what the SBI officers found at the site was going to be allowed. Our

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motion to suppress was denied, and we were moving forward with the State's case.

Q. Did you ever obtain the services of an expert to examine the laboratory testing procedures or to independently test the substances that were found?

MR. SPENCE: Objection. That's not even alleged as a ground.

THE COURT: Overruled. You may answer.

THE WITNESS: No.

BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. And that's because it wasn't seriously in dispute as to what the composition of the chemical substances were going to be, right? I mean, in other words, you weren't going to challenge that this was actually drugs or precursors to methamphetamine, right?
- A. There was never any question what was found at the site.
- Q. Okay. So it wasn't a question of what was the substance, was it a controlled substance or precursors or not; it was more a question of, whose was it, correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And from day one, Mr. Warren told you that it was not his stuff, he was not in possession of it, and he had no knowledge of it, correct?
 - A. That's correct.

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- Q. So then the question really was, was who had access to that room, and who was the person that actually possessed those substances; not whether it was really drugs or not, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. Now, you knew that there were only two people charged in this case?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. Heather Kennon and Dustin Warren, right?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And certainly, not the first co-defendant case you've had?
 - A. No.
- Q. And you've certainly been in circumstances where co-defendants have pointed the finger -- pointed the finger at each other and said, "That person had it. I didn't have it," and vice versa?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And in this particular scenario, you knew that that could be a possibility, even from day one, right?
 - A. Possibly.
- Q. There came a point in time before trial where you realized that Heather Kennon had signed a plea-arrangement with the District Attorney and was going to testify against Mr. Warren in exchange for leniency?
 - A. And that was very close to before trial, and that was

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when Mr. Warren said, "We need X, Y and Z to testify against her credibility."

And that's why I came in and made my motion. Let's bring those in, even though the people that he brought to my attention -- I told him, I said, "You know, their credibility is going to be at risk, because they're all -- one or all in prison or in custody, and two have records as long as my left leg."

- Q. Safe to say it's not the first time you've had a situation where a potential defense witness had a criminal history, right?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And we all know that you can't choose your witnesses, right?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. Neither can the Prosecution?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Sometimes their witnesses have records longer than your entire left side?
 - A. That's true.
- Q. Okay. And that was more or less the case with Heather Kennon, right?
 - A. Heather -- Heather had a bad record as well.
- Q. Okay. So prior to trial, you knew that Heather Kennon was going to get up and testify and then it would really hinge on her credibility, whether the jury believed her or not?

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- A. That's what he and I discussed. I said, "It's going to come down to her -- her belief -- her testimony of what happened and your testimony of what happened."
- Q. And it's fair to say that Mr. Warren had told you prior to trial that Mr. Elps, Ms. Flowers, and Mr. Thomas would give evidence that would cast out on Heather Kennon's credibility?
 - A. Late -- late in the game he did.
- Q. Okay. And cast out on her credibility in general, and cast out on specific portions of her testimony?
- A. He did. And that is why we -- when we listed all the witnesses, the ones who I actually called were the ones who could refute the things that she said, and where he was at, and where she was at, who had the most credibility, like Anique Pittman and the other two witnesses.
- Q. Is it safe to say you never spoke with Mark Thomas prior to trial?
 - A. Never spoke with him.
- Q. And it's safe to say you never spoke with Cassie Flowers either?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. And never spoke to Mr. Elps?
- A. That's correct. I would say that I had represented Mr. Elps in the past before.
 - Q. You had been -- represented Mr. Elps?

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- But nothing -- not in this case. Α. Yeah.
- In what kind of case? Q.
- A criminal case. So I was familiar with his criminal Α. history.
- Q. Did you ever tell Mr. Warren that you'd Okay. represented Mr. Elps in the past?
 - Α. Yes.
 - Q. And what was his response?
- Α. He said, "Well, he needs to be called to refute how she, in the past, has caused other people -- lied on other people."
- You would agree with me that criminal history is just Q. one factor in deciding whether --
 - A huge factor. Α.
 - -- a witness is credible? Q.
 - Α. A huge factor.
 - But it's just one of among many, correct? Q. Okay.
- One among many, and especially on the cases that I Α. knew these people were convicted with dealt with dishonesty and felonies, which made it that much more a problem.
- Q. And is it fair to say that you'd made the decision, after you knew these people, these folks' criminal history, not to call them as a witness? You made that decision prior to trial?
 - I had it in the back of my mind. I called those Α.

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people -- we had those people subpoenaed, and I was going to speak with those when they came. I just wanted to see what they had to say, if it was anything credible. I didn't know what they were going to say.

But part of me was not going to say -- I guess what I'm saying is, I figured I could do the same thing and get the same evidence, in effect, that was more credible, with Anique Pittman, than I could with Mark Thomas or Cassie Flowers, knowing their history and what both -- what they were going to say, and what Mr. Warren said they were going to testify to.

But as for what they were actually going to say, I don't know. Only what he told me they would testify to.

MR. MEGARO: Bear with me one moment.

(Mr. Megaro confers with his client.)

BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. Mr. Fulcher, Anique Pittman testified at trial?
- A. She did.
- Q. That -- and she testified that she and Dustin Warren were together in her house and had gone to sleep at approximately 11, 12 p.m. the night before the arrest?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And because she had gone to sleep, she did not know it occurred between the time she went to sleep and the following morning, correct?
 - A. I believe that's what she testified to.

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- Q. And Mr. Warren was arrested at approximately 10:00`a.m., 9:30, 10:00`a.m. the next morning?
 - A. I believe that may be about right.
- Q. So there's roughly a 10-hour gap of time that Ms.

 Anique Pittman could not fill in, correct?
- A. I believe it was her testimony that she was going to say he was there, and Mr. Thomas was there, and I think -- I don't remember anything else about Cassie, but I just remember that -- I think Mr. Thomas was there and that he had been in an argument with his wife. But any further than that --
- Q. But as far as she knew, she went to sleep at around 11, 12 o'clock, and that was all she knew?
 - A. She was adamant that he was in that house.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. And that's why I used her testimony.
- Q. And you, from speaking to Mr. Warren, you knew that Mr. Thomas was up, and up for at least part of the night and could account for Heather Kennon's whereabouts and actions after Ms. Pittman had gone to sleep, correct?
- A. That is what he -- he told me he was going to say, or testify, I should say.
- Q. And you actually -- one week prior to trial you applied for writs of habeas corpus ad testificandum to bring the two to court?
 - A. As soon as I was informed of all the people that

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- Mr. Warren wanted brought to testimony, I signed, filed subpoenas, and had Judge Alford sign the witness -- and the writs to bring those two people back.
 - And those people were never produced, correct? Q.
 - Α. They never showed up.
 - Q. All right.
- Well, some of the people that will be test -- we Α. subpoenaed showed up. Mr. Warren -- I mean, Mr. Thomas and Ms. Flowers were in the DAC, and they were not brought back.
 - Q. Okay. And what about Mr. Elps?
- I don't -- I have -- I do not know -- I know he was in Α. custody. And at trial they said he was -- I chose not to bring Mr. Elps over to testify.
- After Mr. Thomas and Ms. Flowers had not been produced Q. by Corrections, did you make any further efforts to secure their attendance?
- We were -- well, when -- when we found out they Α. weren't here, it was -- we were in -- we were in the trial.
 - Q. Okay.
- And that -- at the beginning of that trial I made a Α. subsequent motion to continue this case, because my witnesses weren't here, and it was denied.
- Q. Did you request a secondary writ of habeas corpus to get them?
 - I did not, because we were told we were going to trial Α.

that day. 16:08:28 1 16:08:29 2 Q. Did you request an order to show cause to --I did not. 16:08:32 3 Α. 16:08:32 -- the Department of Adult Corrections? Q. 16:08:34 I did not. 5 Α. 16:08:35 6 Q. Did you reach out to either of the witnesses at Corrections, ask to set up a legal call or come visit --16:08:38 7 16:08:41 8 Α. I did not that day. No. 16:08:43 9 Q. Prior to trial, you did make a motion to withdraw? 16:08:45 10 Α. I did. 16:08:47 11 Q. And that was based upon? 16:08:50 That was based upon the fact that, you know, upon his 12Α. 16:08:52 13 request that he wanted to hire another attorney, and the fact 16:08:55 14 that we were going in different directions in which way to 16:08:56 15 handle the -- handle the case. And that application was denied, obviously, right? 16:08:59 16 Q. 16:09:02 That's correct. 17Α. Bear with me one moment. 16:09:02 18 MR. MEGARO: 16:09:07 19 THE COURT: Yes, sir. (Mr. Megaro confers with his client.) 16:09:07 20 16:09:09 21BY MR. MEGARO I'm sorry. Did there come a point in time where 16:09:09 22 Q. 16:09:32 Mr. Warren turned over some letters that Heather Kennon had sent 2316:09:36 24to him before trial with you? 16:09:37 25He had mentioned that, but I -- I don't recall that. Α.

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But I know everything that he spoke to me -- because he was continually giving me notes and whispering in my ear during the trial, if I thought it would -- I cross-examined the officer -- mainly, it was Heather, things he was telling me -- and I cross-examined her on everything that we -- that she had introduced that was introduced into evidence. I -- it's been four years. I can't remember that -- I don't recall getting any letters from her.

Q. Did there come a point in the time of the trial where Heather Kennon testified that she had created methamphetamine both at the Seashore hotel and at Anique Pittman's home?

MR. SPENCE: I'd let the transcript of whatever it reveals speak for itself.

THE COURT: If he knows, he may answer.

THE WITNESS: I -- I don't recall.

BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. Did Mr. Warren ever ask you to cross-examine Heather Kennon with a discrepancy between her testimony where she said that she had made methamphetamine at Anique Pittman's home when all the precursors and chemicals were still at the hotel?
- A. I recall now that there was some questioning, and I argued in closing that if this material that was made in one place -- I can't remember where it was made -- was being manufactured there and it was so volatile, how it could have been transferred from one place to the motel room.

16:11:15 1 16:11:202 16:11:25 3 16:11:28 16:11:32 5 16:11:35 6 16:11:36 7 16:11:39 8 16:11:40 9 16:11:42 10 16:11:47 11 16:11:49 1216:11:51 13 16:11:54 14 16:11:55 15 16:11:55 16 16:11:57 17 16:11:58 18 16:12:00 19 16:12:00 20 16:12:00 2116:12:0322 16:12:05 23 16:12:06 24

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And that was one of my arguments at closing, that that was not capable, because the State "FBI" analyst and expert said it was very volatile. And that was part of my closing, was, to the jury, is it believable that this was manufactured in one place and moved to another place? So, yes, that was -- that was addressed at closing.

- Q. But you never confronted Heather Kennon with that -- with those facts, correct?
- A. I think that was -- I think that question was asked to the "FBI" agents -- agent, and that it was argued at closing in my closing argument.
- Q. Well, what I mean to say is, you never asked Heather Kennon, "If you say that you created meth at Anique Pittman's house --
 - A. No.
- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Q}}.$ -- how could that be, when all the chemicals and the "--
- A. I don't know if I actually asked her that, but I did --
 - Q. Okay.
- A. -- bring that up for -- when it come to credibility and believability, when I asked my closing statement.
- MR. MEGARO: Thank you. No further questions for Mr. Fulcher, Your Honor.

MR. SPENCE: A couple, Rodney.

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REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SPENCE

- Q. The only two people who had any possible involvement with this meth lab at the Seashore were Dustin Warren and Heather Kennon; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Now, Anique Pittman was able to provide a complete alibi for -- for Defendant Dustin Warren, correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. So regardless of whether Mark Thomas could get up here and say whatever he said, if -- if the jury believed Anique Pittman, you know, it wouldn't have been Dustin Warren, right?
 - A. That was my -- that was my reason for calling her.
- Q. So calling Mark Thomas really wouldn't achieve anything that you had already achieved with a witness with no record?
- A. That was why I had Anique Pittman to what she testified, that she could get into evidence what Mr. Warren wanted testified to in a more credible way than Mr. Thomas or Brandon Elps.
- Q. Okay. And if Mark Thomas and Cassie Flowers had been pulled over here in orange jumpsuits, based on what you knew the evidence was, based on their records, would you have put them on the stand anyway?
 - A. Absolutely not.

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16:13:12
                                (State's Exhibit MAR Number [4] marked for
           1
16:13:12
                                identification.)
           2
                BY MR. SPENCE
16:13:12
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                    Q.
                          And the last question is -- I'm going to mark -- I
                have marked for identification State's MAR [4]. This is the --
16:13:16
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                this is part of the MAR Mr. Megaro filed, Affidavit of Dustin
16:13:30
           7
                Warren.
                         If you could read -- have you seen that before?
16:13:34
           8
                    Α.
                          Yes.
16:13:35
           9
                    Q.
                          And I provided you with that as part of the MAR last
16:13:38
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                week, or --
16:13:38
          11
                    Α.
                          Yes, you did.
                           -- early this week?
16:13:39
          12
                    Q.
16:13:41
          13
                          Correct.
                    Α.
                          And did you read paragraph one of that -- of
16:13:41
          14
                    Q.
16:13:44
                Mr. Warren's affidavit?
          15
16:13:45
          16
                    Α.
                           I did.
16:13:45
                          Is it something regarding the Motion to Suppress?
          17
                    Q.
16:13:48
          18
                          Yes.
                    Α.
                          Would you read that and tell us if that's true or not.
16:13:49
          19
                    Q.
16:13:51
          20
                           "Number one: When my trial lawyer -- lawyer filed a
                    Α.
16:13:54
          21
                motion to suppress the evidence it was because I drew it up and
16:13:57
          22
                told him to file it. It was supposed to be a joint motion by my
                lawyer and the lawyer for Heather Kennon. When the State
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                figured this out, Heather Kennon immediately was offered full
16:14:05
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                immunity to testify against me at trial, and that allowed her to
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16:14:20
                change her story for a third time. I was told that if I refused
           1
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           2
                to take a plea, Heather Kennon was going to throw me under the
                bus."
16:14:26
           3
16:14:27
                    Q.
                          Okav.
                                 But just the first sentence, did Dustin Warren
                draft a motion to suppress in this case?
16:14:30
           5
16:14:32
           6
                    Α.
                          No.
16:14:32
                          MR. SPENCE:
                                        Offer State's MAR [4].
16:14:43
           8
                          THE COURT:
                                       Any objection?
16:14:44
           9
                          MR. SPENCE:
                                        That statement in it.
16:14:47
          10
                          MR. MEGARO:
                                        I mean, I have no objection. It's part
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          11
                of the record, Your Honor, so --
16:14:50
                          THE COURT:
          12
                                       0kay.
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                          MR. MEGARO:
                                        And it's in the court file, so --
16:14:54
                          THE COURT:
                                       Okay. The Court receives it.
          14
16:14:56
                                (State's Exhibit MAR Number [4] received in
          15
                                evidence.)
16:14:56
          16
16:14:56
                          MR. SPENCE:
                                        That's all I have of Mr. Fulcher.
          17
                                       Anything further?
16:14:58
          18
                          THE COURT:
16:15:02
                                        One moment please.
          19
                          MR. MEGARO:
                          THE COURT:
16:15:03
          20
                                       Sure.
16:15:03
          21
                RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. MEGARO
                          Mr. Fulcher, did Mr. Warren ever send you a
16:15:04
          22
                    Q.
                handwritten -- a handwritten letter concerning suppression --
16:15:20
          23
                sorry -- concerning notes on the suppression motion?
16:15:27
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                          He sent me some information that he thought was
                    Α.
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relevant, but the -- to be honest with you, the motion to suppress was myself and Mr. Suggs, who was the co-defendant at the time. We were kind of working together, because we were -- thought we were going to have a double trial -- worked together on that motion to suppress.

- Q. And the documents that Mr. -- Mr. Warren had sent you included citations to case law, a draft motion for speedy trial, statutes on conspiracy, and appears to be some pages from a practice treatise regarding --
- A. Mr. Warren was always sending me information, so he very well could have sent that. As I said, the motion to suppress was -- was actually drafted by me and Mr. Suggs with jointly talking about the case and things that he had discovered and I discovered, and there were some things that Mr. Warren had brought to my attention. But, no, he did not personally draft the motion to suppress.
- Q. Is it safe to say that at least part of what

 Mr. Warren gave to you made its way into the suppression motion?
- A. Some of the things that he put on there, yes, that were relevant.

MR. MEGARO: Thank you. Nothing further, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You may stand down.

(The witness stepped down from the witness stand.)

MR. SPENCE: That's all I have. I have Chris Suggs,

16:16:46	1	very briefly.	
16:17:06	2	(The witness was duly sworn and took the witness	ess
16:17:06	3	stand.)	
16:17:06	4		
16:17:06	5	CHRIS SUGGS,	
16:17:06	6	having been first duly sworn, at 4:17 p.m. was called as a	
16:17:06	7	witness on behalf of the State and testified as follows:	
16:17:06	8	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SPENCE	
	9	Q. State your name for the record, please.	
16:17:09	10	A. Chris Suggs.	
16:17:10	11	Q. And, Mr. Suggs, you're a member of the State Bar in	n
16:17:12	12	North Carolina; is that correct?	
16:17:13	13	A. That's correct.	
16:17:14	14	Q. And you practice in Carteret County. When was the	
16:17:16	15	date that you first started practicing here, approximately?	
16:17:21	16	A. Approximately six years.	
16:17:23	17	Q. Okay. Did you represent Heather Kennon, the	
16:17:25	18	co-defendant in this particular case?	
16:17:27	19	A. I did.	
16:17:28	20	Q. And were you present when she testified at trial?	
16:17:32	21	A. I was.	
16:17:32	22	Q. And she had a plea-agreement with the State to plea	ad
16:17:36	23	to something lesser and testify truthfully; is that correct?	
16:17:39	24	A. That's correct.	
16:17:40	25	Q. And after when watching her testify, did you have	ve

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some concerns about whether that plea-agreement would hold up based on the way she performed on the stand?

A. I was concerned during her testimony that she may not get the benefit of the agreement that we made, because her testimony was, I would say, very poor, hard to believe, hard to follow.

Q. Okay. Did she, several times in her testimony, openly admit that she was under the influence of drugs during this whole time?

A. She did.

Q. And had a hard time remembering things?

A. She did.

Q. And all that came out in the State's case and defense case?

A. As I recall, that's correct.

Q. Okay. And how was she -- how did the State refer to her during their closing argument? As a co-defendant, or something else?

A. I remember during your closing, Mr. Spence, you referred to my client, Ms. Kennon, as more of an exhibit than a witness; an example of what drugs might do to a person, something along those lines.

Q. As opposed to a credible witness about believing her?

A. That's correct.

Q. Again, she took advantage of this and she pled guilty;

Do you

is that correct? 16:18:541 16:18:55 2 Α. I believe so. And is no longer in the court system, as far as you 16:18:56 3 Q. 16:19:00 know? 16:19:00 As far as I know. 5 Α. 16:19:01 6 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this: You practice law. know Rodney Fulcher? 16:19:08 7 16:19:09 8 Α. I do. 16:19:10 9 Q. And do you know his reputation as a criminal defense 16:19:13 10 lawyer here in Carteret County? 16:19:14 11 Α. I'm familiar with Mr. Fulcher's reputation. Is there anything that you know about this case and 16:19:15 12Q. 16:19:18 13 your involvement in the case, watching the trial, watching the witnesses -- and you've been here for this entire hearing; is 16:19:21 14 16:19:23 15 that correct? 16:19:24 16 That's correct. Α. Do you feel that Mr. Fulcher was deficient in not 16:19:2517 Q. 16:19:29 18 calling Cassie Flowers --16:19:30 MR. MEGARO: I'm going to object to the question, Your 19 16:19:31 20 Honor. 16:19:31 21MR. SPENCE: -- and Mark Thomas? 16:19:31 22 THE COURT: Sustained. That's a question for the Court. 16:19:33 23 16:19:33 24MR. SPENCE: No further questions.

THE COURT:

That's -- that's a question for the Court

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to answer.

MR. SPENCE: No further questions.

THE COURT: Any cross-examination?

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. MEGARO

- Q. Mr. Suggs, were you appointed or hired by Ms. Kennon?
- A. I was appointed by the Public Defender's office.
- Q. Okay. And were you the first attorney on her case?
- A. I don't recall. I believe so. The Public Defender, Mr. Wallace, may have represented her briefly before I was assigned, but I'm not aware of any lengthy representation prior to my appointment.
- Q. Do you know whether Mr. Fulcher represented her on this case prior to you entering?
 - A. I'm not aware of that, no.
- Q. Now, as Ms. Kennon's attorney, did you look into her criminal background?
 - A. I would have at the time, yes.
- Q. And that's to determine whether she would be a good witness at trial, or determine what her possible sentencing exposure would be if she were to negotiate a plea?
- A. There's a multitude of reasons I would look into my client's criminal background, yes.
 - Q. And had you ever represented her prior to this case?
 - A. I don't believe I had, no.
 - MR. MEGARO: Thank you. Nothing further for

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Mr. Suggs.

THE COURT: You may stand down.

(The witness stepped down from the witness stand.)

MR. SPENCE: That's the State's evidence.

(The State rests.)

THE COURT: I'm glad to hear you in closing arguments.

MR. MEGARO: Certainly. Your Honor, just so the Court is aware, I'm not only an appellate post-conviction attorney, I'm also a trial attorney. And I'm certainly well aware and very sensitive to the every-day realities of practicing for the defense.

I'm certainly well aware and sensitive to dealing with sometimes very difficult clients, who insist upon a course of action that I may disagree with and that may insist upon a course of defense that I disagree with.

However, I think we would not be here today if

Counsel had spoken to the witnesses, because I -- frankly, I

would probably have very little grounds to go on that would

probably not even warrant a hearing.

And what I do know and what I have learned over the years is that it is better to not leave a stone unturned and to at least speak to the witnesses, or at least go through the crime scene, or take your own photographs, you take your own measurements, and never to simply size something up and rely on

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it at face value, because sometimes people with very lengthy records can make the most credible witnesses over people without any records, and sometimes even over law enforcements officers.

And there's only one way to determine whether a witness would make a credible witness, a valuable witness or not, and that's to sit down with that witness, interview them face to face, and ascertain their own body language and the manner in which they tell you the story, and to compare that to what other witnesses would say, compare that to other evidence in the case.

There is a long line of cases that -- and this is all over in the Federal system as well -- that essentially stand for the proposition that failure to investigate can only be justified when there would be no legitimate reason to investigate.

And courts are generally loath to endorse a failure to at least speak with a witness, especially when one is certainly available. And on the one hand, and as I told my client, coming -- before coming here today, on the one hand, we all want perfect witnesses. We all want witnesses that are the most moral, upright people that have no motive to lie and no skeletons in their closet, but you have to play the hand that you're dealt.

And this is true if you're the prosecution; this is true if you're the defense. Witnesses come with baggage just

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like everyone else. And it's frequently much simpler to get a witness to come to court who is incarcerated than one who is out on -- at liberty.

And as the Court, I'm sure, is well aware, we did submit an affidavit from a witness who chose not to be here today, for personal reasons, that would have added something to this case. The simple reality of the fact is, it's easier for me to secure the attendance of Cassie Flowers and Mark Thomas because they're relatively low-hanging fruit.

For that reason, I think it's incumbent upon an attorney to at least get on the phone with a witness or to bring them to court ahead of time and speak to them and size them up for themselves.

In this particular case, these witnesses would have offered something more in addition to Anique Pittman's testimony. And I understand Anique Pittman is, on her face, is the better witness. But in this particular case, Counsel knew from day one that this was not going to be a question of whether this was drugs or not, which is very common in drug cases, whether -- the question is whether this is actual drugs or whether this is the threshold way to sustain this level of charge.

The question more often is one of possession and knowledge. And the question is not whether this was methamphetamine; the question was whether it was his

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methamphetamine or someone else's.

This is especially so where the co-defendant is offered a very sweet deal, probation, even given her criminal history, in order to testify that Mr. Warren was involved. So her credibility became even more heightened.

These witnesses would have added more to the testimony than -- of Anique Pittman. First, we have Mr. Elps who would have testified that this is a person who sets people up and gets people into trouble and acts in her own -- is generally not a trustworthy and truthful person. So generally, we can attack her credibility and say that she's not a trustworthy and helpful person, to a jury.

Now, there's an argument that could be made and then there would be evidence to support that argument. But additionally, Anique Pittman's testimony leaves a big hole, about nine or 10 hours, because she goes to sleep and she testifies that she doesn't see anybody until the following morning.

Mr. Thomas can account and fill in the blanks, so to speak, and add additional testimony that shows that this witness not only had access to his car, which would account for the presence of a hotel key, but the witness had been lying about several other key things.

Cassie Flowers, for whatever her faults may be, would have also testified that this witness had been specifically

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lying about certain key events. And there would have been -and I would submit that her testimony would have been very credible, because as an ex-girlfriend of this person, she would have less of an incentive to help him. And her credibility that she disliked his -- what she might perceive as his current girlfriend or new girlfriend would be even more credible, despite her -- her background.

And again, all of these witnesses would have complemented each other and corroborated each other and been corroborated by other evidence, including my client's testimony.

So there's a synergistic effect. It's not just -- we can't just look at this in a vacuum; we look at the defense as a whole. And how would this have filled in blanks and strengthened the rest of the defense? And it's clear to me that it would have.

When we talk about the two prongs of Strickland we talk about deficient performance and then prejudice. And I believe and I think the case law supports the contention that it is objectively deficient for an attorney to not even speak to a witness, and not even examine the evidence.

But the prejudice comes in -- exactly what I believe the State's going to argue which is, "So what? These witnesses wouldn't have added anything. There's still a period of time that Dustin Warren could have cooked this meth in that laboratory."

16:27:38 1 16:27:43 2 16:27:47 3 16:27:52 16:27:55 5 16:27:59 6 16:28:03 7 16:28:07 8 16:28:08 9 16:28:13 10 16:28:18 11 16:28:22 12 16:28:25 13 16:28:28 14 16:28:29 15 16:28:32 16 16:28:35 17 16:28:39 18 16:28:43 19 16:28:43 20 16:28:47 21

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And without the testimony of Mark Thomas who testified that he spoke to my client, would have corroborated his testimony that all he was doing was dropping this young woman off at this motel, and he was going to go back at an earlier time before she said that she went back to the house and that she was not in his presence for that entire night, the prejudice is that Counsel no longer has the evidence to make those arguments to the jury.

And, in addition, the prejudice is that Counsel no longer has the ability or has less of an ability to make the argument falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus, which defense attorneys love to make. If you can't trust this person as to one thing, you're free to disregard her testimony as to everything.

There would have been evidence and testimony in the record that was supported by other evidence that that witness had testified falsely about certain material facts; that that would have given Counsel the opportunity to make that argument at trial.

And I believe that the case -- and I believe the case law supports that, and the more evidence the better. And the more strength that a defense lawyer has to make these arguments as disposed to a jury, especially when there's a jury trial, the higher the degree of prejudice.

So I would ask the Court to grant the Motion for

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Appropriate Relief, search through the record -- I believe there are plenty of instances that are in the record that support the arguments that I make here today -- and vacate my client's convictions and order a new trial.

And if the Court has any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

MR. SPENCE: Judge, I'll try to be brief. You can boil this all down to simply one question: Was it deficient when Mr. Fulcher did not call Mark Thomas or Cassie Flowers to testify?

Under Strickland, was it deficient not to call those two witnesses with extremely horrific criminal histories, and also given the fact that both were active drug addicts during the time?

To put it another way, I have done this job for almost 27 years. And I -- if it would have been legal, I'd have almost paid Mr. Fulcher to put them on, because I could have made so much more hay with those two on the stand in advancing my case -- I could have tied just their character to this defendant, the fact they were associates of his -- than I could have ever done.

The jury heard from Heather Kennon. They heard all her faults, all her inadequacies. They heard from Anique Pittman, a clean witness, who gave a complete alibi to Dustin

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16:31:29 17 16:31:37 18 16:31:45 19 16:31:51 20

16:31:26

16:32:00 22 16:32:04 23

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Warren.

Again, I'm sure Mr. Warren doesn't think this was a good performance, because he didn't win. And sometimes, there are defendants who believe they just simply have the right to prevail on their own terms.

I'm sure Your Honor, in looking at this case, would look at your career as a defense lawyer and think -- and what you've heard -- would you call those two people, given what you know about them, the way they testified, what they said under oath today, contradicting each other even today?

Your Honor, the cases Mr. Megaro -- I actually didn't hear any cites -- but there's a -- there's a string of cases in North Carolina which found it not ineffective to either call, prepare or investigate certain witnesses, in one case 22 witnesses. That's State versus Swann.

Again, the cases I would cite, and I can pull those for you, are State versus Gary, 348 N.C. 510, 1998; State versus Swann, 322 N.C. 666; State versus Miller, 142 N.C. App. 435; State versus Blackwell, 133 N.C. App. 31; State versus Braswell, 312 N.C. 553, all dealing with a counsel's failure to include witnesses on the list, subpoena them, interview them or call them. And the court, in all those cases, said it's a strategic decision and it was not unreasonable, under Strickland, to -- to not do that.

Again, if you do find that that was unreasonable not

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to call these people, I certainly don't see any -- any prejudice. Actually, I believe this case was much better without those two people. And I have given those reasons and put them in my -- my written response in this case.

Again, I would argue that Mr. Megaro's burden is by a preponderance of the evidence. This was a violation of a constitutional right to have a lawyer prepared, under the Strickland standards. I submit the transcripts will bear that out, and the law in North Carolina will bear that out.

And again, I would ask you to deny this motion which is basically just a Hail Mary, again, griping about some -- some minor details.

These witnesses would not have challenged anything in the case except minor details, which again, would not affect the jury's decision in this case whatsoever.

Judge, I'd ask you deny the motion. Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. I make decisions by e-mail.

Will the parties stipulate that the Court may rule out of term and out of County?

MR. MEGARO: Yes.

THE COURT: Very good.

MR. SPENCE: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Pmegaro@halscottmegaro.com?

MR. MEGARO: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: All right. And I have Mr. Spence's.

16:33:30	1	Thank you for your preparation and your presentation. I'll
16:33:34	2	endeavor to get it to you as soon as I possibly can. But
16:33:39	3	there's a little bit of material that I feel like I need to go
16:33:41	4	through, and I will.
16:33:42	5	MR. MEGARO: Just a little.
16:33:44	6	THE COURT: Very good. Thank you. That concludes the
16:33:46	7	hearing.
16:33:46	8	(At 4:33 the proceedings were concluded.)
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16:33:46 1 CERTIFICATE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA 2 3 COUNTY OF CARTERET I, Jean Speights, RMR, do hereby certify 4 that said Transcription, pages 1 through 157, is a true, 5 6 correct, and verbatim Transcript of said proceedings. 7 I further certify that I am neither counsel 8 for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties in the 9 action in which this proceeding was heard; and further, that I 10 am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel 11 employed by the parties thereto, and am not financially or 12otherwise interested in the outcome of the action. 13 Given under my hand this 8th day of March, 14 2019. 15 16 17 18 19 Jean Speights, RMR 20 Official Court Reporter 21Second Trial Division 22 23 24

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