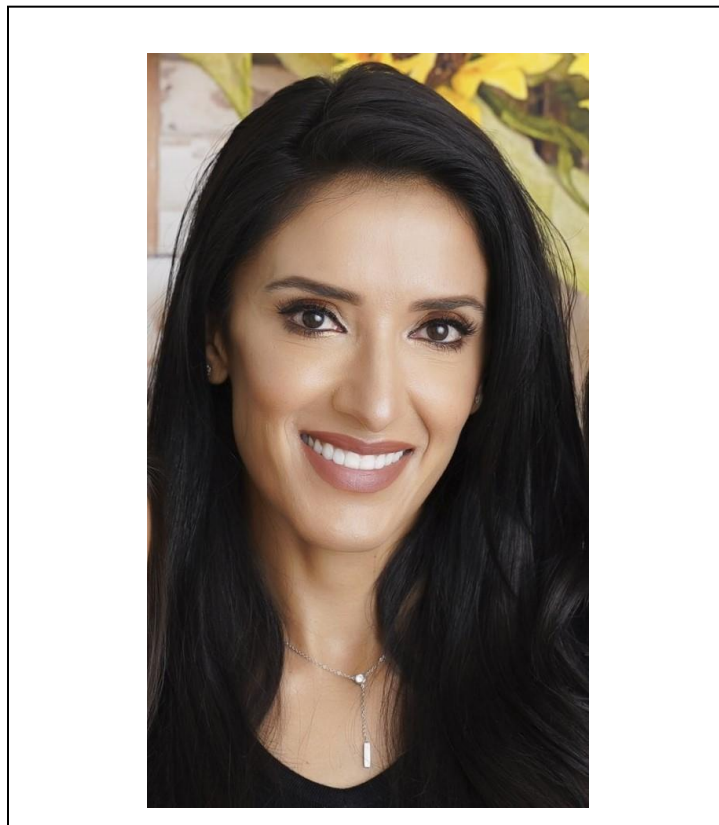


COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION APPLICATION

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT XXIV

By

(Tina Talim)



Personal Information

1.	Full Name	Tina Singh Talim
2.	Have you ever used or been known by any other legal name (including a maiden name)? If so, state name and reason for the name change and years used.	<p>Priyanka Singh – birth name, 10/17/1977-September 1985</p> <p>Priyanka Singh Talim – my mother remarried, and I was given my stepfather’s last name, October 1985 – 3/25/2002</p> <p>Priyanka Tina Talim – my childhood nickname was “Tina,” which is how I was referred to by family, friends, and in school. After the attack on the United States on September 11, 2001, I chose to become a United States citizen. As part of the naturalization process, I changed my legal middle name to “Tina.” 3/25/2002 – 4/23/2005.</p> <p>Priyanka Talim Sedlock – Marriage. I kept married last name post-divorce, 4/23/05 – 08/27/2014.</p> <p>Tina Singh Talim – 08/27/2014 – present. Returned to my maiden name and made my nickname my legal first name.</p>
3.	How long have you been a continuous resident of Nevada?	20 years.
4.	City and county of residence	Las Vegas, Clark County
5.	Age	46

Employment History

6. Please start with your current employment or most recent employment, self-employment, and periods of unemployment for the last 20 years preceding the filing of this Application.

Current or Last Employer	Office of the Clark County District Attorney
Phone	702-671-2500

Physical Address & Website	200 Lewis Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/government/departments/district_attorney/index.php
Date(s) of Employment	August 15, 2005 – Present
Supervisor's Name and Title	Steve Wolfson, District Attorney Christopher Lalli, Assistant District Attorney
Your Title	Chief Deputy District Attorney – Team Chief, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), <i>and</i> District Attorney Director of Diversity & Community Outreach
Describe Your Key Duties	<p>I am the longest serving Team Chief of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Team and one of the longest serving Team Chiefs in the history of the Clark County District Attorney's Office. This is a testament to my managerial strengths and the District Attorney's faith in my ability to lead a group of attorneys and staff.</p> <p>During my tenure, I have prosecuted more drug trafficking organizations than any other prosecutor in the state of Nevada. I have reviewed more state wiretaps than any other prosecutor in the state. I am on call 24/7 to review search warrants and discuss investigations.</p> <p>As the team chief of one of the busiest specialty teams in the Clark County District Attorney's Office, I review approximately 350 felony cases a year, assess charging decisions, keep statistics on the HIDTA caseload, handle administrative matters, carry a caseload equal to the junior attorneys on my team, and liaison with heads of multiple local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>Over the course of my career, I have tried 35 felony cases, conducted hundreds of preliminary hearings and grand jury presentations, and prosecuted several thousand felony cases. I have appeared in every Justice Court and District Court which hears criminal matters.</p> <p>I carry a caseload of over 100 felony cases a year. After a thorough and detailed review of the evidence in every case I assume, I make appropriate charging decisions, gather, and review discovery, speak with victims, witnesses, and defense attorneys, and decide whether to offer a plea negotiation. For the cases I have set for trial, I review all evidence, request follow-up investigation or testing of evidence, issue subpoenas, interview victims and witnesses, file all appropriate pleadings and notices, and respond to all pretrial motions.</p> <p>Most HIDTA cases go through the grand jury. At a grand jury presentation, I am responsible for presenting evidence -- as is the role of the prosecutor. But I am also called upon to play the role of the defense attorney by producing all</p>

<p>exculpatory evidence. Further, I am responsible for making determinations about the admissibility of evidence and safeguarding the defendant's constitutional rights by objecting to any legally violative evidence. This puts me in a unique position to be the prosecutor, defense attorney, and the judge.</p> <p>I have supervised eight HIDTA attorneys – more than any other Team Chief in the District Attorney's Office. My duty to the attorneys I supervise includes providing guidance on law and procedure. It also includes creating opportunities for their professional growth. I have regular meetings with junior attorneys to discuss their cases and address any challenges they may face. I provide constructive guidance, including for motion work, preliminary hearings, grand juries, and trials. As the HIDTA Team Chief, I am frequently called by the defense bar and asked to step in to mediate and facilitate negotiations between defenses attorney and junior prosecutors.</p> <p>My responsibilities as a supervisor includes a training component. I have trained hundreds of prosecutors on various areas of law, procedure, and policy. I regularly train local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies on proper report writing, courtroom testimony, and constitutional law. Three times a year, I train newly selected grand jurors, giving them an overview of criminal justice system. My training responsibilities enable me to reach those inside the office and extend to the citizens of Clark County.</p> <p>I directly supervise a team of law school interns and externs. I familiarize the group with the District Attorney's Office, its mission, and practices. I provide the group with meaningful legal projects that align with their interests and career goals. These projects include legal research, drafting memos and briefs, assisting with case preparation, and attending victim interviews, settlement conferences, and court hearings. I review all written products and supervise interns during preliminary hearings, grand jury presentations, and during motion arguments. By providing guidance, mentorship, and practical training, I help our interns develop their legal skills and gain valuable experience, while preparing them as the next generation of attorneys. For my efforts with the interns, I consistently rank as one of the top District Attorney Mentors.</p> <p>I regularly work directly with the youth of Clark County. I collaborate with various organizations, including but not limited to LVMPD, the City of Henderson, Girl Scouts of America, Boys & Girls Club, National Charity League, Young Men's Service League, and the Clark County School District to speak with youth about the dangers of drugs.</p> <p>I remain on the forefront of the changing landscape of Clark County. In response to the fentanyl crisis and the number of fatal overdose deaths, I assisted in the creation of LVMPD's Overdose Response Team – a team of detectives dedicated to drug overdose death investigations. I led the first prosecution of a drug dealer charged with murder for distributing drugs resulting</p>
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<p>in death. I supervise the prosecution of all fentanyl overdose murder cases. These cases involve complex discovery and prelitigation motions.</p> <p>I drafted the “District Attorney Fentanyl Advisement” which is a notice given in every fentanyl-related case in Clark County. Through the advisement, the defendant is informed that if he/she sells someone a drug which causes that person’s death, the State will charge the defendant with murder.</p> <p>I serve as the liaison between the District Attorney’s Office and HIDTA agencies, including but not limited to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, North Las Vegas Police Department, Henderson Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, Homeland Security, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I meet with the heads of these agencies to discuss constitutional issues, changes in case and statutory law, and current trends in Nevada. I liaison with the United State Attorney’s Office on narcotics cases being considered for federal prosecution.</p> <p>In 2023, I lobbied the District Attorney Administration to create a position to address the need for a more diverse attorney workforce. Backed by fact-based data, I offered a plan to work with community leaders to help build trust in the criminal justice system and specifically with the District Attorney’s Office. For my efforts, I was appointed the District Attorney “Director of Diversity & Community Outreach.”</p> <p>I am the first person in the nearly 115-year history of the District Attorney’s Office to be given this position. I take on the responsibilities of this role <i>in addition</i> to my responsibilities as the Team Chief of HIDTA.</p> <p>I work with UNLV and the William S. Boyd School of Law to create pipelines between the District Attorney’s Office and historically underrepresented and marginalized populations. I was the first prosecutor to collaborate with UNLV’s Justice Douglas PreLaw Fellowship Program and become a featured panelist, giving my perspective on being a minority female in a leadership position at the District Attorney’s Office.</p> <p>I work with underrepresented populations in high schools and with organizations which encourage first generation students to go to college and law school. I work with the State Bar of Nevada and the Clark County Bar Association to make the District Attorney’s Office more visible and accessible. I am on the District Attorney Hiring Committee and am critical in the conversation about hiring decisions.</p> <p>Based on my initiatives, for the first time in its history, the District Attorney’s Office was awarded the State Bar of Nevada’s DEI Medallion.</p>
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	Combining my roles of Director of Diversity and Community Outreach and a Team Chief, I create initiatives ensuring the District Attorney's Office fosters an environment where employees are seen, heard, and respected. In this role, I work with representatives from every job classification – from secretaries to investigators to attorneys – to create opportunities to come together to promote the mission of the District Attorney's Office.
Reason for Leaving	Presently employed.

Employer	Lifetime Fitness, Self-employed
Phone	702-802-7300
Address & Website	121 Carnegie Street, Henderson, Nevada
Date(s) of Employment	April 2023 – Present
Supervisor's Name and Title	Shaun Hayes, Manager
Your Title	Certified Pilates Reformer Instructor
Describe Your Key Duties	Plan classes and guide individuals through exercises that improve strength, flexibility, and posture using Pilates techniques and equipment.
Reason for Leaving	Presently employed at 3-6 hours per week.

Previous Employer	Alverson Taylor Mortensen Sanders
Phone	Permanently closed
Address & Website	Permanently closed
Date(s) of Employment	March 2025 - July 2025
Supervisor's Name and Title	Diane Roth Partner
Your Title	Associate Attorney
Describe Your Key Duties	Assisted senior attorneys in litigation preparation on cases involving allegations of medical negligence or malpractice. This included reviewing medical malpractice cases to assess their merits, gathering pertinent medical records, consulting with medical experts, and determining the strength of the cases. I assisted with legal research on evidentiary issues and drafted relevant motions, prepared interrogatories, drafted deposition questions, reviewed deposition transcripts, and produced trial strategies.
Reason for Leaving	Since my second year of law school, I knew I wanted to be a prosecutor. Although I found civil litigation practice to be rewarding, when I was offered a position with the Office of the Clark County District Attorney's Office, I left civil practice.

<p align="center">Educational Background</p>

7. List names and addresses of high schools, colleges, and graduate schools (other than law school) attended; dates of attendance; certificates or degrees awarded; reason for leaving.

University High School
11800 Texas Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90025
August 1992 - June 1996
High School Diploma
Graduated

Santa Monica Community College
1900 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, California 90405
August 1996 – December 1998
Associate of Arts
Transferred to 4-year university.

University of California - Los Angeles
405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, California
January 1999 – June 2001
Bachelor of Arts – Sociology
Graduated with Honors

8. Describe significant high school and college activities including extracurricular activities, positions of leadership, special projects that contributed to the learning experience.

High School

- Journalism (1995-1996). When I emigrated to the United States as a young child, I did not know English. I struggled in school because I did not speak, nor did I write, English. Fast forward to high school when I was assigned journalism as an elective -- I hoped I could get by just taking photos and not have to interview anyone or write articles. Then my journalism teacher encouraged me to try writing. After a short time being a featured writer, I was promoted to editor. I then competed in local and national writing competitions, ultimately winning a state journalism award for writing an article about inhumane working conditions in clothing factories. My struggle with the English language ultimately grew into a passion for the written word. I believe this experience contributed immensely to my experience today as a lawyer as much of what I do involves reading, analyzing facts and the law, and writing motions.
- During high school, my main extra-curricular activity was martial arts. Practicing Tae Kwon Do fostered confidence and self-esteem as I advanced in belt rankings and went to competitions. It also taught me discipline, focus, self-control through structured training and routines, as well as respect for others.
- During my summers in high school, I had a job with the City of Los Angeles as a camp counselor. Working with large groups of children taught me patience and helped develop my skills as a negotiator when mediating conflict between children.

College

- All throughout my high school and college career, I worked part-time in my family's Indian restaurant. I worked in the kitchen and as a waitress. My experience of waiting tables and dealing with unhappy customers has helped me in my career tremendously. With the practice of law, we often deal with victims and witnesses who may not be pleased with the way a case is being prosecuted or negotiated. Waiting tables and dealing with issues on the fly has helped me hone my mediation and conflict-resolution skills.
 - I have always loved studying history. As part of a Southeast Asia History class at UCLA, I authored a dissertation on the India-Pakistan conflict. My grandfather, father, and all six uncles were in the Indian Army. They fought in every India-Pakistan war since partition. Growing up, every conversation in my household that touched upon the India-Pakistan conflict was one-sided. It was unavoidable that I came into this class, and my dissertation, with a bias. Being aware of this, I worked hard to set aside my bias in analyzing the issues and approaching history with objectivity and empathy. This required acknowledging the complexity of the situation, understanding the perspective of both sides, and examining historical events and narratives critically. By focusing on information, reading diverse perspectives, and avoiding preconceived notions, I was able to produce a paper that was balanced, fair, and fostered constructive dialogue. This project has continued to serve me as a lawyer and will continue to serve me as a District Court Judge. I am capable of setting aside biases and taking time to research positions before coming to a decision.
 - Indian Student Union – as a member of the Indian Student Union at UCLA, I actively engaged in creating programs that brought the diversity and richness of the South Asian diaspora to the UCLA community. I helped produce shows that included performances by our own students highlighting different dances from the various populations of the Indian subcontinent. This included Bhangra representing Punjab, Garba representing Gujarat, Kathak representing Northern India, and the oldest dance tradition in India - Bharatanatyum from Tamil Nadu. Sharing a part of my culture with the UCLA community paved the way for me to continue to engage with diverse populations and foster environments where diversity and individuality is celebrated.
9. List names and addresses of law schools attended; degree and date awarded; your rank in your graduating class; if more than one law school attended, explain reason for change.

Pepperdine Caruso School of Law
24255 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA 90263
Juris Doctorate, June 2004
Unranked

10. Indicate whether you were employed during law school, whether the employment was full-time or part-time, the nature of your employment, the name(s) of your employer(s), and dates of employment.

I financed my law school education through employment, scholarships, and loans. To cover the cost of my education, I maintained part-time employment at the two law firms noted below.

Law Office of Maureen Stubbs (2003) – I was the sole employee and case manager at this family and estate planning law firm. I was responsible for maintaining case files, client intake,

gathering necessary client information, and regularly communicating with clients regarding case status and updates. I researched relevant and applicable laws, regulations, and legal precedents to develop theories and strategies for cases involving family and estate planning issues. Coming into this experience, I knew nothing about family law or estate planning. But I did the work and learned this area of the law and was quickly able to produce work that contributed to the law firm and its clients.

Law Office of Shawn Khorrami (2004) – I was a pre and post bar exam law clerk at this personal injury law firm. I worked with a team of attorneys, including the named partner, on various cases including class-action tobacco litigation. I learned this area of law on the job by reviewing relevant statutes and legal precedent. I assisted with forming the “class” by finding a group of individuals who had similar legal claims against tobacco companies. I did this by conducting interviews and client intake. After gathering a group which met the legal requirements for class action, I helped my supervising attorneys seek certification with the Court. I further helped attorneys prepare for depositions, court hearings, and trial by reviewing facts and relevant laws and legal precedents. I accompanied attorneys to court hearing and got a real glimpse into the practice of civil law.

11. Describe significant law school activities including offices held, other leadership positions, clinics participated in, and extracurricular activities.

Pepperdine School of Law, London – after my first year of law school, I took the opportunity to study abroad in London. In London, I experienced the British legal system in which the American justice system is deeply rooted, dating back to the colonial period when English common law served as the foundation for early American jurisprudence. Many aspects of the American legal system including the structure of courts and trial procedures were quickly identifiable during my time spent with the Inns of Court. I had the opportunity to engage in legal debates, mock trials and networking and professional events.

Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office – during my second (2002) and third year of law school (2003), I interned with the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office. I worked under the direct supervision of several deputy district attorneys. I authored and successfully argued substantive motions, including those dealing with 4th and 5th amendment suppression issues, specifically allegations of unreasonable searches and seizures and Miranda violations. I argued successfully on behalf of the State of California and prevailed on every motion. I conducted many preliminary hearings. I second-chaired two felony trials, including a homicide trial under the direct supervision of a seasoned homicide prosecutor. By the end of my internship with the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office, I knew I wanted to be a trial attorney, specifically a prosecutor.

Pepperdine Mock Trial – In 2004, I competed in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition. The competition involved working in a team with three other law students simulating real courtroom proceedings, and presenting evidence based on a fictional case. Preparation for the competition was intense as I delved into the law and practiced my advocacy skills and courtroom techniques. In our first round of competition, we competed in Boston, Massachusetts. After winning that competition, my team advanced to Nationals. As

fate would have it, Nationals were held in Las Vegas, Nevada. I had never been in a national competition or to Las Vegas. Although the pressure of competition was high, so was the camaraderie between my team. We won Nationals, I was awarded “Best Plaintiff’s Lawyer,” and I left Las Vegas knowing I would be back. Less than two years later, I was back in Las Vegas as a licensed attorney.

Black Law Students Association (2003 -2004) – As a member of BLSA, I actively participated in event planning and recruiting speakers to come to campus and share their experiences with the diverse law student body population at Pepperdine.

Phi Alpha Delta (2002 -2004) – As a member of this co-ed fraternity in law school, I actively engaged in professional development, academic support, and networking opportunities. I regularly attended meetings, participated in guest lectures, and engaged in community service events with fellow law students and alumni.

Law Practice

12. State the year you were admitted to the Nevada Bar.

2005

13. Name states (other than Nevada) where you are or were admitted to practice law and your year of admission.

California, 2004

14. Have you ever been suspended, disbarred, or voluntarily resigned from the practice of law in Nevada or any other state? If so, describe the circumstance, dates, and locations.

Yes

Although I am licensed to practice law in California, I have never done so. In 2008, I inadvertently failed to pay bar dues in California, was briefly suspended, but immediately reinstated after paying dues.

15. Estimate what percentage of your work over the last five years has involved litigation matters, distinguishing between trial and appellate courts. For judges, answer questions 16-20 for the five years directly preceding your appointment or election to the bench.

As a Chief Deputy District Attorney, I am in court every day at arraignments, arguing bail motions, recommending sentences, and presenting cases to Judges and the Grand Jury. 100% of my work has involved litigation matters in trial court.

16. Estimate percentage of time spent on:

Legal Discipline	Percentage of Practice
Domestic/family	0
Juvenile matters	0
Trial court civil	0
Appellate civil	0
Trial court criminal	95
Appellate criminal	5
Administrative litigation	0
Other: Please describe	0

17. In the past five years, what percentage of your litigation matters involved cases set for jury trials vs. non-jury trials?

In the past five years, 100% of my litigation matters involved cases set for jury trial. I have had no litigation matters set for non-jury trial.

18. Give the approximate number of jury cases tried to a conclusion during the past five years with you as lead counsel. Give the approximate number of non-jury cases tried to a decision in the same period.

In my 20-year career as an attorney, I have tried 35 felony trials in the Eighth Judicial District Court, with the majority as lead or sole counsel. These cases include robbery, sexual assault, narcotics, gang, and multiple homicide prosecutions. My last two trials were capital murder cases, involving complex issues, extensive pre-trial motions, and death penalty hearings.

While I currently have several cases set for jury trial, in the past five years I have not tried a case to conclusion. This is attributable to the fact that I am a Team Chief and have supervisory, management, and administrative duties. Moreover, much of the work on a HIDTA case is done prior to a criminal complaint even being filed. Focusing on disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations means my time and resources are spent reviewing electronic surveillance and building the case. Over 99% of our criminal cases are negotiated by way of plea bargains. HIDTA cases involve extremely large weights of narcotics, and the state's evidence is generally very strong. HIDTA cases often settle prior to trial which has allowed me to develop strong negotiation and settlement skills. Finally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, very few cases were taken to trial over a nearly two-year period.

My record of 35 felony jury trials, hundreds of preliminary hearings, hundreds of grand jury presentations, and litigating thousands of evidentiary and pretrial motions, make me uniquely qualified to serve as a District Court Judge. I am intimately familiar with the state court system and have spent 20 years practicing in the courts to which I now apply.

19. List courts and counties in any state where you have practiced in the past five years.

Nevada Supreme Court

Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada
 Justice Court, Las Vegas Township, Clark County, Nevada
 Justice Court, Henderson Township, Clark County, Nevada
 Justice Court, Goodsprings Township, Clark County, Nevada
 Justice Court North Las Vegas Township, Clark County, Nevada
 Justice Court, Laughlin Township, Clark County, Nevada

20. List by case name and date the five cases of most significance to you (not including cases pending in which you have been involved), complete the following tables:

Case 1
Case name and date: <i>State of Nevada v. Mareli Hernandez</i> <i>C-24-379772-1</i> <i>April 17, 2024</i>
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: <i>Eighth Judicial District Court, Judge Jennifer Schwartz</i> <i>Anthony Goldstein, defense counsel</i> <i>Tina Talim, Clark County District Attorney's Office</i>
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: <p>This case highlights what it means to be a prosecutor. Our role is to seek justice, and justice means doing the right thing for the victims of crime, for our community, <i>and</i> for the defendant.</p> <p>In this case, defendant sold over a pound of cocaine to an undercover police officer on four different occasions. The undercover buys were all captured on audio and video recordings. Defendant's guilt was clear, and my evidence was overwhelming. The case was a prosecutor's dream. All I had to do was press play at trial. Defendant faced four counts of Trafficking in a Controlled Substance, punishable by 10 years to Life in prison -- per count -- for an aggregate term of 40 years to life.</p> <p>When I learned the defendant was 17 years old at the time she committed the crimes, everything changed. Despite having such an overwhelming case, where I could be as sure of guilty verdicts as I've ever been, I knew the right thing to do was not take this case to trial. To send a 17-year-old to prison for life was not the just and fair outcome for her or our community.</p> <p>I reached out to the defense attorney and got some background on the defendant. I also met with the defendant, in her attorney's presence, because I wanted to hear from her directly. I learned the defendant had an extremely difficult childhood. Her father was not in her life and her mother was in and out of prison during defendant's childhood. The defendant left home at 13. When she was 15, she got involved with a family for whom she ultimately started dealing drugs until she was arrested as part of the undercover buy program. The defendant never had a support system, nor was she ever given the tools she needed to be a successful member of society. I knew I had to find an alternative path to resolving this case.</p>

Before negotiating a case, it is of utmost importance to speak with all the parties involved. This includes the LVMPD detectives who had spent months investigating this drug trafficking organization, getting search warrants, and making arrests. So, I met with the detectives in the case and sought their input. Like me, the detectives agreed that the defendant, despite selling such large quantities of cocaine, deserved a second chance.

Even though this case would have been easy to prove at trial, I believed diversion was the just resolution. I fashioned a diversion-based plea bargain for this defendant. The negotiation gave defendant an opportunity to stay out of prison and work on becoming a productive member of society. The defendant pleaded guilty to multiple felony counts and agreed to complete the "Hope for Prisoners" program. This negotiation gives the defendant the structure she needs to turn her life around. Upon successful completion of the program, the defendant will be allowed to withdraw her plea and have the case dismissed, thus not being labeled a "felon" for the rest of her life.

The fact that I helped change the trajectory of defendant's life is the epitome of what it means to be a prosecutor today. It has been so impactful watching her turn her life around. Since prosecuting this case, I have attended Hope for Prisoner's graduation ceremonies and am slated to be the keynote speaker at a future graduation.

This case also illustrates my strong relationship with the defense bar. Over my two-decade long career as an attorney, I have developed a reputation for being a fair and just prosecutor. My relationship with the defense bar, and my reputation for being fair, will benefit me tremendously as a District Court Judge.

Your role in the case:
Sole prosecutor

Case 2

Case name and date:
State of Nevada v. Raphael Castillo-Sanchez
C-217791
June 20, 2010

Court and presiding judge and all counsel:
Eight Judicial District Court, Judge Donald Mosley
Ivette Maningo and Charles Cano, Public Defender's Office
Tina Talim and Brad Turner, Clark County District Attorney's Office

Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you:

This was my first capital trial and taught me that it is only with total preparation that one can navigate things when the unexpected happens. It also taught me that judges must have complete control over their courtrooms, including holding parties accountable on trial settings and minimizing trial continuances so justice is not delayed.

In this case, defendant stabbed the victim (his wife) 87 times. The extensive motion work and pre-trial litigation that went into preparing, and trying, a capital case was monumental. Over the course of years, I spoke with the victim's surviving son, witnesses to the crime, and responding officers. I got ready for trial multiple times, only for it to be delayed through no fault of the state. After years of litigation and arguing motions and evidentiary hearings, the case went to trial. This case was different than any I had ever experienced because my key witness, who was the son of the victim and defendant, was dealing with the violent murder of his mother while having to testify against his father.

During trial, the defendant, as is his right, took the stand on his own behalf. This was the first time I had ever cross examined a defendant in such a serious case, but I was thoroughly prepared and felt confident in my ability to cross examine him and present my case. During defendant's testimony, he faked a heart attack – throwing himself from the witness stand and onto the floor in front of me. To say chaos ensued would be an understatement. Jurors jumped in shock -- one even tried to render aid. Defense counsel jumped up and hovered over the defendant.

Immediately, and with total calm, the Judge directed his clerk call for medical. He directed one Marshall to escort the jury out of the room. He directed another Marshall to stay with the defendant and ordered the parties to clear the room.

Once the defendant was cleared, trial commenced. I put behind me the chaos of the day and continued to present my case and cross-examine the defendant. I focused on the victim's son and told myself that he needed me to continue presenting the case and getting justice. After submitting the case to the jury, we quickly got a verdict of guilt. Without skipping a beat, I proceeded to the penalty phase where I walked the jury through the various sentences available to them – life with the possibility of parole, life without the possibility of parole, and death.

As a young prosecutor, the responsibility of prosecuting a capital case was great. Speaking with surviving family members and witnesses, weighing the pros and cons of going to trial, arguing extensive pretrial motions, and going toe-to-toe with seasoned defense attorneys was intimidating. But knowing I got justice for the victim's children and our community, even in the face of the chaos that ensued in the courtroom, was a very proud moment in my career.

Through this experience I learned a Judge must always control the courtroom and be cognizant of delaying trials without good cause because justice delayed is justice denied. The case also taught me one can never fully anticipate what might happen in a courtroom. No matter how prepared I was for every direct examination, every cross-examination, every objection raised by defense, I never expected the drama that unfolded when the defendant pretended to have a heart attack during testimony.

Over the course of my career, I have been privileged to have practiced in every courtroom hearing criminal matters. I have learned what makes a good judge. Controlling the courtroom

is of utmost importance as is maintaining an efficient calendar, minimizing unnecessary delays, and showing respect for counsels' time and to every party or litigant in a lawsuit.
Your role in the case: Lead Prosecutor

Case 3
Case name and date: <i>State of Nevada vs. Aria Styron</i> <i>C-21-360515</i> <i>May 12, 2022,</i>
Court and presiding judge and all counsel: <i>Eighth Judicial District Court, Judge Tierra Jones</i> <i>Augustus Claus, defense counsel</i> <i>Tina Talim, Clark County District Attorney's Office</i>
Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you: <p>“Justice” means different things to different people. This case taught me what I believe to be “justice” might conflict with what the victims want and what the community deserves.</p> <p>On March 3rd, 2021, 21-year-old Adrianna Folks was home with her dad, Brian. They were hanging out on the couch, watching a movie together. Adrianna told them she was going to Jack-in-the-Box to get food. 15 minutes later, she returned with some food and went upstairs to her room for the night. Brian later went to her room and said goodnight. The next morning, when Brian went to check on his daughter, he realized her bedroom door was locked, so he went to work. After sending Adriana multiple texts, Brian got no response and got worried. Brian returned home and kicked down the door. On her bedroom floor, Brian saw the lifeless body of his child. Adrianna had a lighter in her right hand. A shoe adjacent to the left side of her head held a piece of metal foil with brown residue and a partial round blue pill.</p> <p>LVMPD Detectives investigated the scene and learned defendant sold Adrianna the pill which killed her. Nevada Statute allows the State to charge drug dealers who sell drugs which lead to an overdose death with murder. In this case, the defendant sold the victim fake oxycodone pills laced with fentanyl. After ingesting one of the pills she bought from the defendant, Adriana overdosed and died. I charged the defendant with murder.</p> <p>Both the victim and defendant were in their early 20's. As fate would have it, the two young women were childhood friends and moved in the same social circle. After speaking with the victim's parents and the defense attorney, I offered the defendant a plea negotiation to include a guilty plea to Voluntary Manslaughter, punishable by 1-10 years in prison. Under the terms of the plea, I could ask the Judge to sentence the defendant to prison and the defendant could ask for probation.</p> <p>In this case, I believed that prison was the appropriate sentence, so I argued for the maximum time in prison. I argued this drug dealer deserved prison for killing her friend. After the defendant spoke and asked for probation, I felt confident the judge would impose prison.</p>

<p>In Nevada, the victim's family gets to speak to the judge last – after the prosecutor, after the defense attorney, and after the defendant. My victim's mother and father both spoke and talked about what they believed was the appropriate punishment for the defendant killing their daughter. The sentence they asked be imposed surprised me.</p> <p>Adriana's mother and father asked the Judge to show leniency and give the defendant probation. They said they wanted the defendant to live the life that their own daughter did not. Based, in part, on what the victim's family asked, the defendant was sentenced to probation. The judge imposed a period of incarceration in the Clark County Detention Center as a condition of probation.</p> <p>Prosecutors and victims often disagree on what is a just outcome. This case showed me "justice" means different things to different people. As a Judge, I must make tough decisions and listen to both sides, listen to the victims, and then do what is right for the victims, the defendant, and the community. By considering factors such as defendant's background and what justice means for victims of crime, as a Judge I can address the root causes of the crime and promote accountability while offering the defendant a chance at redemption.</p> <p>Your role in the case: Sole prosecutor.</p>

Case 4
<p>Case name and date: <i>State of Nevada v. Thomas Lewis</i> <i>C-240196</i> <i>August 14, 2008</i></p>
<p>Court and presiding judge and all counsel: <i>Eighth Judicial District Court</i> <i>Judge Michael Villani</i> <i>Pro Per Defendant</i> <i>Tina Talim, Clark County District Attorney's Office</i></p>
<p>Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you:</p> <p>As a prosecutor my duty is to seek justice by presenting evidence, law, and argument to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. In some cases, I am the last line of defense for the victim, ensuring their voice is heard and their rights are protected. In these cases, I am often the only thing standing between the victim and her assailant. This case is a prime example.</p> <p>This case involved a husband (defendant), wife (victim), and their children. The defendant was charged with multiple counts of Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Coercion with a Deadly Weapon. Defendant terrorized and victimized his wife and children, keeping his wife a prisoner in their home. She was not allowed to leave the home unless the defendant went with her. While he went to work, the defendant forced the victim to sit in front of a camera all day so he could watch her and prevent her from escaping. If she had to use the restroom, the victim wrote a note on a large poster board and held it in front of the camera. She was then allowed a few minutes to be off camera and had to return within the designated time. If the victim failed to obey the rule, she was ruthlessly beaten. The defendant monitored</p>

victim's phone calls, incoming and outgoing mail, and disallowed any friends. This went on for years. One day, the victim was able to escape with her children and report the crimes. Defendant was arrested and charged.

Defendant represented himself at trial. This was especially stressful for the victim because since fleeing, she wanted no contact with defendant. By virtue of representing himself, the defendant was allowed to cross-examine the victim and have a direct dialogue with her. This was traumatizing for the victim and her children as they were forced to engage with the person who terrorized them for years. During their testimony, the victim looked only at me. I believed a was a source of comfort for her and seeing me in the courtroom gave her the strength she needed to tell her story.

On cross-examination and during his closing statement, the defendant blamed the victim for making him do the things he had done to her. After my rebuttal argument, the jury took less than an hour to convict the defendant of all charges. At sentencing, I asked for the maximum term in prison for each count and to run the counts consecutive. The Judge agreed and sentenced the defendant to 12.5 to 30 years in the Nevada Department of Corrections.

During my nearly two-decade long career as a prosecutor, I often reflect on this case because it reminds me that, sometimes, I am the only thing standing between a victim and her assailant. In the courtroom, as the defendant cross-examined her, she looked only at me. I was the only person standing in defendant's way and keeping him from making her a victim yet again. To have been that person for so many victims has been an honor.

This case was also significant because of the duty owed to pro per defendants -- individuals who choose to represent themselves in legal proceedings. Pro per defendants often lack legal expertise and may face difficulties navigating through the legal system. In this case, the defendant was unfamiliar with the rules of evidence. Rather than take advantage, I took it upon myself to afford the defendant every opportunity to present his case. This took tremendous patience and fairness when interacting with him. This was done while zealously advocating for the victim. By upholding my duty to all parties, to the court, and to the legal profession, I helped ensure justice was administered fairly.

Your role in the case: Sole prosecutor

Case 5

Case name and date:

State of Nevada vs. Angelo Loza

C-22-364417-1

July 18, 2023

Court and presiding judge and all counsel:

Eight Judicial District Court, Judge Jacqueline Bluth

Nicholas Woolridge, defense counsel

Tina Talim, Clark County District Attorney's Office

Importance of the case to you and the case's impact on you:

There are cases in a trial attorney's life that never leave them. This is that case for me. It is the case I use when I teach drug awareness to the youth of Clark County because the victim in this case was only 16-year-old when he died of a drug overdose. Each time I speak about the victim, Louis Steyer, I am reminded of the devastation fentanyl has caused in our community. I am reminded of the unimaginable pain of a mother and father who have lost their child to this drug.

On July 4, 2021, Tom and Michala Steyer returned home from a two-day trip. It was the first time they'd left their son Louis alone. Upon their return home, Michala walked into the house and immediately went upstairs to look for her child to tell him how much she'd missed him these last 2 days. Tom went to the backyard to light the BBQ and start the jacuzzi. It was Independence Day and their small family had planned on grilling and watching the fireworks.

When she ascended the stairs to look for her son, Michala saw blood everywhere. She saw trashcans filled with vomit. Then she saw her son on the couch, slumped over. He was dead. Tom, still outside, heard screams coming from Michala. He ran inside and upstairs where he saw his wife holding their son's lifeless body.

In the last few minutes of his young life, Louis ran from room to room, leaving a trail of vomit as the fentanyl in his body caused his lungs to fail. He couldn't get oxygen to his brain and body. He ultimately collapsed on the couch as the poison took the life of this 16-year-old child.

LVMPD Detectives response and discovered snapchat messages on Louis' phone. Sergeants Williams learned Louis bought what he believed was Percocet from a dealer identified as "I0_702" (later identified as the defendant). Sergeant Williams, using Louis' phone, went undercover posing as Louis and sent a snapchat message to the defendant to buy more pills. Defendant agreed to sell the pills. Defendant was arrested and I charged him with murder.

I presented the case to the grand jury. Michala was inconsolable and a very difficult witness to manage. During the presentation, she was often unresponsive to my questions and spoke about legally inadmissible evidence. Because a prosecutor has a duty to only admit legal evidence, I had to object to Michala's testimony multiple times. Given she had lost her only child, this was very difficult to do. But I owed a duty to the defendant and Louis and had to protect the integrity of the case. The grand jury returned a true bill and the case moved into District Court.

Defendant ultimately took responsibility for his actions and agreed to a plea bargain. I asked for a period of incarceration and that is what the judge imposed. Throughout the pendency of the case, Michala remained inconsolable. She was in and out of the hospital and attempted suicide multiple times. Michala passed before the case concluded. She never got to see justice be served.

This case will stay with me forever. It is especially meaningful because my daughters were the same age as Louis when he overdosed so the case hit close to home. Every time I speak about this case, I think about my own children. It was because of this case that I launched my initiative to create a state-wide Fentanyl Awareness Campaign to provide information to the public, including information on drug treatment and the use of naloxone to prevent an overdose death.

As prosecutors, we see the worst in humanity. Many times, the only way to get through a case is by compartmentalizing our jobs from the rest of our lives. But this case taught me that to be a successful prosecutor, one must inject humanity into everything we do. This case was a great example because while the victim was 16, the defendant was not much older when he sold the pills. Injecting humanity into the plea bargain meant doing what is right for the victim and the defendant. As a judge, I will recognize the humanity of both the victim and the defendant and ensure justice is served in a manner that is fair, equitable, and compassionate.

Your role in the case:
Lead prosecutor

21. Do you now serve, or have you previously served as a mediator, an arbitrator, a part-time or full-time judicial officer, or a quasi-judicial officer? To the extent possible, explain each experience.

No

22. Describe any pro bono or public interest work as an attorney.

My entire career has been dedicated to public service by representing the people of the State of Nevada as a prosecutor with the Clark County District Attorney's Office. As such, I have not served in a traditional pro bono or public interest capacity, although I work with local and state bar associations to promote our profession and foster the next generation of attorneys. I also work with first generation students and encourage them to pursue careers in law.

23. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are or have been a member. Give titles and dates of offices held. List chairs or committees in such groups you believe to be of significance. Exclude information regarding your political affiliation.

South Asian Bar Association, Las Vegas – Secretary, April 2024 – Present
Asian American Group – Member, February 2024 – Present
State Bar of Nevada – Mock Trial Committee Member, January 2024 – Present
Clark County Bar Association, DICE Committee – Member, January 2024 – Present
Clark County Bar Association – Community Outreach Committee, January 2024 – Present
National District Attorney's Association – Member, August 2023 – Present

24. List all courses, seminars, or institutes you have attended relating to continuing legal education during the past five years. Are you in compliance with the continuing legal education requirements applicable to you as a lawyer or judge?

I am in compliance with the continuing legal education requirements applicable to me as a lawyer. In the past five years, I have taken the following continuing legal education courses.

2024

District Attorney's Role in the Criminal Justice System – I prepared and taught this.
Becoming White to Have Rights: The Legal History of Arab-American Racial Classification
HIDTA Prosecutions and Wiretap Investigations
Mental Health Awareness for Professionals: Substance Abuse & Suicide Prevention
Leading Diverse Teams & Organizations, University of Michigan
Issues in Co-Defendant Cases
An Introduction to American Law, University of Pennsylvania
Courtroom Demeanor – I prepared and taught this.
Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids, Western Regional Counterdrug Training Center

2023

Fentanyl Awareness – this was a CLE I prepared and taught.
Diversity in Action: Recruiting a Diverse Workplace
Spring TIP Mentor Program, State Bar of Nevada
Young Lawyers Section Trial Academy Volunteer
DEI: How to Identify Gaps in Your Office
Externs/Interns: What Judges Expect
Cultural Competency in the Legal Profession
Five Search and Seizure Questions
Everyday Ethics for Prosecutors
Courtroom Demeanor
Addressing Stress Positively

2022

At Ease

2021

Mexican Cartel Investigations (Pennsylvania National Guard)
NV Council for Prosecuting Attorney's – Prosecutor's Conference
Qualified & Prosecutorial Immunity
Legislative Update
Implicit Bias Part II
What DA's Need to Know About Air Force Prosecutions

2020

APA: Search & Seizure Update: The Legal Landscape Post-Carpenter
PAGV: Prosecutors Respond to COVID-19
National Black Prosecutors Association Rebutting the Rhetoric

Facial Recognition – Update from LVMPD
 Implicit Bias
 Legislative Changes

2019

Shotspotter – What it is & How Metro will use it.
 Sovereign Citizens: Updates & Current Trends in Clark County
 Legislative Update
 Wellness Workshop II, Provided by UNLV Medical School
 Mindfulness for Attorneys
 The Future of Crime – What Every Prosecutor Should Know
 Top 10 Things Defense Attorneys Wish We Understood
 Risks of Doing Business: Prosecutor Awareness & Safety
 Project Safe Neighborhood

25. Do you have Professional Liability Insurance or do you work for a governmental agency?

I work for a governmental agency.

Business & Occupational Experience

26. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than a judicial officer or the practice of law? If yes, please list, including the dates of your involvement with the occupation, business, or profession.

I am a certified Pilates instructor. I have been teaching Pilates since 2022. I am a certified yoga instructor and taught yoga to kids and teens from 2020 to 2023.

27. Do you currently serve or have you in the past served as a manager, officer, or director of any business enterprise, including a law practice? If so, please provide details as to:

- a. the nature of the business
- b. the nature of your duties
- c. the extent of your involvement in the administration or management of the business
- d. the terms of your service
- e. the percentage of your ownership

No.

28. List experience as an executor, trustee, or in any other fiduciary capacity. Give name, address, position title, nature of your duties, terms of service and, if any, the percentage of your ownership.

I have no experience as an executor, trustee, or in any other fiduciary capacity.

Civic Professional & Community Involvement
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29. Have you ever held an elective or appointive public office in this or any other state?

No

Have you been a candidate for such an office?

No

If so, give details, including the offices involved, whether initially appointed or elected, and the length of service. Exclude political affiliation.

30. State significant activities in which you have taken part, giving dates and offices or leadership positions.

Fentanyl Summit/Red Ribbon Week - October 23, 2024; I am currently working with community partners on a state-wide Fentanyl Summit to kick off Red Ribbon Week – a national initiative to raise awareness about drug use, particularly amongst our youth.

Hope for Prisoners - May 2024; Graduation Keynote Speaker

LVMPD DREAM Program - 2023 to present. Guest Speaker to at-risk youth.

LVMPD Office of Community Engagement - 2023 to present. On-going Guest Speaker.

Nevada's Young Men's Service League – March 2024, Guest Speaker – drug education.

National Charity League - 2023 – 2024; Guest Speaker – drug education.

Girl Scouts of America - April 2024, Guest Speaker – drug education.

The Meadows School – April 2024, Speaker, Don't Risk it All With Fentanyl Campaign

Blacks in Criminal Justice, Justice Sunday – January 2024, Keynote Speaker

Women of Metro – 2023 Keynote Speaker on Leadership.

Leaders in Training – 2023 Guest Speaker to first generation high school students.

William S. Boyd School of Law, OutLaws (LGBTQIA+ allies) – 2023, Guest Speaker.

William S. Boyd School of Law, OWLS (Organization of Women Law Students) – 2023 Guest Speaker and Mentor Organizer.

UNLV PreLaw Society – 2023, Guest Speaker – Prosecution Seminar Series

UNLV Justice Douglas PreLaw Fellowship – 2023, Panelist in Women in Law

31. Describe any courses taught at law schools or continuing education programs. Describe any lectures delivered at bar association conferences.

UNLV

A Day in the Life of a Prosecutor

William S. Boyd Law School

Non-traditional Pathways to Law

Diversity in Law

Clark County District Attorney's Office

Role of the District Attorney in the Criminal Justice System

Fentanyl Awareness

Courtroom Demeanor

Grand Jury Presentations

History of the Grand Jury

4th Amendment Search and Seizure

National District Attorneys Association

Not My Dope

Working with Confidential Informants

32. List educational, military service, service to your country, charitable, fraternal and church activities you deem significant. Indicate leadership positions.

On a monthly basis, I volunteer through Nevada Community Health Center and provide food, shelter, clothing, access to showers, and medical screenings and assessments to the unhoused population of Clark County, Nevada.

I work with the non-profit organization "Autism Cares" which provides resources for young adults with autism.

I work with local group, EKAL, an organization focused on building schools for young girls in rural India.

33. List honors, prizes, awards, or other forms of recognition.

2024 Honorarium, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, Justice Sunday

2023 Recognized by the City of Las Vegas for "Red Ribbon Week" campaign.

2022 Prosecutor of the Year – Nevada Narcotics Officers Association

2016 Prosecution Award, Henderson Police Department, Narcotics

2015 Designated Special Assistant United States Attorney

2014 LVMPD Exemplary Service Award for gang prosecution of the "F*ck the Cops" gang.

2013 Prosecutor of the Year - Nevada Narcotics Officers Association.

2012 Outstanding Investigative Effort Award, President Barack Obama

34. Have you at any time in the last 12 months belonged to, or do you currently belong to, any club or organization that in practice or policy restricts (or restricted during the time of your membership) its membership on the basis of race, religion, creed, national origin or sex? If so, detail the name and nature of the club(s) or organization(s), relevant policies and practices, and whether you intend to continue as a member if you are selected for this vacancy.

No

35. List books, articles, speeches and public statements published, or examples of opinions rendered, with citations and dates.

None

36. During the past ten years, have you been registered to vote?

Yes

Have you voted in the general elections held in those years?

Yes

37. List avocational interests and hobbies.

I practice yoga, pilates, and mindfulness – all of which help maintain and cultivate a sense of balance. I teach pilates as a hobby. I enjoy reading and just joined a book club focused on books written by South Asian authors. I am learning to play acoustic guitar -- from my musically talented twin 17-year-old daughters, who I have raised as a single parent since they were 2 and over whom I have had sole physical and legal custody since they were 12. I am currently learning Bharatanatyam -- India's oldest form of classical dance.

Conduct

38. Have you read the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct and are you able to comply if appointed?

Yes

39. Have you ever been convicted of or formally found to be in violation of federal, state or local law, ordinance or regulation? Provide details of circumstances, charges, and dispositions.

No

40. Have you ever been sanctioned, disciplined, reprimanded, found to have breached an ethics rule or to have acted unprofessionally by any judicial or bar association discipline commission, other professional organization or administrative body or military tribunal? If yes, explain. If the disciplinary action is confidential, please respond to the corresponding question in the confidential section.

No

41. Have you ever been dropped, suspended, disqualified, expelled, dismissed from, or placed on probation at any college, university, professional school or law school for any reason including scholastic, criminal, or moral? If yes, explain.

Yes

While in community college, over 25 years ago, I was placed on academic probation for falling below the requisite number of required units. This was a result of me deciding to leave college and go to beauty school. I enrolled in cosmetology classes and, six months later, left beauty school and returned to traditional college. I then took on a full unit load -- including during breaks. I quickly completed the requisite credits and transferred to UCLA from where I graduated with honors.

42. Have you ever been refused admission to or been released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable discharge? If yes, explain.

No

43. Has a lien ever been asserted against you or any property of yours that was not discharged within 30 days? If yes, explain.

No

44. Has any Bankruptcy Court in a case where you are or were the debtor, entered an order providing a creditor automatic relief from the bankruptcy stay (providing in rem relief) in any present or future bankruptcy case, related to property in which you have an interest?

No

45. Are you aware of anything that may require you to recuse or disqualify yourself from hearing a case if you are appointed to serve as a member of the judiciary? If so, please describe the circumstances where you may be required to recuse or disqualify yourself.

Yes. As the HIDTA Team Chief, I have input on most HIDTA cases and investigations. I would have to recuse myself from any case which I personally prosecuted or had input in during the investigation.

Other

46. If you have previously submitted a questionnaire or Application to this or any other judicial nominating commission, please provide the name of the commission, the approximate date(s) of submission, and the result.

47. In no more than three pages (double spaced) attached to this Application, provide a statement describing what you believe sets you apart from your peers, and explains what education, experience, personality or character traits you possess, or have acquired, that you feel qualify you as a supreme court justice. In so doing, address appellate, civil (including family law matters), and criminal processes (including criminal sentencing).
48. Detail any further information relative to your judicial candidacy that you desire to call to the attention of the members of the Commission on Judicial Selection.

For the Commission to understand why I seek an appointment to become a member of the Judiciary, after nearly two decades in public service, I take you back to 1977. I was born on an army base in India. My parents divorced when I was three. My mother moved to the United States to make a better life for herself, and ultimately for me. But at the time, it meant she came to the United States alone while I remained in India. My father, at the time a young man in the Indian Army, could not raise a three-year-old alone. So, I was sent to boarding school in Dehradun, India, located in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains. Growing up in that boarding school, we heard stories about America. It was the land where streets were paved with gold, and all your dreams come true.

Years later, I came to the United States. But life was not the fairytale I'd been expecting. My mother didn't own a house. Instead, she cleaned them for a living. My stepfather was a cashier at Pizza Hut. I remember going to Pizza Hut after school and my stepfather handing me coins with which I played arcade games to pass time until my mother finished cleaning and came to pick me up and take me home.

After years of struggle, my parents saved enough money to open a small Indian restaurant. My weekends, vacations, and summers were spent inside that restaurant. I stood by my mom in the kitchen, peeling potatoes and onions, and stirring the curries that left my young hands stained yellow with turmeric.

Over the years, I watched as my parents bought a car, then a home, then another. I graduated from UCLA, my dream school, and was on my way to law school in Malibu, California. America was starting to look like what I'd imagined when I was three years old. But only two months after starting law school, on September 11, 2001, I watched in horror as the country that gave me everything was attacked. I decided then to relinquish my Indian citizenship and pledge my allegiance to the United States and its people. I believe this is when the seed of living a life of public service was planted. Six months later, I was sworn in as a proud American citizen. Shortly after that, I moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, to forge my own path. I moved to this state because I saw opportunity here unlike anywhere else. And I have been blessed to have had a very successful career serving the public.

Nevada has allowed me to build upon the foundation my mother laid. It is where I started my career as a lawyer. It is where I bought my first house. It is where I've raised my daughters. Nevada is home. Although the streets are not paved with gold, the United States – Nevada

specifically – has given me the opportunity to create a life richer than any I would have had in India. This is why I chose a life of public service, and it is why I seek this judicial appointment.

I pledge to this Committee, and to the Governor, that there will be no one who works harder than me to be an excellent judge. A strong work ethic has been engrained in me since I was a small child. Watching my mom work harder than anyone I have ever known continues to be source of inspiration. I have never had anything handed to me. My career is built on hard work and perseverance. I know there will be a steep learning curve, and I will dedicate the time to learn the things I do not know. I will stay updated on legal developments. And I am very fortunate to have colleagues on the bench to whom I can turn, if need be.

I have twenty years of experience litigating in District Court and have appeared in nearly every department. Most days, I appear before three or four different District Court departments. I know that time is the most valuable thing for attorneys as well as victims and witnesses coming to court. I pledge to be efficient and ensure timely resolution of cases while maintaining quality and due process. I will have full days, including when in trial to respect the time of attorneys, victims and witnesses, and jurors.

I will work with the legal system partners to identify areas for improvement and implement constructive changes when needed. I will engage with the community to understand their concerns and commit to transparency, so court proceedings are accessible, and understandable, to all. I will continue to promote diversity and inclusion within the legal profession to ensure the court reflects the community it serves. To be the first Indian on the bench in the history of the state of Nevada would be an honor. And I believe it will inspire those who come from historically underrepresented minority populations to pursue our profession, thereby contributing to its diversification.

I will mentor aspiring legal professionals by having a robust intern and extern program. I will uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct, on and off the bench, to promote public confidence in the judiciary. I will be fair and impartial in all decisions and interactions.

To have the opportunity to continue my public service from the bench would be an honor, and one that I will take seriously.

49. Attach a sample of no more than ten pages of your original writing in the form of a decision, “points and authorities,” or appellate brief generated within the past five years, which demonstrates your ability to write in a logical, cohesive, concise, organized, and persuasive fashion.

Response to Question 49 follows.

Question 47 – Personal Statement

I am confident that I will make an excellent District Court Judge. In my twenty years of being an attorney, I have tried 35 felony cases, ranging from robbery, sexual assault, and homicides. I initiated the first drug-induced homicide case charged by the Clark County District Attorney's Office and have supervised the prosecution of every overdose death case. I have conducted hundreds of preliminary hearings and grand jury presentations. I have prosecuted thousands of felony cases. Each trial, hearing, and presentation is a testament to my ability to navigate complex legal issues, work closely with victims and witnesses, and ensure that equal and fair justice is served. Although my experience is largely criminal, I do have a foundational understanding of civil law which was gained during law school and my time at civil law firms in California and in Nevada; I look forward to building upon that knowledge and quickly becoming as comfortable with civil as I am with criminal law.

I have over a decade of management and supervisory experience. I have supervised more HIDTA attorneys, staff, and interns than anyone else in the history of the District Attorney's Office. Running a courtroom, calendar, and staff is an essential part of a judge's duties. Based on my experience, managing a judicial department would be a seamless transition.

I have built my career on being fair. This means being fair to crime victims and the accused. I use diversion programs when the facts warrant it and advocate for life sentences when appropriate. I always strive to do the right thing. My commitment to being fair and reasonable is evidenced by the support I have received from the defense bar in pursuing this appointment.

But what truly sets me apart from any other candidate won't be found within the four corners of my application. It won't even be found within the four walls of the courtrooms in which I appear daily. What makes me the most distinctively qualified candidate for the judicial

appointment is my service to the community and the profession, which is seen in what I do outside the courtroom. In the last year alone, I have broken barriers and created pipelines into communities which often felt unheard and unseen by criminal justice agencies, especially the District Attorney's Office. My efforts have resulted in quantifiable success.

This January, I was invited to be the keynote speaker at the "Blacks in Criminal Justice: Justice Sunday" event. A prosecutor being asked to deliver the keynote address at this national event was groundbreaking. This was an honor I earned after time spent working with various organizations to change the stigma associated with law enforcement and prosecutors, especially in minority communities. A few months later, as the representative of the District Attorney's Office, I sat with our Muslim community leaders to celebrate Laylat Al-Qadr (Night of Power) and break the fast observed during the month of Ramadan. Shortly thereafter, I was invited to the Sikh temple to speak about the criminal justice system. I was invited to spend time with the Asian community giving a presentation on elder abuse and fraud. I am uniquely situated in that I have already garnered a great amount of community support due to my tangible outreach efforts.

Furthering my dedication and outreach in the community, especially with our youth, I work with LVMPD, City of Henderson, National Charity League, Young Men's Service League, Boys and Girls Club, and other groups to raise awareness about the fentanyl crisis.

To promote the profession of law and make the criminal justice system more transparent and accessible, I have organized outreach events with historically marginalized minority populations. I organized outreach efforts with "OutLaws," the LGBTQIA+ community and its allies, to talk about the criminal justice system and careers as prosecutors. I worked with "OWLS" (Organization of Women Law Students) and coordinated a mentorship program between our prosecutors and their membership. This mentoring program resulted in seven of our deputy district

attorneys assuming a law student mentee and helping them navigate law school and careers. I work with the PreLaw Department at UNLV to promote careers in law. I manage the District Attorney representatives on affiliation-based bar associations including the Nevada Latino Bar Association, the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association, South Asian Bar Association, and the Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys.

I collaborated with groups to create a “suit closet” for law students. The donations received help give students professional apparel, at no cost, as they go to job interviews and trial competitions. I expanded the suit closet to include underserved high school students participating in mock competitions so they can be as impressively dressed as their more affluent counterparts. Efforts like these bring the legal profession into a positive light.

During National Crime Victim’s Rights Week, I organized and participated in television programs aimed at educating victims about their legal rights, providing resources for crime victims, and promoting dialogue between law enforcement, legal professionals, and community members. These outreach efforts are not only a reflection of my commitment to public service but also underscore the vital role that community engagement plays in the administration of justice and is what sets me apart from every other candidate.

I will continue to lift our profession into a positive light by engaging in similar outreach efforts from the bench. I will do this while maintaining an efficient calendar, holding court full days, and always being available to hear trials and settlement conferences. I will treat every person who walks into my courtroom with dignity and respect.

My experience as a trial attorney and supervisor makes me exceptionally qualified to be a *good* District Court judge. My involvement with the community in promoting trust in the legal system will make me a *great* District Court judge.

Question 49 – Excerpt from Reply to Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus

ARGUMENT

Introduction

In reviewing the findings of a grand jury, the Court is limited to determining “whether all of the evidence received at the grand jury proceeding establishes probable cause to believe that an offense has been committed and that the defendants committed it.” *Sheriff, Washoe Cty. v. Hodes*, 96 Nev. 184, 186 (1980). It is axiomatic that “the finding of probable cause may be based on slight, even marginal evidence[.]” *Id.* (citations and internal quotation marks omitted). Thus, “the state is not required to negate all inferences which might explain their conduct.” *Id.* (citations omitted). The State merely needs to present “enough evidence to support a reasonable inference that the defendant committed the crime charged.” *Sheriff, Clark Cty. v. Burcham*, 124 Nev. 1247, 1258 (2008) (citations and internal quotation marks omitted).

The State more than sufficiently demonstrated probable cause that Roberts committed the crimes charged. The Grand Jury properly considered all the evidence before it and returned a valid true bill against Roberts on each count. As a result, this Court should affirm the Grand Jury’s findings and deny Roberts’ petition.

I. The State presented admissible evidence.

Defendant asserts that the State impermissibly admitted hearsay evidence under NRS 51.035. A statement is not hearsay if “[t]he statement is offered against a party and is: . . . [1] [t]he party’s own statement, in either the party’s individual or a representative capacity. . . [or 2] [a] statement of which the party has manifested adoption or belief in its truth.” NRS 51.035.3(a)-(b). Additionally, hearsay evidence is admissible in certain statutorily recognized circumstances. The

State responds to each allegation of inadmissible hearsay evidence as raised in Roberts' moving papers and outlines each exception below.

Mia's Text Message and Conversations with Tyler are Admissible.

As noted below, the text messages recovered from Mia's phone were properly authenticated. The question then becomes whether Mia's statements are hearsay and, if so, what exceptions exist which render these statements admissible. As set forth below, the statements introduced by the State were admissible under multiple hearsay exceptions, including as: a present sense impression, excited utterance, statement against interest, then existing mental, emotional, or physical condition, and under the general catch-all exception.

A. NRS 51.085 Present Sense Impression.

"A statement describing or explaining an event or condition made while the declarant was perceiving the event or condition, or *immediately thereafter*," and therefore "is not inadmissible under the hearsay rule." *See Lisle v. State*, 113 Nev. 679, 690–91, (1997) (emphasis added) *overruled on other grounds by Middleton v. State*, 114 Nev. 1089, 1117 n.9, (1998); *see also* NRS 51.085. In *Lisle*, the victim telephoned his friend immediately prior to engaging in a drug sale with the Defendant. *See id.* at 690-91. Specifically, the victim said "that he would be back in fifteen minutes after completing the deal" with the defendant. *Id.* During the drug deal, defendant shot the victim. *Id.* The State introduced the victim's phone call to his friend in order to prove the identity of the defendant. *Id.* The Nevada Supreme Court held that given the temporal proximity between the victim's phone call and his subsequent interaction with the defendant, that the statement was "highly relevant to prove [Defendant] was with [Victim] at the time he was murdered" and was admissible as a present sense impression. *Id.*

In this case, within minutes after being dropped off by Roberts, Mia called Tyler to tell him about her drug usage with Roberts that evening. Mia's "statements are highly relevant to prove [Roberts] was with [Mia] at the time [she took the drugs]". See **Lisle**, 113 Nev. at 690-91. Further, given that Mia, like the victim in *Lisle*, was with the defendant within minutes of the victim's phone call, her recitation of this fact to Tyler is precisely what the present sense impression exception in NRS 51.085 encompasses.

We know from Detective William's testimony from the phone dump that Mia was picked up at approximately 2:30 am on February 18, 2021, and went to Roberts' house. We know Mia returned home from Roberts' house at approximately 4:00 am. Tyler testified he spoke with Mia around the same time. We know at his point that Mia was overdosing because Tyler watched her as she threw up. Mia was explaining an event made immediately as she perceived it. Therefore, Mia's statement to Tyler that she was throwing up and that she got the pill from Roberts are both present sense impressions and admissible as such.

B. NRS 51.095 Excited utterances.

"A statement relating to a startling event or condition made while the declarant was under the stress of excitement caused by the event or condition is not inadmissible under the hearsay rule." NRS 51.095.

In the instant case, Roberts argues the state introduced inadmissible hearsay because Tyler testified Mia sent him a text message that said she couldn't answer his face time call because he was throwing up. Petition at 10. What Roberts fails to tell the Court is shortly after Mia sent this text, she called Tyler via FaceTime during which Tyler was able to see Mia throwing up. During this same FaceTime call, as Tyler is watching Mia throw up, Mia tells Tyler she got the blue pill

from Joshua Roberts. Tyler's description of the event was such that it was apparent Mia was under extreme stress due to her body's physical reaction to the drugs she took and was overdosing on.

Tyler also testified to Mia's physical and mental condition during this time. Mia was clearly describing an event made immediately after while she was perceiving the event. Therefore, Mia's statement to Tyler that she was throwing up and that she got the pill from Roberts is also an excited utterance and admissible as such.

C. NRS 51.345 Statement against interest.

1. A statement which at the time of its making...

(d) So far tended to make the declarant an object of hatred, ridicule or social disapproval... that a reasonable person in the position of the declarant would not have made the statement unless the declarant believed it to be true is not inadmissible under the hearsay rule if the declarant is unavailable as a witness.

Mia's statements are admissible under NRS 51.345, as statements against penal and social interest. *See* NRS 51.345. "The statutory test for determining the admissibility of statements against penal interest under NRS 51.345 is whether the totality of the circumstances indicates the trustworthiness of the statement[.] . . . Corroboration by particular type of independent evidence is not required to establish the trustworthiness of the statement. . ." **Walker v. State**, 116 Nev. 670, 676 (2000). Moreover, where a statement is admitted as a statement against social interest, "[t]he circumstances that would tend to subject one to hatred, ridicule or social disapproval must be such as to directly impugn the character of the declarant. . ." **Franco v. State**, 109 Nev. 1229, 1238 (1993). "[I]t is well-settled that a statement against interest made to a close friend or relative is considered to be more reliable than a statement made to a stranger." **Walker**, 116 Nev. at 676 (citations omitted).

In this case, Mia's statements were made to Tyler, her close friend and former boyfriend. Mia's admissions of drug usage not only implicated her for possession of controlled substance in violation of NRS 453.336, they also subjected her to "social disapproval" by Tyler who had made his stance on Mia's drug use well known to her, and testified Mia knew he disapproved of using drugs. *See Franco*, 109 Nev. at 1238. Therefore, Mia's statement to Tyler that she was throwing up and that she got the pill from Roberts are also statements against interest and admissible as such.

D. NRS 51.105 Then existing mental, emotional or physical condition.

1. A statement of the declarant's then existing state of mind, emotion, sensation or physical condition, such as intent, plan, motive, design, mental feeling, pain and bodily health, is not inadmissible under the hearsay rule.

Mia's statement of her then existing state of mind and physical condition demonstrates intent – she told Tyler what she did (ingested drugs) and from where she got the drugs (Roberts). Mia told Tyler she was throwing up, and this was corroborated by Tyler watching as Mia threw up. Mia was clearly describing her mental, emotional and physical conditions. Therefore, Mia's statement to Tyler that she was throwing up and that she got the pill from Roberts are also statements of then existing mental, emotional or physical condition and admissible as such.

E. NRS 51.075 General exception; other exceptions illustrative.

A statement is not excluded by the hearsay rule if its nature and the special circumstances under which it was made offer assurances of accuracy not likely to be enhanced by calling the declarant as a witness, even though the declarant is available. NRS 51.315.

For the reasons set forth above, the State submits Mia's statements were made under circumstances which offer assurances of accuracy. Mia had no motive to lie to Tyler, who was her

close friend and former boyfriend. Furthermore, there is corroborating evidence which bolsters the accuracy of Mia's statements, including testimony from Trinity Jennings that she witnessed Roberts give molly to Mia, not once, but twice. Mia's phone logs and location also corroborate her statement that Roberts gave her the pill.

Text Messages Between Mia and Roberts Are Admissible

Roberts argues the texts from Mia's phone detailing Roberts coming to get Mia from her house and her he had molly and pills are inadmissible hearsay. These text messages were physically seen on Mia's phone and also produced as a result of the phone dump done by Detective Jacobs. Mia's text messages to Roberts provide context for Roberts' statements (which are not hearsay) that he is on his way to Mia's house and had molly and blue. Roberts' text messages corroborate what Tyler testified to --- that Mia told him she took a pill that Roberts gave her.

By statute, Roberts' own statements are not hearsay. The authorship of these text messages is indisputable. This evidence is admissible.

Roberts argues Detective Williams' testimony that the text messages indicated some type of drugs being used is hearsay. This is not hearsay. It is Detective Williams' own statement regarding his investigation and his testimony was based upon his background, training and experience.

II. The State presented Sufficient Evidence

It is well settled that a district court's function in reviewing a pretrial writ of habeas corpus challenging the sufficiency of probable cause is to determine whether enough competent evidence was presented to establish a reasonable inference that the accused committed the offenses. State v. Fuchs, 78 Nev. 63 (1962). The finding of probable cause to support a criminal charge may be based on "slight, even 'marginal' evidence . . . because it does not involve a determination of the

guilt or innocence of the accused.” Sheriff v. Hodes, 96 Nev. 184, 186, 606 P.2d 178, 180 (1980). “To commit an accused for trial, the State is not required to negate all inferences which might explain his conduct, but only to present enough evidence to support a reasonable inference that the accused committed the offense.” Kinsey v. Sheriff, 87 Nev. 361, 363, 487 P.2d 340, 341 (1971). Sheriff v. Miley, 99 Nev. 377 (1983). Thus, the court need not consider whether the evidence presented to a Grand Jury, or presented at a preliminary hearing, may, by itself, sustain a conviction, because the State need not produce the quantum of proof required to establish the guilt of the accused beyond a reasonable doubt. See Hodes, 96 Nev. at 186, 606 P.2d at 180; Miller v. Sheriff, 95 Nev. 255, 592 P.2d 952 (1979); McDonald v. Sheriff, 87 Nev. 361, 487 P.2d 340, (1971).

The Nevada Supreme Court has explicitly held that a probable cause determination is "not a substitute for trial," and that the "full and complete exploration of all facets of the case" should be reserved for trial. Marcum v. Sheriff, 85 Nev. 175, 178, 451 P.2d 845, 847 (1969); Robertson v. Sheriff, 85 Nev. 681, 683, 462 P.2d 528, 529 (1969). If the evidence produced establishes a reasonable inference that the defendant committed the crime, the probable cause to order the defendant to answer in the district court has been established. Morgan v. Sheriff, 86 Nev. 23, 467 P.2d 600 (1970). Accordingly, the issue of guilt or innocence is not involved and “the evidence need not be sufficient to support a conviction.” Kinsey, 87 Nev. at 363 (citing Masklay v. State, 85 Nev. 111, 450 P.2d 790 (1969)); Hodes, 96 Nev. at 184, 606 P.2d at 180.

Roberts claims the only evidence the State presented at grand jury that he gave her Fentanyl was the decedent’s inadmissible hearsay statements testified to by Tyler Neuhauser. Petition at 12. This is belied by the record. As noted above, Mia’s statements are all admissible by way of the various exceptions to the hearsay rule. Mia told Tyler she ingested molly and a pill given to her by

Roberts. Trinity Jennings testified she saw Roberts give molly (MDMA) to Mia, not once but twice, the same night. Keving Jennings testified Mia told him she was on molly and she wanted to see the LED lights in his room. Mia's phone location also reveal that, prior to her death, Mia was with Roberts. Finally, blue pills which later tested as fentanyl were found in Roberts' residence.

III. Expert Witness Testimony

A. Detective Williams Did Not Improperly Opine as To Cause and Manner of Death

Dr. Lisa Gavin, the State's first witness at the grand jury, opined as to Mia's cause and manner of death. Detective Williams did not. Detective Williams is not an expert in forensic toxicology or cause and manner of death, but neither is he an average person when it comes to investigating overdose death cases. Detective Williams laid a foundation as to his area of expertise, which as a member of the Overdose Response Team, includes investigation of overdose death cases. Based on Detective Williams' background, training, and experience, which includes having investigated approximately 25 overdose death cases, he testified about a foam cone that is associated with an opiate overdose and was present in Mia's case. He also testified he attended Mia's autopsy to make sure her death was not caused by something other than an opioid overdose. The evidence before Detective Williams, including the autopsy itself, caused him to believe he was appropriately investigating Mia's death as an drug overdose. Detective Williams did his job and continued his investigation as such and offered no expert testimony regarding cause and manner of Mia's death.

Interestingly, Dr. Gavin, whose expertise is not challenged by Roberts, testified about the foam cone found on Mia and opined this was indicative of an opiate overdose. So even if the Count finds Detective Williams improperly opined as to cause of death, and even if the Court strikes that

portion of his testimony, Dr. Gavin's testimony clearly proves Mia's death was caused by an opiate overdose.

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IV. Post Miranda Silence

As has been the law in the State of Nevada for more than four decades, a pre-trial writ of habeas corpus may not challenge the admissibility of evidence on constitutional grounds. *See Cook v. State*, 85 Nev. 692, 462 P.2d 523 (1969) (partially superseded by statute on other grounds as stated in *Robertson v. Sheriff, Clark County*, 88 Nev. 696, 504 P.2d 698 (1972)). As such, even if this Court were to agree that Roberts' statements were constitutionally protected prior to trial, the Grand Jury would have properly relied upon it for determination of probable cause. *See id.* Moreover, it would be improper to instruct the jury to make a constitutional finding because the "legal consequences" of facts challenging the constitutionality of an arrest "are questions of law" for the Court to decide. *See State v. Lisenbee*, 116 Nev. 1124, 1127, (2000). Consequently, Roberts' challenge to the State's charges against him are improperly raised before this Court. This Court should therefore deny Roberts' petition.

Should the Court take up the issue on its merits, the State submits it did not improperly present evidence of Roberts invoking his right to remain silent post Miranda.

"The Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination provides that a suspect's statements made during custodial interrogation are inadmissible at trial unless the police first provide a Miranda warning." *State v. Taylor*, 114 Nev. 1071, 1081, 968 P.2d 315, 323 (1998). "Custody" for Miranda purposes means a "formal arrest or restraint on freedom of movement" of the degree associated with a formal arrest." *Alward v. State*, 112 Nev. 141, 154, 912 P.2d 243, 252 (1996). Nevada is also clear that a suspect must be unequivocal and unambiguous when asserting his right

to remain silent. Maestas v. State, 128 Nev. 124 275 P.3d 74 (2012)(holding equivocal request to remain silent is not sufficient to invoke one’s Miranda rights). Police officers “have no obligation to stop questioning” a suspect under Miranda unless the suspect exercises his Miranda rights in “unambiguous and unequivocal” manner. See Dewey v. State, 123 Nev. 483 169 P.3d 1149 (2007) (quoting Davis v. United States, 512 U.S. 452, 461–62, 114 S.Ct. 2350, 129 L.Ed.2d 362 (1994)).

Roberts argues that because he told detectives he was, “done with this interview,” that anything he said prior to that (statements which were made after he was given Miranda, chose to waive his rights, and decided to speak with detectives) should not have been admitted at the grand jury. This is an absolute perversion of Miranda and its progeny and there is no legal basis under which to find inadmissible the statements made by Roberts. The State did not comment on Roberts’ post-Miranda silence. The State properly elicited testimony that Roberts was read his rights by Detective Williams, Roberts waived those rights, and he chose to speak with Detectives Williams.

Roberts cites to his voluntary statement (rather than the Grand Jury testimony of Detective Williams) in which he agreed to speak with detectives when arguing he invoked his right to remain silent. The evidence presented at the grand jury was consistent with Roberts waiving his right to remain silent. Detective Williams testified that after asking him about the pills found in his house, Roberts asked, “if they were found in my room.” Upon being told the pills were not found in his room, Detective Williams testified Roberts replied, “so doesn’t that answer your question.” Nothing the State presented surrounding Detective Williams’ interview of the defendant came anywhere close to commenting of Roberts’ invocation of his right to remain silent. Simply put, no such evidence was presented to the grand jury.