1	REPORTER'S RECORD				
2	VOLUME 16 OF 35 VOLUMES				
3	TRIAL COURT CAUSE NO. 1384794				
4	COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS NO. AP-77,025				
5					
6	OBEL CRUZ-GARCIA) IN THE DISTRICT COURT				
7	Appellant)				
8))				
9	VS.) HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS				
10)				
11	THE STATE OF TEXAS)				
12	Appellee) 337TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT				
13					
14					
15	*******				
16	PRETRIAL PROCEEDINGS AND MOTION TO SUPPRESS				
17	*******				
18					
19					
20	On the 19th day of June, 2013, the following				
21	proceedings came on to be heard in the above-entitled				
22	and numbered cause before the Honorable Renee Magee,				
23	Judge presiding, held in Houston, Harris County, Texas;				
24	Proceedings reported by computer-aided				
25	transcription/stenograph shorthand.				

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2	
3	
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(Open court, defendant present, no jury
1
 2
                  panel)
                 THE COURT: Cause No. 1384794, State of
3
   Texas versus Obel Cruz-Garcia. And Mr. Cruz-Garcia is
4
   present at counsel table with his two lawyers, Mr. Mario
5
   Madrid and Skip Cornelius. And present for the State is
6
   Natalie Tise and Justin Wood. And Steve Walsh is here
7
   as well, their intern. And we're proceeding on motions
8
   today.
9
                 And so, to begin with, do both sides have
10
11
   an oral motion -- I know there are some in the file as
12
   well, but are there motions from both sides to adopt all
13
   the previously filed motions in Cause No. 1289188,
   1289189, and 1181910, and consolidate them and to
14
15
   transfer them and to adopt them into 1384794?
16
                 MS. TISE: Yes, Your Honor.
17
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, Your Honor.
18
                 THE COURT: Very good. That will be
19
   granted.
20
                 And then part and parcel of that, I do see
   a number of motions in the file that were -- that were
21
22
   filed from the previous attorney. And that was Steve
23
   Shellist and Christian Capatine
24
                 And, Mr. Cornelius, are you adopting those
25
   motions?
```

```
MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, Your Honor.
1
2
   adopting those motions and asking that those be
   transferred to the appropriate cause number.
3
                 THE COURT: That will be granted, too.
 4
                 So, I'm going to start just going over each
 5
   individual one that hasn't been ruled on. And they're
6
7
   all mixed up in here. I want to make sure everything is
8
   covered.
                 I have a number of different motions for
   discovery. Some of them are standard out of the 262nd,
10
11
   that -- you know, obviously, this case was transferred
12
   from the 262nd due to a motion on behalf of Mr. Capatine
   and Mr. Shellist, stating that Judge Bradley should be
13
   recused. And she granted that motion. So, all of the
14
15
   discovery motions that were already signed out of that
   court, that they have already been ruled on; but there a
16
   number -- a number of different other ones that are
17
   above and beyond the standard discovery.
18
                 Is there anything in any of those motions
19
20
   for discovery that we need to address?
21
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Judge, can I just make a
22
   blanket statement?
23
                 THE COURT: Yes, please do.
24
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I'm very convinced that
   there isn't anything left for the defendant to discover.
25
```

```
I believe that I have been given access to every piece
1
   of evidence the State has, everything in their file
2
   other than work product. So, I'm not feeling the need
3
   to have any testimony or any hearing on discovery.
4
                 THE COURT: Very good.
 5
                 MR. CORNELIUS:
                                 I know the State has some
6
7
   continuing responsibility to turn things over to us, but
8
   I think they are complying with that.
9
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. And did you
10
   want to put anything on the record in that regard,
11
   State?
12
                 MS. TISE:
                            Judge, our file has been open
   and a number of materials -- boxes of materials were
13
   supplied to Christian Capatine and Steve Shellist. All
14
15
   of the reports, they subpoenaed all of the back data on
   the DNA stuff. And all of that stuff was transferred
16
17
   over to Mr. Cornelius. And in addition to that, we've
   maintained an open file. It's still open today.
18
19
   Mr. Cornelius has had access to everything that we have.
20
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.
21
                 So, let's move on now to all -- there are
22
   several requests for notice of expert testimony in the
23
   file. One filed on behalf of the State. And, of
24
   course, that was signed. And one filed on behalf of the
25
   defense. And that was signed.
```

4

5

9

```
1
                 Has there been discovery in that regard
2
   where both sides have provided evidence of expert the
   witnesses that they intend to call to the other side?
                 MS. TISE: Yes, Your Honor.
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, Your Honor.
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. I can skip
6
7
   over all of those.
8
                 We're here on the DNA, so that's going to
   be determined after this hearing. How about -- okay.
   All the notices -- there is notice of extraneous
11
   offenses. You've gotten all of those, Mr. Cornelius, I
12
   assume. Correct?
13
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I certainly believe I have,
14
   Judge.
15
                 THE COURT: There is a number of them here
   in this file.
16
17
                 MR. WOOD: Judge, with regards to that,
   there were a couple of things that we had updated and
18
   amended. Our 404(b), 609 extraneous notice, I have a
19
20
   copy of that for the defense and I will give
   Mr. Cornelius -- I left it down on my desk, so I will
21
22
   grab that and give it to him. It just updates a couple
23
   of things regarding jail disciplinary records, which
24
   he's already gotten a copy of, but I will make sure that
   he has that today.
25
```

```
1
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.
2
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Is that different than the
   one -- I just got one the other day.
3
 4
                 MR. WOOD: Skip, it just added a couple of
   different things. I will have it at lunch.
5
6
                 MR. CORNELIUS: All right.
7
                 MS. TISE: Newly discovered information.
8
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Okay.
9
                 THE COURT: It looks like Mr. Capatine --
10
   defense's request for a court reporter. That's
11
   obviously going to be granted. We've had a court
12
   reporter the entire time.
                 It looks like Mr. Capatine also filed a
13
   motion to permit the inspection and copying of items
14
   covered by Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article
15
   39.14. And that was ruled on by the judge presiding in
16
17
   the 262nd. Has that been completed? It was also agreed
   upon, it looks like, on December 10th.
18
19
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Judge, I'm not requesting
20
   any kind of a hearing on that. I'm sure I -- I'm
21
   convinced I have everything.
22
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. I will skip
23
   over that one.
24
                 There is a defense motion for appointment
25
   of investigator. And that investigator was appointed
```

```
and you've had that investigator; is that correct,
1
2
   Mr. Cornelius? It was under Mike Fosher, but you've had
   that investigator and had access to that investigator
3
   the entire time. Is that correct, Mr. Cornelius?
4
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Well, not exactly. I have
 5
   a different investigator than they had. And there is my
6
   own motion in there about an investigator and it was
7
8
   granted. You and I have had personal ex parte
   conversations about expenses on the investigator.
                 THE COURT: And I have a whole area of
10
11
   files in camera on expenses and all that type of thing.
12
   So, I'll not go over those on the record today.
13
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Well, I'd like to put
   something on the record.
14
15
                 THE COURT: Regarding?
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Regarding that.
16
17
                             Okay. Go ahead.
                 THE COURT:
18
                 MR. CORNELIUS: The record probably already
   reflects somewhere, but I'm not sure if it was on the
19
20
   record or not. I have two investigators. I have one
   investigator that has investigated the backgrounds of my
21
22
   client and another investigator that has investigated
23
   the criminal accusation of my client. The investigator
24
   that has investigated the background, I think he's
   spoken to every member of the defendant's family,
25
```

reports to a psychologist who is operating as a psychologist for purposes of evaluating the defendant and also my mitigation specialist giving me advice on mitigation.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. CORNELIUS: I don't expect her to testify in this case. I have no reason to think she's going to testify, at least at this point. You know, it's hard to make a decision before trial starts, but I'll give the State who she is and they contact her if they want to. There have been no reports issued, but there's going to be a report, which I will give to the State. I have not gotten it yet.

But, anyway, so on the issue of investigation, I actually have two investigators. They work from the same office, but they have completely different assignments in this case. Because at the time when I first was put on this case, there was a little bit of confusion in the county about what they would pay and what they wouldn't pay to mitigation experts. And I simply could not find a mitigation expert that would work in Harris County. And I talked to people really all over the state. And the ones that I normally use here, they wouldn't do for what the county was paying. And so, I was very perplexed and met with Judge Burnett,

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who was then the judge on this case.
1
2
                 THE COURT: Correct.
                 MR. CORNELIUS: And I said: Well, I've got
3
   to go forward. And so, I came up with the plan that I
4
   have used in the case. And I'm taking a special moment
5
   here to put this in the record because at some point in
6
7
   time somebody's going to question -- the writ writer for
   sure -- why we didn't have a specific mitigation expert.
8
   And we do. I'm stating that we do. We have somebody
   that's not just a mitigation expert, but actually a
10
11
   psychologist.
12
                 THE COURT: Very good.
13
                 Okay. I'm going on to -- there is a number
   of motion for continuances in this file. And, of
14
15
   course, those were granted on previous dates, but there
   was no motion for continuance on the date that we began
16
   the proceedings before me. And that was back on June
17
   3rd. Correct, Mr. Cornelius?
18
19
                 MR. CORNELIUS: That's correct, Judge.
20
                 THE COURT: There was a request -- several
   requests for additional time in voir dire. Wasn't
21
22
   handled before voir dire, but, obviously, you were given
23
   an opportunity to voir dire individually each juror.
24
   And so, anything you want to put on the record about
   that in regards to how much time you had? Did you need
25
```

more time? Did you feel like you had sufficient time 1 for the jurors that you voir dired? 2 MR. CORNELIUS: I did, Judge. 3 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. 4 I'm pulling out all the motions in limine 5 and we'll just deal with them before trial. Some of 6 7 them have to do with extraneous and they have to do with the DNA stuff, which we're going to determine today what 8 happens on that. But I'm going to handle all of those the morning of trial and we'll just go over those. 10 11 shouldn't take that long. Obviously extraneous offenses 12 is going to be granted. Hearsay statements and a number 13 of things that are pretty standard will be granted. Criminal histories on individuals that will be 14 15 testifying and certain criminal histories that aren't impeachable, but we'll go over that the morning of 16 17 trial. 18 So, I think that brings us down to the 19 motions to suppress. And I do still have a number of 20 them in the file. And one of them is on the DNA that we're addressing today, but I have two general ones that 21 22 are both filed by you, Mr. Cornelius. And they have to 23 do with statements, whether written or oral, which are 24 purported to be made by the defendant, any results from any scientific test, including but not limited to 25

```
fingerprints, blood or urine tests, or any other test
1
2
   prepared in this case, or any items seized as a result
   of defendant's arrest and any other item or information
3
   obtained as a result of the arrest and/or the search of
4
   the defendant by agents of the State of Texas.
5
                 And so, do you intend to address those at
6
7
   this hearing?
8
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No, except that we already
   had a discussion with Mr. Cruz-Garcia about the swabbing
9
   for saliva, which was used to get a DNA profile. And he
10
11
   consented to that and has admitted he consented to that.
12
   I'm not pursuing a hearing on the admissibility of the
   swab that was taken with our consent or with the
13
   defendant's consent. That would have been covered by
14
   that motion.
15
16
                 THE COURT:
                             Okay.
17
                 MR. CORNELIUS: But I'm not pursuing that
                If the State decides to use the statement
18
   part of it.
   by the defendant then --
19
20
                 THE COURT: I have a notice in the file
21
   that they do intend to use the defendant's statement.
22
   Is that correct?
23
                 MS. TISE: At this point in time, Judge, we
24
   don't unless we decide to do it for impeachment
   purposes. At this point this time, it's self-serving
25
```

```
and it doesn't look like something that we would put in,
1
   but I did give notice of it in the event that something
2
   should happen in trial that would make it significant.
3
                             Okay. So, I guess, we can just
                 THE COURT:
 4
   take a break and do a short hearing at that time if it
5
   becomes relevant.
6
7
                 MR. CORNELIUS: If I care to pursue it at
   that time.
8
9
                 THE COURT: Okay. So, at this time on
10
   those particular motions to suppress you are no longer
11
   proceeding on those un -- and I know that they are on
12
   file in case you need them, but we don't need to have a
13
   hearing on them pretrial. Is that correct?
14
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Correct.
                 THE COURT: I'll make a notation on that.
15
                 And there is motions to produce records
16
   regarding DNA analysis, motions to produce records
17
18
   regarding DNA analysis, and then the motions to suppress
   on the DNA, and there is a number of those.
19
20
                 So, have you gotten all of the records you
21
   were seeking on the DNA analysis, Mr. Cornelius?
22
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I think so, Judge.
23
                 THE COURT: We're ready to proceed then.
24
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I don't have any specific
   requests of anything. Well, I actually do, but I know
25
```

```
where they are and I have had access to them and I'm
1
2
   good on the DNA records.
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. So, then
3
   we're ready to proceed on your general motion on the DNA
4
   today. And that is -- can you tell -- can you put on
5
   the record for the Court specifically what aspect?
6
7
   we proceeding on chain of custody or are we proceeding
8
   on -- what aspects of the DNA?
9
                 MS. TISE: Can I make a couple of
10
   statements for the record before we proceed to that,
11
   Judge, with regard to the DNA?
12
                 THE COURT: Yes.
13
                 MS. TISE: There is obviously Brady
   material associated with the old crime lab that dealt
14
15
   with some of the evidence in this case. And a lot of
   that would come up in this hearing, but I just wanted to
16
   put on the record that we have given Mr. Cornelius --
17
   and I believe that he will confirm -- copies of internal
18
   memos, disciplinary records on individuals who might
19
20
   have been involved. We have given him access to all of
21
   the boxes and boxes of documents that were done and this
22
   office's investigation of the crime lab. And also
23
   exchanged copies of the Bromwich report where it details
24
   all of the independent investigation on the crime lab.
   There has been voluminous materials exchanging hands and
25
```

```
I believe Mr. Cornelius will confirm that, that we
1
2
   provided him all of that information specific to the DNA
   lab.
3
                 In addition, I'd like to note -- and you
4
   didn't mention it in your motion that you found, but we
5
   did translate the judgment and sentences from
6
   Mr. Cruz-Garcia's convictions in Puerto Rico and we
7
   filed well in advance of trial copies of those
8
   translations so that we can offer them into evidence as
   public records, but also with the translated copy so
10
11
   that the jury will be able to read what they are. And
12
   those are -- also should be in the file.
                 THE COURT: I did see those in the file and
13
   made note of them.
14
15
                 Did you receive those, Mr. Cornelius?
16
                 MR. CORNELIUS:
                                 Yes.
17
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.
18
                 And so, in terms of -- did you want to put
19
   anything else on the record, Ms. Tise?
20
                 MS. TISE: I think that's all, Judge.
21
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.
22
                 And I did show in the file also that she
23
   provided all of that Brady information to the defense.
24
   And you did receive all of that, Mr. Cornelius,
25
   regarding the DNA stuff?
```

```
1
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yes.
 2
                 THE COURT: And the HPD Crime Lab?
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, I have. I don't
3
   know -- I can't detail everything I have. I have two
4
   full boxes of stuff about the HPD Crime Lab and the DNA
5
   in this case and the other labs that worked on it.
6
   got a lot of stuff. I can't imagine they have more than
7
   what I have.
8
9
                 THE COURT:
                             Okay.
                 MR. CORNELIUS: But I will be vigilant and
10
11
   make sure I keep looking in case there is something
12
   there.
13
                 THE COURT: Very good. I just wanted to
   make sure that you did receive that.
14
15
                 And so, regarding the DNA, then I'm going
   to -- let's proceed with this motion on the DNA. And
16
17
   I'm sure that I will figure out exactly what aspect of
18
   the DNA that we're seeking to suppress the analysis.
19
   Okay.
20
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Well, I'm going to tell you
21
   right now. Can I make like an opening statement?
22
   think it will go a lot faster.
23
                 THE COURT: Yes.
24
                   DEFENSE OPENING STATEMENT
25
                 MR. CORNELIUS: The basis of our motion is
```

the fact that the HPD Crime Lab was investigated, some very scathing reports were turned in, the lab was actually closed. Some of the people, as you will find out through the State's evidence, that actually handled the evidence in the case in some form or fashion are detailed in the investigation and -- well, you will see, if you look through here, a casual look at our evidence, which consists of all the reports from the crime. We'll show some very unfavorable reports on various people in the crime lab. And specifically some of the people that handled this particular evidence.

I'm aware that the DNA results that the State wants to offer come from a different laboratory, an independent laboratory. One that I have used before myself. There is several of these DNA labs that I've used myself and have confidence in, but no confidence in what was then the HPD Crime Lab.

The essence of the motion is that the items that were recovered, which are specifically a pair of panties and a cigar, from which a DNA profile or DNA profiles were determined, were handled by the HPD Crime Lab. Later cuttings or swabs or items produced by the HPD Crime Lab were sent to Orchid Cellmark, which that's the one the State is going to use, Orchid Cellmark, for their analysis.

And the gist of our motion is we're arguing 1 2 that the Court should have no confidence in evidence that was transferred from our now closed crime lab to 3 anywhere else for fear of contamination. I don't know 4 that I can prove this specific evidence was 5 contaminated. And I'm not alleging that I can, but the 6 7 overall -- I mean, the crime lab was, as the evidence 8 will show, completely closed. I mean, it was closed. And I know that the Court and the general public knowledge -- and it's detailed in here -- is that there 10 11 were bogus analyses. I don't know if I got the -- if that's correct phraseology, but there was more than one 12 13 bogus analysis proven against the crime lab and all kinds of mistakes, as you will see in these reports. 14 15 And so, based upon that, we're going to argue that the Court should suppress the testimony from 16 Orchid Cellmark because it comes from the HPD Crime Lab. 17 18 Hopefully, that makes a little sense. Now, I'm going to offer into evidence --19 20 there are five -- allegedly five reports from Michael Bromwich, who was an independent investigator who 21 22 investigated the crime lab. They start -- Defense No. 2 23 is the second report of the independent investigator. 24 And then 3 is the third report, 4 is the fourth report, 5 is the fifth report. I cannot find a number of the 25

```
first report. I'm going to -- so, I left that number
1
2
   open in case I find one, in case there is one.
   haven't talked to Lester, Lester Blizzard, who may know.
3
   And Mr. Bromwich has not returned my phone calls,
4
   numerous phone calls that I've made to him. If there is
5
   one, I'd like permission to augment the record and put
6
7
   that in there, if there is actually a report number one.
8
   I have a feeling it's going to turn out to be a letter
   that's contained in those other reports.
9
10
                 So, those are the five reports. Then there
11
   is a final report, which is this big thick one, 440
12
   pages. And then I'm offering also a small report, which
   is the summary of the recommendations of the independent
13
   investigator for the HPD Crime Lab and property room,
14
15
   which is the heart of what our motion is. Stuff stored
   in the property room and the crime lab itself. We're
16
17
   offering it -- I forgot which one I marked next. No. 6
18
   is the summary. No. I'm sorry. No. 7 is the summary.
19
   6 is the final report. And 8 is the internal affairs
20
   general investigation summary, which I got from the
21
   State. And No. 9 is internal complaints report from the
22
   chief command, legal services, which I got from the
23
   State, which deals with some of the witnesses in this
24
   case.
                 THE COURT: No. 8 was the I.A.D. what?
25
```

```
MR. CORNELIUS: Internal affairs general
1
2
   investigation summary. And it's short.
3
                 THE COURT: No. 9 was internal complainants
   filed by individuals?
4
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yes. And it shows the
5
   findings.
6
7
                 THE COURT: That was individuals that filed
   complaints with the Houston Police Department?
8
9
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No. These are the
   complainants about the employees working at the crime
10
11
   lab and some specific findings.
12
                 So, I provided the State with copies of
   Defendant's 2 through 9.
13
14
                 THE COURT: And you don't have an Exhibit
15
   No. 1 that you're offering?
16
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I don't have Exhibit No. 1
   and I don't know if it exists. We'll leave that open.
17
18
                 (Discussion off the record)
19
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Okay. We'll leave that as
20
   No. 1 to make the record clear. And if I come up with
21
   another exhibit, I will go to 10. That will confuse
22
   everybody. No. 10 is actually report number one.
23
                 (Defense Exhibit No. 2 through 9 Offered)
24
                 THE COURT: Do you have anything else that
25
   you are going offer?
```

```
1
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No, I don't, Judge.
 2
                 THE COURT: Okay. Any objections.
                 MS. TISE: No objection, Judge, for the
3
   limited purposes of this hearing.
4
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. So, Defense
5
   Exhibits 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 will be admitted for
6
7
   the limited purposes of this hearing at this time.
8
                 (Defense Exhibit No. 2 through 9 Admitted)
9
                 THE COURT: Do you have anything else?
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I don't, Judge. We rest.
10
11
                 THE COURT: State, you ready to proceed?
12
                 Would you like to make an opening?
13
                 MS. TISE: I'd just like to make a brief
14
   opening, Judge, in response to the defense's argument.
15
                 THE COURT: All right.
16
                  STATE'S OPENING STATEMENT
17
                 MS. TISE: It is not the State's position
18
   or intention to offer any of the witnesses from the
   crime lab that was in existence in 1992. It is not our
19
20
   intention to offer a single report issued by that crime
21
   lab.
22
                 What the State has done and what HPD did in
23
   this case is exactly what Mr. Bromwich recommended be
24
   done in the host of cases that were tested by the old
25
   crime lab, and that is that we send the evidence off to
```

an independent lab and have them start from scratch and do their own testing on that evidence and achieve the results.

To address the contamination issues by the defense, I believe that we'll be able to show through the witnesses that are here today that there is -- the only contamination issue that would be relevant for trial purposes would be contamination that somehow put the defendant's DNA on to the evidence that we want to present to the jury at trial. Otherwise, all we're trying to do is show the defendant's DNA was on a rape kit, the complaining witness to the rape panties, and on a cigar that was left behind at the scene.

So, the only contamination that's going to be relevant for trial purposes is somehow or another showing that contamination of that evidence was made with the defendant's DNA, which was not in HPD's possession at any time during the old crime lab days. So, to believe that there is a problem with the evidence would be to believe that somehow or another the defendant's DNA popped up out of nowhere and got somehow contaminated on the evidence by employees in 1992 who simply didn't have his DNA. Because by the time the evidence got shipped off to Orchid Cellmark in 2007, we found a DNA profile that matched the defendant on the

```
rape kit, the panties, and the cigar.
1
                 So, you'd have to believe that somehow or
2
   another the old crime lab contaminated that evidence
3
   with the defendant's DNA, which they didn't have a
4
   sample of because he was in Puerto Rico at the time.
5
                 So, that's the issue here. I believe we
6
   can also show that the storage of the evidence in this
7
8
   case was fine and appropriate and there is not going to
   be a contamination issue also based on the results that
   the independent labs got.
10
11
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good, Ms. Tise.
12
                 Are you ready to call your first witness?
13
                 MS. TISE:
                            Yes.
14
                           Judge, the first item that we
                 MR. WOOD:
15
   would have is a proffer that we would like to make on
   the record of a witness by the name of Gloria
16
17
   Kologinczok. She performed the sexual assault
18
   examination in this case. And Mr. Cornelius has said
   that it would be acceptable to him for us to make a
19
20
   proffer as to what her testimony would be. And I'm
21
   prepared to do that.
22
                 And I'll spell that name for you.
23
   almost like it sounds, but it's K-o-l-o-g-i-n-c-z-o-k.
24
   It's pronounced Kologinczok.
25
                 And I would like to proceed with that, if
```

```
1
   that's okay with the Court.
 2
                 THE COURT: No objection, Mr. Cornelius?
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No objection.
 3
                 THE COURT: Very good. Proceed.
 4
                 MR. WOOD: The State's proffer is that
5
   Ms. Kologinczok would testify that she currently works
6
   as an operations administrator at Memorial Hermann
7
   Northwest Hospital. She also maintains a current law
8
   practice. Ms. Kologinczok became a certified registered
   nurse in 1979. She became a certified sexual assault
10
   nurse examiner in 1985. She obtained her J.D. from
11
   South Texas College of Law in 1992.
12
                 Ms. Kologinczok, in becoming a sexual
13
   assault nurse examiner, went through a training program
14
15
   that included classroom training, courtroom training,
   and on-the-job practical training. At the time in 1992,
16
   she was one of the first sexual assault nurse examiners
17
   in the entire Houston area. Over her career, she has
18
   performed over 500 sexual assault examinations.
19
20
                 And at this time, I will offer State's
21
   Exhibit 1, a copy of Ms. Kologinczok's CV, into evidence
22
   and I will show that --
23
                 (State's Exhibit No. 1 Offered)
24
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No objection.
25
                 THE COURT: That will be admitted, State's
```

```
1.
1
 2
                 (State's Exhibit No. 1 Admitted)
3
                 MR. WOOD: Do you need to see that, Judge?
                 Further, Your Honor, Ms. Kologinczok would
 4
   testify that on October 1st of 1992, she was working at
5
6
   St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston, Texas. On that date,
   she performed a sexual assault examination on a
7
8
   patient --
                 THE COURT: What's the date?
                                                I'm sorry.
                 MR. WOOD: Sorry. October 1st of 1992.
10
11
                 THE COURT:
                            Okay.
12
                 MR. WOOD: On that date, she performed a
   sexual assault examination on a patient by the name of
13
   Diana Garcia, as she described as a Spanish female with
14
   a date of birth of 6-4 of '53. She would testify that
15
   she performed this examination at approximately 3:45
16
17
   a.m. on the date of October 1st, 1992. On that same
18
   date, she turned over the sexual assault evidence
   collection kit of Diana Garcia to Officer W.T.
19
20
   Bredemeyer of the Houston Police Department. And,
21
   again, that was done on October 1st, 1992 at
22
   approximately 4:25 a.m. on that date.
23
                 And that concludes the proffer of her
   testimony for the purposes of this hearing.
24
25
                 THE COURT:
                             Okay. Very good. Call your
```

```
1
   next.
                 MS. TISE: The State will call Eric Mehl.
2
3
                 (Witness sworn)
                 THE COURT: Please take the stand.
 4
                 Please state your full name for the court
5
              And you may proceed.
6
7
                 THE WITNESS: My name is Eric Mehl,
   M-e-h-l.
8
                 THE COURT: You may proceed, Ms. Tise.
10
                           ERIC MEHL,
11
   having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
12
                       DIRECT EXAMINATION
   BY MS. TISE:
13
14
            And tell us how you are employed, Sir.
        Q.
15
             I retired as a sergeant with the Houston Police
   Department.
16
17
            And when did you retire?
        Ο.
18
            February of 2010.
        Α.
19
             Can you tell the Court a little bit about your
        Q.
20
   background with the Houston Police Department starting
21
   with your early days and the kinds of training that you
22
   received over the course of your employment.
23
             I joined HPD in 1981. I spent, after
24
   completing the academy, four-and-a-half years in patrol,
25
   was promoted to sergeant, spent 14 months as a patrol
```

- supervisor. I was recruited by Homicide in June of 1988 and I transferred to Homicide at that time. I served in Homicide for four years uninterrupted. And then I was drafted by internal affairs in June of 1992. I served there until November of '93. And I returned to Homicide
- Q. Okay. During the course of your career as a police officer, did you receive training?
 - A. Yes.

at that time.

6

9

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

- 10 Q. And tell the Court what kind of training you 11 received.
 - A. We were required to take 40 hours a year of annual in-service training. And it could be legal issues, it could be defensive driving, it could be updates with regard to DNA, and things like that.
 - Q. And over the course of your career, have you received training on how to properly handle evidence, how to properly collect it, and how to properly store it?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And have you received training on that specific to the collection of biological evidence like DNA?
 - A. Not specific to the biological, no.
- Q. Okay. As a member of the Houston Police
 Department, did you ultimately get assigned to the cold

```
case squad?
1
2
        Α.
             I did.
            And tell the Court how that happened.
3
        Ο.
             In November of 2004, HPD decided that they
 4
        Α.
   needed a cold case squad within the Homicide Division
5
   and they asked me to do it.
6
7
             Okay. And tell us a little bit about what --
        Q.
   how that came about. Just, they asked to go and did
8
   they give you any -- basically, it was a new decision,
   was it not?
10
11
        Α.
             It was just a squad within the currently
12
   existing Homicide Division.
             But it was a new thing at the time, was it not?
13
        Q.
14
        Α.
             It was.
15
            And did you have any guidance on what you were
        O.
   going to be doing with the cold case squad?
16
17
             Only that I could look at and reinvestigate any
        Α.
18
   case that was at least five years old --
19
        Q.
             Okay.
20
        Α.
             -- and not cleared.
21
             Did you have some criteria for what kind of
        Q.
22
   cases to look for?
23
        Α.
             I developed my own.
24
        Q.
             And what did you develop?
```

Going -- well, I had a list of 3,000 -- roughly

25

Α.

```
1 | 3,000 uncleared homicide cases that dated back to 1970.
```

- 2 | I would go through that list and I would find cases that
- 3 required DNA analysis to go any further. And I would
- 4 try to keep a series of cases sent off to private
- 5 | laboratories so they could do the DNA analysis on the
- 6 evidence that existed. And while that was going on, I
- 7 | could do the field work on cases that had been returned
- 8 or cases that did not require DNA analysis.
- 9 Q. And at some point while you were following
- 10 | through on that protocol, did you become familiar with a
- 11 case that involved the homicide of a 6-year-old boy
- 12 | named Angelo Garcia, Jr.?
- 13 A. I did.
- 14 Q. And how did you discover that case?
- 15 A. I actually discovered the case because his
- 16 mother had been sexually assaulted during the course of
- 17 | the offense back in 1992. So, it showed -- as well as
- 18 | Angelo Garcia, Jr., his mother showed as a victim on my
- 19 homicide list. So, I looked into it based on that.
- 20 Q. And that triggered for you that there may be
- 21 some possible DNA evidence that could be --
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. -- could clear the case?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. So, what did you do?

- That was in September of 2007. I set out to 1 Α. 2 find the evidence that I wanted to ship to Orchid Cellmark for analysis. 3
 - Okay. And were there specific items of Q. evidence that you were interested in?
- 6 Α. Yes.

5

7

- Can you tell us what those items were? Q.
- One was a cigar that had been left at the scene Α. of the crime. One was the rape kit that been taken from Diana Garcia. And -- well, the cutting from the panties 10 11 was in the rape kit, so it -- but that was another 12 thing.
- 13 Q. Okay. And so, were you able to obtain those items of evidence in 2007? 14
- 15 Α. I was.
- 16 And can you tell the Court where the cigar was Q. being stored at that time? 17
- 18 It was in the HPD property room on Goliad. Α.
- 19 Okay. So, it was not in the crime lab property Q. 20 room?
- 21 It was not, no. Α.
- 22 Okay. And did you have an opportunity to Ο. 23 observe the condition that the cigar had been stored in?
- 24 Α. Yes.
- 25 Q. Can you tell us about that?

```
The cigar was in a plastic bag with the case
1
2
   information written on it. And then further, it was in
   a large envelope.
3
             Okay. And would that be the standard brown
4
        Q.
   envelopes that are used for storing evidence from a
5
   crime scene?
6
7
        Α.
             Yes.
             Okay. So, it was inside a plastic ziploc bag,
8
        Ο.
9
   correct?
10
        Α.
             Yes.
11
             And that plastic ziploc bag was stored inside
        0.
12
   the brown evidence envelope?
             That's correct.
13
        Α.
14
             Okay. And did the plastic ziploc bag appear to
        Q.
15
   have been unsealed at any point? Was the seal intact?
16
             It was zipped closed, yes.
        Α.
17
             Okay. And the brown evidence envelope, what
        Ο.
   was the condition of that envelope?
18
19
             It was sealed.
        Α.
20
        Q.
             Okay. And did there appear to have been any
21
   damage at all to that envelope as if it had been stored
22
   in unfavorable conditions, for example?
23
        Α.
             No.
24
        Q.
            No water damage or anything like that?
```

Α.

No.

- Q. Okay. And the cigar itself, did it appear to still be in good condition?
 - A. It was intact, yes.
- Q. Okay. After you collected the cigar from the property room, the HPD property room on Goliad, what did you do next?
- A. Well, when I went to the property room, I wanted to also check out the rape kit.
- 9 Q. Okay.

- 10 A. But the rape kit was actually in the property
 11 room annex on the 24th floor at 1200 Travis.
- Q. Okay. And so, it was also not being stored at the crime lab property room on the top floor at 1200

 Travis, correct?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. Okay. It was on the 24th floor in the annex?
- 17 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And can you tell the Court about what condition that item of evidence was in when you found it?
- A. The rape kit was sealed in a plastic bag with case information and all that on it.
- Q. Okay. And was it in any other sort of bags or envelopes in addition to the plastic bag?
- 25 A. Well, I didn't open it.

- 1 0. Okay.
- 2 A. The rape kit was like a box in a plastic bag,
- 3 | the plastic bag was sealed. I initialed the plastic
- 4 bag, but I didn't open it and go through.
- 5 Q. You didn't open it at all?
- 6 A. No.
- Q. Okay. Did the plastic bag appear to be in good
- 8 | condition?
- 9 A. It was.
- 10 Q. Did it appear that there had been any problems
- 11 | with the storage of that item of evidence?
- 12 A. No.
- Q. No water damage or anything like that?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Okay. After you retrieve those items, what did
- 16 | you do with them?
- 17 A. I packaged them and sent them to Orchid
- 18 | Cellmark.
- 19 Q. Okay. Do you recall when that happened?
- 20 A. October 2nd, 2007 was the ship date.
- 21 Q. Okay. And what else did you do at that point?
- 22 A. Well, there were -- my initial call was to the
- 23 crime lab property custodian herself and she had some
- 24 other evidence that they had retained in the crime lab.
- 25 | I obtained that and sent portions of that to Orchid

```
Cellmark as well.
1
2
             Okay. What are those other items?
3
             The cutting from the panties, biological
   samples on Arturo Rodriguez and Diana Garcia.
4
            And did you learn that those individuals are
5
   the parents of the little boy who was murdered in this
6
7
   case?
            Rodriguez is not --
8
        Α.
9
        Q.
             Step.
10
                 Diana Garcia is the complainant's
11
   biological mother and she was married to Arturo.
12
             Exactly. I misspoke. The stepfather and the
        Q.
   mother of the little boy --
13
14
        Α.
             Yes.
             -- that was killed in this case.
15
        Q.
16
                       And those items that you went and
   retrieved from the crime lab, those included a cutting
17
18
   from the panties --
19
        Α.
             Yes.
20
        Q.
             -- correct?
21
                 And how was it being stored.
22
             All the items that I got from the crime lab
   were in individual plastic bags.
23
```

Okay. And did you open or unseal those bags?

I opened the bigger bag. And then I did not

24

25

Ο.

Α.

```
open the bags that would contain the evidence, no.
1
2
             Okay. So, they were stored in a larger bag,
   but each of them was in its own individual plastic bag?
3
 4
        Α.
            Yes.
             Okay. And those individual plastic bags were
5
        Q.
   not opened?
6
7
        Α.
            Correct.
             Okay. And there were also some DNA samples,
8
        O.
9
   you said, blood samples for potential DNA, correct?
10
        Α.
             Yes.
11
             Those were for Diana Garcia and Arturo
        Ο.
12
   Rodriguez, correct?
13
        Α.
            Yes, among others.
14
        Q. And those were also individually packaged?
15
        A.
            Yes.
16
            Now, you say among others. The others in the
        Q.
17
   case, did you research to determine who those
18
   individuals were?
19
        Α.
            Yes.
20
        Q.
             Okay. And do you have that information?
21
             Their last names were Lebron, Melo, M-e-l-o,
        Α.
22
   German, and Martinez.
23
        Q.
             Okay. And do you know who those individuals
24
   are?
```

They were known associates of this defendant.

25

Α.

- Q. Okay. And these were individuals that during the original casework by HPD Homicide were interviewed and DNA samples were collected from, correct?

 A. Yes.
 - Q. In your research of this case from 1992 had HPD ever made contact with the defendant, Obel Cruz-Garcia, after the victim in this case was murdered?
 - A. They had not.

6

7

8

9

- Q. Okay. And do you know why that was?
- 10 A. He fled the country.
- 11 Q. Okay. So, from the date that the homicide
 12 happened throughout the entire police investigation in
 13 the 90's, Obel Cruz-Garcia was never in the custody of
 14 HPD, correct?
- 15 A. That is correct.
- Q. And HPD was locking for him as the prime suspect in the case, were they not?
- 18 A. They were.
- Q. They were interviewing his known associates,
 were they not?
- 21 A. They did.
 - Q. And they were collecting DNA samples from them?
- 23 A. They did.
- Q. However, they never had a DNA sample from Obel
 Cruz-Garcia at any time in the 1990s after this crime

```
occurred?
```

- A. That's correct.
- Q. When you began working the case and sent this
 evidence off to Orchid Cellmark for them to determine if
 they could develop DNA profiles from any of it, did you
 have the defendant's DNA sample?
- 7 A. I did not.
- Q. So, as of -- you said it was 2007. So, was it 2007 when you first looked at this case or is that when you shipped it?
- 11 A. I shipped it on October 2nd, 2007.
- Q. So, as of October 2nd, 2007, HPD still did not
- 13 | have in its possession any DNA sample from Obel
- 14 | Cruz-Garcia?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. Did that change?
- 17 A. It did.
- 18 Q. And tell us when that happened.
- A. Sergeant Stephens from the narcotic HIDA unit
 got a court order to obtain a DNA sample from this
 defendant in Puerto Rico. And that was in 2008.
- Q. And it was Sergeant Stephens who first learned that the defendant was in custody in Puerto Rico in 24 2008?
- 25 A. Stephens was one of the original investigators

```
on the case and we had talked, were friends anyway, and
1
   he had access to greater databases than I did in an
2
   effort to find Obel Cruz-Garcia. And it was actually
3
   Stephens who told me that this defendant was in custody
4
   in Puerto Rico and if I wanted DNA from him, there it
5
6
   was.
7
             Okay. So, how did you -- what efforts did you
        0.
   take in order to obtain his DNA sample?
8
9
             Well, the FBI in Puerto Rico went to the prison
        Α.
   where this defendant was being held and obtained a DNA
10
11
   sample from him and sent it to me.
12
        Q.
             Okay. Do you know when you received that
13
   sample?
14
            May 23rd, 2008.
        Α.
            And at that time all of the original evidence
15
        Ο.
   that might contain biological material had already been
16
17
   shipped off to Orchid Cellmark for their analysis,
18
   correct?
                   Their analysis had been completed.
19
            Yes.
        Α.
20
        Q.
             Okay. And you had received the results of that
21
   analysis, correct?
22
        Α.
            Yes.
23
             But at that time, still no sample of the
24
   defendant's DNA had been available for them to make a
25
   comparison to the evidence, correct?
```

Α. Correct.

1

7

11

- 2 So, once you received the defendant's DNA Q. sample in 2008, what did you do? 3
- Well, I never opened it. I knew what was in it 4 Α. because it came from Agent Miller in Puerto Rico. 5 just repackaged the original FedEx package into another 6
- Okay. And that was in 2008 as well? 8 Ο.

FedEx box and sent it to Orchid Cellmark.

- 9 Yes, ma'am. Α.
- Okay. Ultimately, did you receive Orchid 10 Ο. Cellmark's report as to the results of that testing?
- 12 I did. Α.
- And what did you learn? 13 Q.
- A full male DNA profile was obtained from the 14 cigar that had been left at the scene and that DNA 15 16 profile matches that of this defendant. The sperm
- 17 fraction from the cutting from the panties is a mixture.
- 18 A major DNA profile that was obtained from that sperm
- fraction belongs to this defendant. 19
- 20 Q. Okay. What did you do next?
- 21 Well, and also on the vaginal swab he cannot be 22 excluded from that mixture.
- 23 Q. Okay. What happened next?
- 24 Ultimately, I filed a charge of capital murder 25 against this defendant.

- Q. Back in 1992, you were an active homicide investigator, were you not?
 - A. I was sent to internal affairs in June of 1992, so I wasn't in Homicide during the course of the initial investigation.
 - Q. But you had been prior to that?
- 7 A. Yes.

4

5

6

8

- Q. And then you were again after that?
- 9 A. Yes.
- Q. In 1992, when homicide detectives were collecting evidence from scenes, is it fair to say that DNA was in its infancy?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. And especially here in Houston, it was an up and coming thing that hadn't really been fully developed at that point?
- 17 A. Yes.
- Q. And as an investigator in Homicide, when you were thinking of the types of evidence that might be examined for DNA, what kinds of evidence were y'all thinking back then?
 - A. Blood and semen.
- Q. Okay. Was it even something that people were talking about or considering doing to look for epithelial cells on items like a cigar?

1 Α. No. 2 Okay. If you had at that time been in Homicide Q. and collected a cigar from a scene, would it even occur 3 to you to look for DNA on that cigar? 4 Α. No. 5 6 Okay. And was that the general thought in Ο. 7 Homicide at that time, from what you remember? Yeah. I mean, DNA was something you read about 8 Α. in books. And we knew it existed and we tried through various labs in various cases to obtain DNA results and 10 11 they weren't good. 12 And from the time you very first retrieved that Ο. 13 cigar from the property room, did it appear to you that it had been analyzed or ever even taken out of its 14 15 original plastic bag? 16 It did not. Α. 17 Ο. Okay. 18 MS. TISE: Pass the witness, Judge. 19 THE COURT: Mr. Cornelius. 20 CROSS-EXAMINATION 21 BY MR. CORNELIUS: 22 Do we call you still Sergeant Mehl? Ο. 23 Α. You can. 24 Ο. All right. Do you have your report? 25 Yes. Α.

- Q. Let me see if I can get the dates. I'm kind of turning to Page 2.098 in the report.
 - A. Is this something I would have written?
 - Q. Yes, I think so.
 - A. Okay.

4

- 6 Q. It's stuff you did.
- A. Okay. Yeah. Our page numbers are not going to match up. Can you tell me what supplement it is, or a date?
- Q. October 1st, 2007. And it's the one that says "continued."
- 12 A. Okay.
- Q. Okay. Now, I don't mean to take things out of order, but I got a little bit confused. You went to where to obtain these items that are listed on -- in this part of the report?
- 17 A. They came out of the crime lab.
- Q. Okay. All right. So, are these items that you actually opened and looked at?
- A. These items were contained in a larger clear plastic bag. I opened that bag and then all these items were in their own individual plastic bags. I did not open them, no.
- Q. Okay. And so, the items were in a plastic bag labeled Rodriguez. And extract tube, is that blood,

```
extract tube, or do you remember?
1
2
        Α.
             I don't know.
             Then a plastic bag that's labeled in quotes
3
        Q.
   "crotch panties" including a cutting from the panties,
4
   correct?
5
6
        Α.
             Correct.
7
             A plastic bag labeled DNA extracted from panty
        Q.
   crotch of Diana Garcia, male and female fractions.
8
9
        Α.
             Correct.
             Five extract tubes?
10
        Ο.
11
             Yes, sir.
        Α.
12
             Who did all of that, do you know?
        Q.
             Who took the extractions?
13
        Α.
14
        Q.
             Yes.
             Crime lab.
15
        A.
16
             Your crime lab? HPD Crime Lab?
        Q.
17
        Α.
             Yes.
18
             One sealed plastic bag containing DNA extracted
        Q.
   from vaginal swab male and female fractions containing
19
20
   two extracted tubes. That's a different bag, right?
21
        Α.
             Yes.
22
             And that's done by the HPD Crime Lab?
        Ο.
23
        Α.
             Yes.
24
        Q.
             One sealed bag labeled DNA extracted from blood
25
   of Diana Garcia containing one extract tube.
```

```
Now, tell me about that. Where would that
1
2
   come from?
               I know you got it from the crime lab, but
   who would have done that? Who would have taken Diana's
3
   blood in the first place?
4
            Well, I don't know. It may be either when she
5
   had the rape kit done or they got biological samples
6
   from her at a later date. I'm not sure.
7
            All right. If that was done as part of the
8
        Ο.
   rape kit -- do you remember if they took blood as part
   of the rape kit?
10
11
        Α.
            I don't know.
12
            I don't either.
        O.
13
                 But if it was done as part of the rape kit,
   then somehow or another the rape kit, even though you
14
15
   picked it up at 1200 Travis, at some time it went to the
   crime lab?
16
17
        Α.
            Yes.
18
            When you picked the rape kit up at 1200 Travis,
   could you see a notation on there showing it had been to
19
   the crime lab?
20
            I don't recall. I'd have to look at it again.
21
        Α.
22
            All right. And then the last one listed here
        Ο.
23
   is DNA extracted from blood, Arturo Rodriguez,
24
   containing one extract tube.
```

Do you know where that would have come

```
from?
1
2
            Well, I'm sure the investigator at the time
   took him to the crime lab to have blood drawn for, you
3
   know, elimination purposes.
4
            The HPD Crime Lab?
5
        Q.
        Α.
            Yes.
6
7
            Did your investigation reveal that -- whether
        Q.
   or not Diana Garcia and Arturo Rodriguez knew
8
   Mr. Cruz-Garcia?
10
             They did.
        Α.
11
             Okay. Then this stuff was packaged and sent to
        Ο.
12
   Orchid Cellmark?
13
        A. It was.
14
            Along with the actual sexual assault kit, the
        0.
15
   cigar, and the extract tubes and the cuttings from the
16
   panties?
17
        Α.
            Yes.
18
        Q. Right?
19
                 Now, these are different cuttings from the
20
   panties other than the ones that are listed above that
21
   we just went over, right? These are cuttings that you
22
   already had?
23
        Α.
            No.
24
        O.
            Look at that on that page and see if it
25
   refreshes your memory.
```

The cuttings from the panties would have come 1 Α. 2 from the rape kit. The panties would have come from the rape kit. 3 Q. Okay. 4 And then they cut the crotch out for their 5 examination. 6 7 THE COURT: So, what exactly did you send to Orchid Cellmark, the stuff that came from the crime 8 lab or the stuff that came out of the rape kit, which was the panties with the skin cells? 10 THE WITNESS: I sent the entire rape kit, I 11 sent the things that the crime lab removed from the rape 12 13 kit, which was the crotch of the panties. 14 THE COURT: Okay. Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Okay. I think I understand. 15 The first group of things we went over was 16 sent in addition to the three items later in this page 17 of the report that says: The sexual assault kit of 18 Diana Garcia -- whatever was left in the sexual assault 19 20 kit was sent. 21 Α. That's correct. 22 The cigar itself. Ο. 23 Yes. Α. Q. And the extract tubes and the cutting from the 24 panties. 25

```
1
        Α.
             Yes.
2
        Q.
             That cutting and extract tube came from the
3
   panties which were a part of the assault kit?
        Α.
             Yes.
4
            And was done by the HPD Crime Lab?
5
        Q.
6
        Α.
            Yes.
7
        Q.
            Okay.
8
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I pass the witness at this
9
   time.
10
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.
11
                 Do you have anything further, Ms. Tise,
12
   from this witness?
                 MS. TISE: No, Your Honor.
13
14
                 THE COURT: You may step down, Sergeant.
15
   Thank you.
16
                 Call your next.
17
                 MS. TISE: State would call Matt Quartaro.
18
                 (Witness sworn)
19
                 MS. TISE: Judge, may this witness be
   excused?
20
21
                 THE COURT: Yes.
22
                 Please keep your voice up. How do you
23
   spell your last name?
                 THE WITNESS: It's spelled Q-u-a-r-t-a-r-o.
24
25
                 THE COURT: Okay. You may proceed,
```

```
Ms. Tise.
1
2
                         MATT QUARTARO,
   having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
3
                       DIRECT EXAMINATION
 4
   BY MS. TISE:
5
6
            Would you tell the Court how you are employed,
7
   Mr. Quartaro?
                  I'm a supervisor of forensics at Cell --
8
            Yes.
        Α.
   what's now called Cellmark Forensics in Dallas, Texas.
            And is that the same place that used to be
10
11
   called Orchid Cellmark?
12
            Yes, it is.
        Α.
            So, when we're referring to it for purposes of
13
        Q.
   this hearing, do you mind if I still call it Orchid
14
   Cellmark out of habit?
15
16
            No, not at all.
17
            Okay. Can you tell the Court a little bit
   about your background and training?
18
            Sure. I have a master's -- a bachelor's degree
19
        Α.
20
   and a master's degree in molecular biology. I have a --
21
   let's see. I started at Orchid Cellmark about
22
   11-and-a-half years ago. I have been working there,
23
   initially as an analyst. In 2005, I was promoted to a
24
   supervisor and have been a supervisor since then.
25
                 To become an analyst, there is a rigorous
```

- training program, educational requirements, as well as
 continuing education that we have to perform every year.
- Q. Okay. And can you tell us what your day-to-day duties involve?
- A. Sure. I supervise a team of ten DNA analysts
 who perform criminal casework from different agencies
 around the country. And I also still perform the duties
 of analyst as well. I actually work performing DNA
 analysis on samples.
- 10 Q. Okay. And were you asked to do that as part of 11 the case against Obel Cruz-Garcia?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And can you recall when that -- when your involvement in the case occurred?
- 15 A. Sure. May I refer to my notes?
- 16 Q. Yes, please.
- A. Sure. I believe we received the first shipment of evidence October 3rd, 2007.
- Q. Okay. And had you had any correspondence with Sergeant Mehl prior to receiving that?
- A. I don't recall if we did in this particular
 case, but we had worked together on other cases as part
 of his involvement with the cold case unit and he would
 send us evidence in other cases.
- Q. Okay. And can you tell the Court about the

condition of the evidence when you received it? 1

- Sure. It was received in a large Federal Express box that was sealed. Inside there, there were several manilla envelopes and evidence bags containing the evidence that was described earlier.
 - And was the evidence individually packaged? Ο.
 - Yes, it was. Α.

2

3

4

5

6

7

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9

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11

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16

17

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19

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21

22

- Okay. And when you received the evidence, did Ο. you have anything that triggered in your mind, oh, this wasn't sent to me correctly, it wasn't packaged correctly, contamination would have happened here?
- 12 Α. There was nothing initially just looking at the evidence that would indicate that any tampering or contamination may have occurred. 14
 - Did it appear to be done in the standard way that you receive evidence from Sergeant Mehl or other officers asking you to do DNA tests? Did it appear to be the standard method of shipping?
 - Yes, that's correct. It came in via Federal Express. It was received by our evidence custodian. She would have noted any sort of tampering at that point when she received the evidence. And there were no notes made in this case.
- 24 Q. Okay. So, after you received the evidence, did --- you heard Sergeant Mehl's testimony that you 25

```
received, in addition to the original rape kit in the
1
2
   case -- correct?
3
        A. Correct.
            -- an individually packaged cigar --
 4
            Correct.
 5
        Α.
            -- and then some extractions?
6
7
            Some samples that were labeled, yes, DNA
        Α.
   extractions or extracted material.
8
            Okay. And you knew those had come from the HPD
9
        Q.
   Crime Lab?
10
11
            I assumed that they did, but I -- there was
12
   nothing on there saying these came from HPD, but I
13
   assumed that they did, yes.
            Did you rely on the HPD extractions in any way?
14
        Q.
15
            No, ma'am. We performed our own DNA
   extractions from these samples.
16
17
            So, basically, you set their extractions aside
        Ο.
   and did not work with those?
18
            That's correct. We did look at the same
19
        Α.
20
   cutting from the crotch of the panties, but as far as
21
   the other samples we tested from the raw evidence itself
22
   and not using the DNA extractions that were done
23
   previously.
24
        Q. Okay. And that cutting from the panties is the
   actual evidence, right?
25
```

A. That's correct.

1

4

5

6

7

- Q. You didn't rely on extractions or whatever they might have received from the panties?
 - A. That's correct. We took our own cutting from that crotch of the panties and performed our DNA analysis on our own cutting.
 - Q. Okay. And at that time, had you received any extractions or blood samples for the purpose of getting extractions on any suspects in the case?
- 10 A. Initially we received reference samples from 11 Diana Garcia, Arturo Rodriguez, and Angelo Garcia.
- 12 Those are the only reference samples that we were 13 initially given.
- Q. Okay. So, the mother and stepfather of the child and the child?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- Q. So, any of the defendant's known associates, those samples didn't come to you either at that point?
- 19 A. Not in the initial shipment, no.
- Q. And you certainly didn't have a sample from the defendant, Obel Cruz-Garcia?
- 22 A. No, we did not.
- Q. Okay. So, what did you do in order to analyze that evidence?
- 25 A. I work as a team format, so I didn't perform

```
every step along the way, but we -- basically, we
screened the sexual assault kit to look for any samples
that may have semen on them. And any of those samples
that were positive for semen, we performed DNA testing
on. We also tested a sample from a cigar, a swabbing of
a cigar, as well as tested the reference samples in this
```

- Q. Okay. So, basically, you started from scratch?
- 9 A. Yes.

case for comparison.

7

8

- 10 Q. Okay. What items did you determine had semen 11 on them?
- 12 A. The vaginal swabs had semen present, the
 13 panties and the panties cutting had semen present on
 14 them.
 - Q. Okay. Did the cigar have any semen on it?
- 16 A. We didn't look for semen on the cigar.
- Q. Okay. So, talking about the vaginal swabs and panties cuttings, what did you do with that, those items of evidence, once you determined that they had semen?
- A. We performed a DNA extradition and analyzed the DNA that was present to see if we could develop a DNA profile.
- Q. Okay. And were you able to?
- A. Yes, we were.
- Q. And just in general -- this hearing isn't

```
really about the ultimate results you received, but in general what results did you receive from the vaginal swab and the panties cuttings?
```

- A. Do you want me to give the initial results or once we already compared all of the parties?
- Q. The initial results. Because at this point, you don't have a sample to compare it to.
 - A. Correct. We obtained a DNA profile from an unknown male from the cigar. From the vaginal swabs, there is an epithelial or skin cell fraction. That was with Diana Garcia.
- 12 Q. Okay.

5

8

10

11

- A. The sperm cell fraction was a mixture of multiple individuals. Arturo Rodriguez --
- Q. The husband of the complainant's mother?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- And the donor of the DNA we obtained from the cigar could not be excluded as a contributor.
- Q. So, basically, you had -- in the rape kit
 vaginal swabs, you had epithelial cells that matched
 Diana Garcia, which would be expected?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. DNA matching her husband, correct?
- 24 A. Correct.
- 25 Q. And a third unknown individual, correct?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- Q. And that third unknown individual was a male?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- Q. And that DNA from that vaginal swab also, that third unknown male is also the third unknown male whose
- 6 DNA was on that cigar?
- 7 A. I would probably phrase it differently just to
- 8 be more conservative, but --
- 9 THE COURT: There's not three males; is
- 10 | that correct? There's two males and one female, is that
- 11 | what you're --
- 12 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 13 | Q. (By Ms. Tise) There's two males and one female.
- 14 | MS. TISE: Thank you, Judge.
- 15 Q. (By Ms. Tise) The third unknown individual --
- 16 or the third individual unknown -- the only unknown
- 17 | individual was a male, correct?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And that DNA profile matched the DNA profile
- 20 | from the cigar?
- 21 A. Again, I would say that the unknown profile
- 22 from the cigar couldn't be excluded as a contributor to
- 23 that vaginal swab.
- Q. Okay. And the DNA that you found from the
- 25 cigar is a single-source DNA, correct?

- A. That's correct. There was only one individual's DNA present there.
 - Q. And tell us about what you found on the panties.
 - A. On the panties, the epithelial fraction or the skin cell fraction was consistent with Diana Garcia.
 - Q. Okay.

4

5

6

- A. The sperm fraction was a mixture of at least two individuals. The major profile originated from an unknown male. And this was consistent with the unknown male profile we obtained from the cigar. And Arturo Rodriguez could not be excluded as a possible contributor to the sample as well.
- Q. Okay. So, on the panties you had epithelial cells that matched Diana Garcia?
- 16 A. Correct.
- Q. You had male DNA from the same profile or matching the profile from the cigar or cannot being excluded?
- 20 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And also from the profile on the vaginal swabs, the same unknown male individual?
- A. The same unknown male could not be excluded from the cigar, the sperm fraction from the vaginal swab, and the sperm fraction from the panties.

- Q. Okay. And Arturo Rodriguez was also a contributor to the male DNA in the panties?
- A. He could not be excluded as a minor 4 contributor.
- Q. Okay. But the major contributor was the unknown male?
- 7 A. Correct.
 - Q. Okay. You reported on those results?
- 9 A. Yes.

14

17

18

19

20

- 10 Q. And what happened next?
- 11 A. Next, we received some reference samples from
 12 some different individuals to compare to see if we could
 13 obtain -- to see if we could find a match to this
- Q. Okay. And can you tell me whose reference samples you received at that point?

unknown profile that we had obtained.

- A. Sure. The next shipment, we obtained reference samples from Candido Lebron, Bienviendo Melo, Leonardo German, and Carmelo Martinez.
- Q. And when did you receive those samples?
- 21 A. On December 7th, 2007.
- Q. Okay. And did you compare those individuals to the DNA profile that you had obtained from the cigar and the items from the rape kit?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. And can you tell us what result you got?
- A. Sure. Mr. Lebron, Mr. Melo, and Mr. German
- 3 could be excluded as possible contributors to all of the
- $4 \mid$ samples that were tested. We obtained a really partial
- 5 profile from Mr. Martinez because what we were provided
- 6 was a DNA extract. So, we couldn't make any conclusions
- 7 about him as a possible contributor at this time.
- Q. Okay. Were you later asked to do that or was
- 9 that HPD that ultimately got further information?
- 10 A. Eventually we were given a swab and compared
- 11 | those as well.

- 12 Q. Okay. And let's go ahead and talk about that.
- 13 | On Martinez, originally you didn't have enough DNA to
- 14 exclude or include him from those samples?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. So, what -- can you tell us when you got
- 17 | further DNA or a further sample from Mr. Martinez to
- 18 compare and determine whether he was included or
- 19 | excluded?
- 20 A. Sure. It was June 2nd of 2011.
- 21 Q. Okay. And when you received that, were you
- 22 able to get a DNA -- a full DNA profile from Carmelo
- 23 | Martinez?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And after you got his full DNA profile, were

- you able to exclude him from being a contributor to the 1 2 DNA on the cigar, the vaginal swabs, and the panties? 3 Α. Yes. Okay. At some point, did you receive a sample 4 Q. from the defendant, Obel Cruz-Garcia, to compare to the 5 results you had obtained? 6 7 Α. Yes. And when was that? 8 Ο. 9 It was May 28th, 2008. Α. 10 Ο. And were you able to obtain a full DNA profile 11 from the sample you received? 12 Α. Yes. 13 Q. And what result did you get? The DNA profile we obtained from 14 15 Mr. Cruz-Garcia, it matched the DNA profile from the cigar. He could not be excluded as a contributor to the 16 sperm fraction of the vaginal swabs. And he matched the 17 major profile that we obtained from the sperm fraction 18 19 of the panties. 20 Q. And in the case of Obel Cruz-Garcia, you are 21 comfortable using the strong statement that it was a 22 match to the panties and to the cigar?
- A. It was a match to -- yes -- to the major
 profile from the sperm fraction of the panties and to
 the cigar. The profiles matched.

- Q. And can you tell us the statistics?
- A. Sure. You would expect to find his DNA profile
 in the North American populations roughly 1 in 1
 quintillion unrelated individuals. I was trying to give
 you the most conservative and that was the least
- 6 conservative. Excuse me.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

- So, 1 in 71.5 quadrillion unrelated individuals. Excuse me.
- 9 Q. Okay. At any point as you received evidence
 10 from Sergeant Mehl throughout the course of this DNA
 11 work that you did over a period of time, did you have
 12 anything in the packaging of the evidence to indicate to
 13 you any kind of contamination or mishandling?
 - A. There is nothing in -- you can't really see contamination from the way the evidence is packaged.

 All the outermost packaging was sealed and there was nothing, just looking at, that would make you think that anything could have happened.
 - Q. Can you talk to us a little bit about how, after conducting your analysis, you can assure this Court that the evidence would not have been contaminated with -- by anything that the HPD lab might have done prior to obtaining the defendant's DNA sample?
- A. Stating it like that, it's kind of hard for me
 to say without knowing what the HPD Crime Lab had done

1 | with the evidence.

- Q. Let me ask you this question. Let's assume that the HPD lab did not have a sample of the defendant's DNA. Is there any kind of mishandling that could have been done without a sample defendant's DNA in their possession that would create the kind of results that you got?
- A. Without having the defendant's DNA to contaminate with, I don't see a way that his DNA profile could have shown up on this evidence.
- Q. Let's say that the evidence back in 1992 was stored in atrocious conditions. Okay? And that a tropical storm blew through and there was a leaky roof and the evidence got wet. Would that somehow make the defendant's DNA appear on that evidence when it wasn't there before?
- A. No. It may make it more difficult to obtain a DNA profile, but it wouldn't change or add to the results from the evidence that we received.
- Q. Okay. Let's say that a person at the crime lab mishandled one piece of evidence, like the cigar, and touched an item from the rape kit with it. First of all, what kind of tampering like that would have to occur to get the major profile results that you got on the panties?

- A. That would be difficult to do because we're basically looking at two different cell types that we're trying to isolate DNA from. One being epithelial cells or skin cells that you would expect to find on the cigar that someone may have in their mouth. So, you have saliva and skin cells. On the second, we did identify sperm on the panties and the vaginal swabs. So, I don't see a way that, you know, epithelial cells from a cigar could make the sperm cells that we obtained DNA from match the defendant.
- Q. Okay. So, when you test what you believe to be semen, in either the vaginal swabs or the cutting from the panties, what kinds of procedures do you use to isolate the sperm cells from any other kinds of cells?
- A. We do what's called a differential extraction. And that's basically an attempt to separate out any of those epithelial cells that are easier to break open and purify, wash away the DNA from the sperm cells that are extremely hearty cells. They are made to go from one person to another to, you know, have a baby, to create a baby. So, they are really hearty cells. So, we use that to our advantage and first break open any epithelial cells that are present. We wash away, as best we can, any DNA, and, you know, cellular material away from the sperm cells during this differential

the other.

6

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

- extraction to, as best we can, separate any epithelial cells from any sperm cells. And then we isolate the DNA from those two different fractions to do our best to have, you know, any female or epithelial cells in one fraction and any DNA that we obtain from sperm cells in
- Q. So, when you were looking at the DNA cells from the panties and the vaginal swabs, you were looking at sperm cells in particular?
- A. We were looking at both types. We had an epithelial fraction and we had a sperm cell fraction.

 So, we separate those two out. We still perform DNA testing on both of those fractions, but one would be very rich in epithelial cell DNA and the other would be rich in sperm cell DNA.
 - Q. Okay. So, you were looking -- when you found the defendant's DNA profile on the panties, you were looking specifically at sperm cells?
 - A. They -- his profile showed up in the sperm cell fraction of both of those samples.
 - Q. Okay. So, there would have had to have been sperm cells on the cigar for the cigar to have contaminated the panties?
- A. Yeah. When we tested the panties, we saw -when we trying to see how many sperm were present, they

- 1 are quite a few sperm present. You would expect to
- 2 | find, you know, a robust profile there. And we did find
- 3 | a robust DNA profile there. We had a major profile from
- 4 that panties cutting that did match the defendant in
- 5 this case.
- Q. And it was such a robust profile you were
- 7 comfortable saying that it was a match?
- 8 A. Yes. It was a major profile, so we were able
- 9 to deduce that out and separate it out from any other
- 10 contributors in that sample.
- 11 Q. And those are sperm cells that you were looking
- 12 | at?
- 13 A. Yes. We did our best to isolate the sperm
- 14 cells themselves.
- 15 Q. And looking -- when looking at the cigar, you
- 16 were looking at the epithelial cells?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. A whole different type of cell?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 Q. And it was the epithelial cells on the cigar
- 21 | that you were able to say were a match to the defendant?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 Q. So, what does that indicate to you with regards
- 24 to contamination?
- 25 A. Again, you know, what I stated at the

- beginning, it looks like they're coming from two
 different cell types; one from epithelial or skin cells
 from the cigar where it may have been handled or put in
 someone's mouth and the other is from the sperm cells
 that were identified on the panties themselves.
 - Q. And does the quantity of sperm cells that you saw where you were able to say was the major contributor, also contribute to your opinion?
 - A. Yeah. That helps me form my opinion. Since there were so many sperm cells there, I would expect that to be, you know, a major profile or a good contributor to the sperm cell fraction DNA.
- Q. Did you report the results that you received from your testing once you received Obel Cruz-Garcia's DNA and major comparisons?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. Let me ask you this, about storage conditions when it comes to biological evidence. If you store biological evidence in an unclimate-controlled area in a plastic bag, what can happen to that evidence?
- A. If there is any moisture that's trapped in that plastic bag, it could promote any mold or bacteria growth that may be, you know, on that sample and that could degrade your DNA that's on the sample, which would just make it harder to get -- or make it impossible,

```
potentially, to get a DNA profile from that sample.
1
2
            Okay. So, basically, you are shooting yourself
   in the foot, potentially, if you do that, correct?
3
 4
        Α.
           Potentially, yes.
            Might not get DNA there, right?
5
        Q.
        Α.
            Correct.
6
            But it's not going to make somebody else's DNA
7
        Q.
   that wasn't there to begin with all of sudden turn up on
8
9
   that sample?
10
            That's correct. It won't change the DNA to
11
   someone else's DNA. It would just break up the DNA to
   where you are not able to obtain results from it.
12
13
        Q. Okay.
14
                 MS. TISE: I'm going to pass the witness.
15
                 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Tise.
16
                 Mr. Cornelius.
17
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Can we take a quick break,
18
   Judge?
19
                 THE COURT:
                              Sure.
20
                 (Recess)
21
                 THE COURT: You may proceed.
22
                 MR. CORNELIUS:
                                 Thank you.
23
                       CROSS-EXAMINATION
24
   BY MR. CORNELIUS:
25
            Would you spell your last name again for me,
        Q.
```

```
1
   please?
2
        Α.
             Yes. It's Q-u-a-r-t-a-r-o.
3
        Q.
             Quartaro?
 4
        Α.
             Quartaro, yes.
5
        Q.
             I'm sorry. I wasn't paying attention.
            No problem.
6
        Α.
7
            My name is Skip Cornelius. I don't think we've
        Q.
   ever met or discussed this case or anything else before,
8
   have we?
            No, sir.
10
        Α.
11
             All right. You said that y'all started from
12
   scratch doing your analysis or testing, but you couldn't
   really start from scratch because you got -- the items
13
   that you received to do the testing came from the HPD
14
15
   Crime Lab, right?
16
            Yes. We did test items that came from the
   crime lab. What I'm saying is we didn't use any of
17
18
   their DNA extracts or their products of testing in our
19
   DNA testing.
20
        Q.
            But you used their evidence. The evidence they
21
   had in their possession came to you and that's what you
22
   used?
```

- A. Yeah, we tested the evidence in the case and it was in HPD's possession at one point. Yes.
- 25 Q. Okay. And could you tell that that same

evidence had been tested by the HPD Crime Lab?

- I could tell it had been tested because there were some swabs missing and there were swab sticks without the swab heads on them, but I couldn't specifically tell -- I wasn't really concerned with who all had touched the evidence.
- 7 Okay. But it's fair to say that you know there Q. was some active testing by the HPD Crime Lab?
 - Α. Yes.

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- All right. Now, why were y'all doing the work 10 for the HPD Crime Lab? What's your understanding of 11 12 that?
- A. We had a contract with the City of Houston to 13 perform DNA analyses on both -- I mean, on active cases, 14 15 on cold cases, and several different types of cases. So, we had done so for several years. 16
 - And was the HPD Crime Lab shut down at that Ο. point, still working, or what was your understanding?
 - Our work with HPD spanned from the time they were closed down till recently. So, I mean, it spanned several years.
- 22 What was your understanding of why the crime Ο. 23 lab was shut down?
- 24 Α. Again, all I know is the anecdotal evidence 25 that I've read in the newspapers. And, again, reading

```
1
   that was several years ago. I know there was some
2
   issues with --
                 MS. TISE: I'll object to anything from
3
   that kind of anecdotal evidence as hearsay. He doesn't
4
   have firsthand knowledge of it.
5
                 THE COURT: Unless you have firsthand
6
7
   knowledge, we don't -- just what you heard from somebody
8
   else.
                 THE WITNESS:
                               Sure.
                 THE COURT: I will sustain that.
10
11
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Actually, Judge, not to
12
   argue with you, but just so I don't go anywhere I
13
   shouldn't. Hearsay evidence is actually admissible for
   purposes of this hearing. If you don't want to hear it,
14
15
   that's your business, but I'm not going to --
16
                 THE COURT: Well, is it clear from all the
   documents that you have already put in evidence?
17
18
                 MR. CORNELIUS:
                                 It is.
19
                 THE COURT: I don't want his opinion on
20
   what he thinks went wrong, but if it's clear from all of
   these other documents let's just proceed.
21
22
                 MR. CORNELIUS: If you don't want to hear
23
   it, I totally understand.
24
        Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) All right. So, when is it
   that y'all started doing testing for the Houston Police
25
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Department?
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8

- A. I believe it was either 2003 or 2004. I don't recall the exact date that the contract started.
 - Q. Okay. Among the things that you received were samples from friends and associates of the defendant; is that what you were told?
 - A. We received them as reference samples. I didn't know who particularly they were, other than people to see if we could include or exclude.
- Q. Okay. So, what you received from HPD didn't have any language or notification to you as to who these people were, just people for you to try to get profiles on?
- A. I can look to see what the notes specifically said when we received the evidence. Regardless of what it said, it doesn't change the type of testing that we do. There were just listed as possible suspects.
- Q. Okay. And that group of samples came from the HPD Crime Lab also?
 - A. They came from Eric Mehl who sent them to us.
- Q. Okay. Now, with respect to the skin cells, epithelial cells, can those be transferred from one person to another?
- A. They can, yes.
- Q. I mean, for example, if somebody had my skin

- cell on their hand for some reason or their clothing, or whatever, some friend of mine had my skin cell and that person then touched a cigar or smoked a cigar, could they leave my epithelial cell on the cigar?
- 5 A. That's a possibility, but they would also leave 6 their own DNA behind as well.
 - Q. Why is that?

8

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- A. Because they would be touching the sample.
- Q. Every time you touch something you leave your epithelial cells?
- A. We shed millions of cells every day. Some
 people shed more cells than others, depending on how dry
 their skin is or how oily their skin is, how rough a
 surface is. There is different amounts of DNA that are
 shed every day. So, just in the course of you rubbing
 your hands on the chair right there, you are leaving
 some DNA behind.
 - Q. So, at crime scenes -- if a suspect is at a crime scene and it isn't where he was, everything he touches is going to have his DNA on it?
 - A. We may not be able to detect the DNA depending on how much DNA is left behind, but you shed skin cells on everything that you do touch.
- Q. Okay. Then why is it that the police don't get DNA very often at crime scenes?

- A. I don't know if that's an accurate statement.
- Q. Okay. All right. So, if one person is --
- 3 | we'll call them a shedder, meaning that they either have
- 4 dry skin or for some reason their cells flake off, that
- 5 person is definitely going to leave skin cells on most
- 6 | things that they touch, correct?
- 7 A. That's a pretty general statement. And, again,
- 8 people shed skin cells. Is it sufficient to obtain a
- 9 DNA profile from an item? That's highly variable with
- 10 how much they shed, how rough the surface is, how long
- 11 | since they've touched the item. I mean, there are a lot
- 12 of variables to know -- or to even give an estimate if
- 13 | it is likely or to get a DNA profile from that.
- 14 Q. Okay. So, why is that you would say that if
- 15 two people touch a cigar they would both leave their DNA
- 16 on it?

- 17 A. I think that they would both leave their DNA on
- 18 there. Would it be in sufficient amounts to obtain a
- 19 DNA profile, is the main question.
- 20 Q. Okay. Well, maybe I just didn't understand
- 21 | what you were saying. Two people touch the cigar, is it
- 22 possible you get a DNA profile for only one of them?
- 23 A. It could be possible.
- 24 Q. Okay. With respect to the sperm cells, is
- 25 | there any way that you can test for when the sperm cells

```
1
   were deposited?
2
            No, we can't tell when it was deposited, just
   whose DNA is there.
3
4
            And is there any way you can test -- under what
        Q.
   conditions, other than obviously having sex, but under
5
   what conditions the sperm cells were left?
6
7
                 Again, all we can tell is whose DNA is
        Α.
            No.
   left behind.
8
9
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I pass the witness at this
   point, Judge.
10
11
                 THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to ask a few
   questions of this witness just to clear some things up
12
   for me.
13
                 Okay. I think you already testified, but
14
15
   the swabs that you tested and you got back the results
   of not excluding this defendant's profile from those
16
   swabs, did you say that those swabs, you could tell, had
17
   already been tested by the HPD Crime Lab?
18
                 THE WITNESS: Well, when a sexual assault
19
20
   kit -- there are multiple swabs, swab types. So, for
21
   example -- if I can refer to my notes quickly.
22
                 There were a total of, looks like, three
23
   original vaginal swabs in the sexual assault kit. One
```

of those did not have the swab head on it anymore, but

the two remaining swabs were intact. So, we then tested

24

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one of the intact vaginal swabs.
1
                 THE COURT: Okay. So, the one that didn't
2
   have a head on it, you can assume it had already been
3
   tested in some way by another crime lab?
4
                 THE WITNESS: That's what we assumed. I
5
   don't know that for sure, but it was not there for us to
6
7
   test at this point
8
                 THE COURT: All right. And then so you
   tested the other two swabs and they came up with you
9
   couldn't exclude this defendant, correct?
10
11
                 THE WITNESS: We tested one other swab.
12
   There's still one swab remanning for any additional
13
   testing.
14
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.
15
                 And then as to the other evidence from the
   rape kit that -- you were referring to panties and
16
17
   cuttings and -- did you -- I know you received one
18
   cutting that already came from another crime lab, that
   was already cut out presumably those same panties,
19
20
   correct?
21
                 THE WITNESS: Correct.
22
                 THE COURT: Did you make another cutting
23
   from the panties that came out of the sexual assault
24
   kit?
25
                               There is crotch area that was
                 THE WITNESS:
```

```
approximately 8 centimeter by 6 centimeters. And from
1
2
   that there was approximately a 2-and-a-half centimeter
   by 1-and-a-half centimeter already taken from that
3
   sample.
4
 5
                 THE COURT: Okay.
                 THE WITNESS: And so, we took an additional
6
7
   cutting from that sample and tested it. So, the
   entire -- the crotch was cut out, one cutting was
8
   previously tested, and then we took another cutting from
10
   this same crotch area.
11
                 THE COURT: Did you test anything
   additional on the panties itself?
12
13
                 THE WITNESS: No, we did not.
14
                 THE COURT: So, you just took the one
15
   crotch cutting from the panties that -- and do you know
   if that was stored separately? How were those stored?
16
   Were they all stored in the same container or what?
17
18
                 THE WITNESS: And there was one crotch of
   the panties -- a cutting from the crotch of the panties
19
20
   that were stored in a ziploc bag that was separate from
   the sexual assault kit.
21
22
                 THE COURT: Okay. So, presumably that's
23
   the one that had been already tested from the previous
24
   crime lab?
25
                 THE WITNESS: It looks like the crotch of
```

```
1
   the panties was cut out and a portion of that was
2
   tested.
3
                 THE COURT:
                             Okay.
 4
                 THE WITNESS: And then we tested another
   portion of that same cutting.
5
                 THE COURT:
                             All right. So, the crotch of
6
7
   the panties and the actual panties themselves were still
8
   in the sexual assault kit, but the small portion was in
   a separate bag that had already been tested by the other
10
   crime lab; is that right?
11
                 THE WITNESS:
                               No. There is -- originally
12
   there was a pair of panties in the sexual assault kit.
13
                 THE COURT: Sure. And that's still in the
   sexual assault kit.
14
15
                 THE WITNESS:
                               There's still an envelope in
   there that's labeled panties that's stapled on one end
16
   and labeled in the sexual assault kit. We never did
17
   anything with that pair of panties that was in the
18
19
   sexual assault kit. But for -- just for history, so
20
   there is a pair of panties, the crotch is taken out, and
21
   approximately an 8 centimeter by 6 centimeter cutting of
22
   the crotch was taken -- was cut from those original pair
23
   of panties. And then a small portion of that was
24
   presumably taken for DNA testing. And then we took
   another cutting from this same crotch area for DNA
25
```

```
testing. So, we didn't test the actual small cutting
1
   that the other lab took from there for DNA testing. We
2
   took another cutting from that same crotch, but not the
3
   portion that was previously tested.
4
                 THE COURT: Yeah. And I understand what
5
   you tested.
                I'm just wondering where you got that from.
6
7
   Was it -- so that crotch portion was already cut out and
   separated out from the sexual assault kit when you got
8
   it?
10
                 THE WITNESS: That's correct, yes.
11
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.
12
                 Does anywhere in your documentation show --
   and this may have already been asked -- who actually,
13
   from the HPD Crime Lab, handled those cuttings?
14
15
                 THE WITNESS: No, there is not.
16
                 THE COURT: I don't have anything further.
                 Does anybody have any questions?
17
18
                 MS. TISE: No.
19
                 THE COURT: All right. May this witness be
20
   excused?
21
                 MS. TISE: Yes, Your Honor.
22
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, Your Honor.
23
                 THE WITNESS:
                               Thank you.
24
                 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.
25
                 Call your next.
```

```
MR. WOOD: Judge, the State will call
1
2
   Courtney Head. Prior to Ms. Head testifying, we just
   had a couple of stipulations to read into the record.
3
 4
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. You may
5
   proceed.
6
                 MR. WOOD: This is something we discussed
7
   with Mr. Cornelius before the hearing regarding the
   defendant's submission to a DNA sample. I believe --
8
   and Mr. Cornelius can agree with this or not agree with
   this, but on February 16th, 2010, the defendant
10
11
   consented to submit a blood, hair, or saliva sample.
12
   There was a signed consent form signed by the defendant.
   It was interpreted by Rolando Hernandez. And I will
13
   offer that as State's Exhibit 2.
14
15
                 And in addition to that, Michael Webb, an
   investigator with the Harris County District Attorney's
16
   Office obtained two buccal swabs from the defendant.
17
   Those were submitted to the Houston Police Department
18
   Crime Lab on February 18th of 2010. And the submission
19
20
   form is marked State's Exhibit 3. And I will submit
   those for -- or I will offer those into evidence.
21
22
                 (State's Exhibit No. 2 and 3 Offered)
23
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No objection.
24
                 THE COURT: No objection to State's Exhibit
   2 or 3 for purposes of this hearing?
25
```

```
1
                 MR. CORNELIUS: That's correct, Judge.
2
                 THE COURT: Okay. They will both be
   admitted, State's Exhibit 2 and State's Exhibit 3.
3
                 Okay. And you may call Courtney Head.
 4
                 (State's Exhibit No. 2 and 3 Admitted)
5
                 (Witness sworn)
6
7
                 THE COURT: Ms. Head, it's H-e-a-d?
                 THE WITNESS: Yes.
8
9
                 THE COURT: You may proceed, Mr. Wood.
                 MR. WOOD: Thank you, Your Honor.
10
11
                         COURTNEY HEAD,
   having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
12
                       DIRECT EXAMINATION
13
   BY MR. WOOD:
14
15
        Q. Good morning, Ms. Head.
16
        A. Good morning.
17
            Can you introduce yourself with your full name
        Ο.
18
   for the Court?
            Sure. My first name is Courtney. Last name
19
        Α.
20
   Head, H-e-a-d.
21
        Q.
            And, Ms. Head, tell us how you are employed.
22
            I'm employed as a criminalist specialist with
23
   the Houston Police Department Crime Lab.
24
        Ο.
            How long have you been employed there?
25
        A. About three-and-a-half years.
```

- Q. Have you maintained that same position, a criminalist, there at the HPD Crime Lab?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. Tell us a little bit about your background and first your education. Tell us where you went to school.
- A. Sure. I have an undergraduate degree from

 Ouachita Baptist University. My degree is in biology

 with a minor in chemistry. I also have a masters in

 forensic science with a concentration in forensic

 molecular biology from George Washington University.
- Q. And tell us about your training in the area of DNA analysis.
- A. I have been working in DNA analysis since 2002.

 And I started working in a private forensic DNA

 laboratory where I received most of my training. It was made up of mostly readings as well as watching another qualified analyst and doing my own test, practices, doing competency tests, and then oral tests as well.
- Q. What are your duties and responsibilities as a criminalist at the Houston Police Department Crime Lab?
- A. Well, I'm actually a criminalist specialist, so I'm a supervisor in the laboratory. I supervise a small group of about nine individuals who do mostly screening, the actual initial testing to determine if like blood or semen might be present on an item. I'm also the case

```
manager, so I assign all of the cases to every analyst
1
2
   in the lab for DNA or for serology. I also maintain DNA
   analysis. And so, I can write cases, do extractions, do
3
   lab techniques, and ultimately write reports.
4
            Are part of your responsibilities there also
5
   testifying in court as you are doing today?
6
7
        Α.
             Yes.
8
             Have you testified as an expert in this area on
        Ο.
   few or many occasions in the past?
9
10
             I have testified on many occasions.
11
             Regarding the area of DNA analysis, based on
        0.
12
   your training and experience do you recognize it as a
   reliable scientific theory or principle?
13
14
        Α.
             Yes.
15
             Within your lab currently and in your
   experience, do you currently use a technique known as --
16
17
   and we can talk about this in a little bit, but STR or
18
   short random -- tandem repeats?
19
        Α.
             Yes.
20
        Q.
             And do you know that to be a valid technique in
   your field in your training and experience?
21
            Yes, I do.
22
```

Is that also recognized as being valid by the

scientific community in which you practice?

Α.

Α.

Yes.

23

24

- Q. Ms. Head, I want to visit with you a little bit about -- you said you've been with the HPD Crime Lab a little over three years?

 A. Yes.
- Q. I take it from that you weren't involved in any way, shape, or form with the crime lab back in 1992?
- 7 A. No.
- Q. I know it's not polite to ask someone's age,
 but I trust you weren't even around back then?
- 10 A. I was -- well, I was around. I was in seventh 11 grade, I think.
- 12 Q. But not at HPD?
- 13 A. No.
- Q. Okay. Do you know anything or do you have any dealings or experience with a lab out of California called the Genetic Design Lab?
- A. Only in reviewing this case I have seen some report from them, but, otherwise, no.
- Q. And your work on this case -- we'll go into
 what your specific role was in this case, but in your
 work on this case, did you also have an opportunity to
 review the work that others had done involving this case
 in the past?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And the records and such that go along with

```
that?
1
2
        Α.
             Yes.
             With regards to the Genetic Design Lab, based
3
        Ο.
   on your reading of the information on this case was some
4
   of the materials involved in this case originally sent
5
   off for testing at that California lab back in 1992?
6
7
             Can I check out my notes?
        Α.
8
        O.
             Sure.
             Everything that I can see from the records that
9
   we still had at the crime lab it appears that extracted
10
11
   DNA was sent to Genetic Design.
12
             And I think in our talking about that, you
        Q.
   supplied a letter that came from within your crime lab
13
14
   dated November 30th of 1992?
             That's correct.
15
        Α.
16
             And does that detail the evidence that was
17
   shipped or sent to Genetic Design Lab requesting that
18
   testing be done or analysis be done?
19
             Yes, it does.
        Α.
20
                 MR. WOOD: Your Honor, may I approach?
21
                 THE COURT: Yes.
22
             (By Mr. Wood) Ms. Head, I'm going to show you
        Ο.
23
   State's Exhibit 4. Is this the letter that you and I --
24
   or that you were just referencing (indicating)?
25
             Yes.
        Α.
```

```
MR. WOOD: Your Honor, I will offer State's
1
2
   Exhibit 4 into evidence.
                 (State's Exhibit No. 4 Offered)
3
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No objection.
 4
                 THE COURT: State's Exhibit 4 will be
 5
   admitted.
6
7
                 (State's Exhibit No. 4 Admitted)
8
        Ο.
             (By Mr. Wood) Based on your reading of State's
   Exhibit 4, Ms. Head, do you see that certain extractions
9
   were sent to that lab back in 1992?
10
11
            Yes, I do.
        Α.
12
             What do you take from that? What do you mean
        Ο.
   by extractions?
13
             This would mean that the HPD laboratory
14
15
   actually extracted the DNA from the evidentiary samples.
   So, for example, the vaginal swab and the crotch
16
   panties, the DNA was actually extracted out of those
17
   samples. And then for all the blood samples, DNA was
18
   extracted from that blood as well.
19
20
        Q.
            So, the original evidence, those original
21
   evidentiary samples, whether it be the sexual assault
22
   kit or the blood or other evidence, that was maintained,
23
   based on your assumptions, by the lab that's -- by the
24
   HPD itself?
25
        Α.
            Yes.
```

- Q. And only extractions from those evidentiary samples were sent to the Genetic Design Lab?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. In your reading of -- or in your understanding, that evidence that was sent to the Genetic Design Lab back in 1992, was there a cigar or any extraction or sample of a cigar sent in that evidence?
 - A. No. I don't see any listing of a cigar.
- 9 Q. Ms. Head, are you familiar with a criminalist 10 by the name of Joseph Chu?
- 11 A. Yes, I am.
- 12 Q. And have you ever personally worked with
- 13 | Mr. Chu?

4

5

6

7

- 14 A. We do work in the crime lab together. However,
- 15 he works in the evidence receiving section on a
- 16 different floor. So, the only time I really have
- 17 | interaction with him might be at a lab wide meeting.
- Q. And you understand he has been part of the HPD
- 19 | Crime Lab for some time?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. In your review of the information in this case,
- 22 does it appear that -- does it appear to you that
- 23 Mr. Chu, Joseph Chu, did any kind of DNA analysis on any
- 24 of the evidence in the case?
- 25 A. Not from what I have reviewed.

- Q. And does it appear that he at one point obtained a hair sample from a suspect back in 1992?
- 3 A. Yes.

- Q. Specifically, October 7th?
- 5 A. I'd have to look at my notes.
- Q. I think that's based on what you and I had talked.
- 8 A. Okay. Then, yes.
- 9 Q. And then he also was in receipt of some buccal
- 10 swabs of the defendant from Michael Webb back on
- 11 | February 18th of 2010?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. And is that the only two references to Mr. Chu
- 14 that you have seen in your review of the information in
- 15 | this case?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. What about an individual by the name of B.
- 18 | Sharma, do you know that person
- 19 A. I have no personal knowledge of that person.
- 20 Q. Do you understand that that individual has
- 21 | previously worked in the Houston Police Department Crime
- 22 Lab?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you have -- have you had an opportunity to
- 25 review a report or work done by B. Sharma back on

- October 28th of 1992? 1 2 Α. Yes. And would you agree with me that B. Sharma did 3 Ο. some DNA analysis on some of the extractions from the 4 rape kit in this case back in -- on that date of October 5 of 1992? 6 7 Α. Yes. I guess a little bit about the history of DNA. 8 Ο. 9 We're talking about 1992. Would you characterize that as being the very early stages of DNA? 10 11 Α. Yes. 12 Suffice it to say that the techniques used back Ο. in 1992 were -- are definitely different than what you 13 are experiencing today? 14 15 Α. Yes. 16 With regards to B. Sharma's findings from that analysis back in October of 1992, do you recall a 17 18 finding by B. Sharma that the male fraction DNA was too degraded to make -- form any conclusions? 19 20 Α. Yes, on certain items. 21 What does that mean -- what does that mean when Q. he characterizes that as too degraded?
- 22

24

25

Α. That would mean that the DNA -- we're looking for certain links of DNA as far as doing the testing. So, we need for the DNA to be of a certain length in

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order for us to detect it. And if the DNA is too
degraded, that means that the DNA could be chopped up
and it's too small for us to actually be able to use
these certain techniques, especially these older
techniques needed much longer fragments.
         And in your review of the materials, did you
actually -- were you actually able to review some of
```

- that work that B. Sharma was referencing there?
- I did find a few of his notes and a couple of Α. pictures in our library.
- In your opinion, can you tell us, are his -are his findings that the male fraction DNA at that time was too degraded consistent with the methods that were being used back then?
- I personally have never used this technique, but in talking and in studies and things that I have learned in graduate school, you would expect to see a certain banding pattern on a DNA profile that would be intact or that you could draw some conclusions from. And in this certain situation, the DNA looks basically like a smear all the way down the photograph. And so, that would be indicative that the DNA was too degraded. THE COURT: That it was what?
 - (By Mr. Wood) And that was based on the method Q.

THE WITNESS: Too degraded.

```
or technique that he was relying on at that time?
1
2
        Α.
             Yes.
             Was that the RFLP testing or was that a
3
        Ο.
   different technique?
4
             Honestly, I don't know from the notes.
5
   doesn't actually say it was RFLP. Based on the notes
6
7
   that I can see, it's a quantitative GEL. And so, at
   that point it could have just been a simple GEL trying
8
   to determine how many DNA was there versus actually
   splitting it up and looking at the certain locations on
10
11
   the DNA.
12
             I guess with time and advancements your ability
        Ο.
   to -- well, analysis has improved or techniques have
13
   improved over time; is that correct?
14
15
             Yes, drastically.
        Α.
16
             Okay. I want to visit with you a little bit
        Q.
   about your personal work on this case. Okay?
17
18
        Α.
             Okay.
             When was it that you first became involved in
19
        Q.
20
   this case or asked to become involved in this case?
21
             I have to go to a different folder.
        Α.
22
                 I first became involved with this case in
```

Q. And how was it that you became involved?

23

24

25

October of 2010.

A. I was asked to perform extraction analysis on a

```
1 buccal swab.
```

- Q. And did you, in fact, perform the extractions on that buccal swab?
 - A. Yes, I did.
- Q. And who was the buccal swab -- who was that reference sample from?
- 7 A. It was from Obel Cruz-Garcia.
- Q. And after performing extractions on that
 9 reference sample of Obel Cruz-Garcia, what did you do
 10 then?
- A. After the DNA was extracted, I did some other techniques in the laboratory. I quantified, basically determined how much DNA was present. And then I amplified that sample of DNA and ultimately gained a DNA profile that I could analyze and compare to any previous evidentiary samples.
- Q. Okay. So, your work alone, you were able to obtain a DNA profile for Obel Cruz-Garcia, the defendant in this case?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And after you obtained that profile, you stated that you were able to then compare it against some evidentiary samples?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Tell me about that. What did you do to go

```
1 about that?
```

3

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5

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9

10

- A. I reviewed the case file from Orchid Cellmark and then I had the DNA profile that I generated from the buccal swab and I compared that DNA profile to any other evidentiary samples that were obtained from Orchid Cellmark.
- Q. So, you, Ms. Head, independently, did not obtain DNA profiles from evidentiary samples on your own, you relied on the DNA profiles obtained by Orchid Cellmark; is that right?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- Q. Specifically, did you compare the DNA profile
 that you obtained of the defendant, Obel Cruz-Garcia, to
 an evidentiary sample from a cigar?
 - A. Yes, I did.
- Q. And what basically -- generally what were your findings there with regards to the cigar?
- A. Well, the cigar was a single-source DNA
 profile. So, the DNA only came from one individual.
 And when I compared it to the buccal swab from Obel
- 21 Cruz-Garcia, Obel Cruz-Garcia could not be excluded as a 22 contributor to the DNA on that cigar.
- Q. Did you compare his -- the known DNA sample
 of -- the reference sample of the defendant to other
 evidentiary items?

- Yes. I compared it to the sperm fraction of 1 2 the vaginal swabs from Diana Garcia and also the sperm fraction from the panties, which is described as a 3 crotch-red from Diana Garcia. 4
- With regards to the vaginal swabs of Diana 5 Q. Garcia, what were your findings? 6

15

16

- 7 Well, the profile obtained from Orchid Cellmark Α. was a mixture of at least three individuals. And Obel Cruz-Garcia could not be excluded as a possible contributor to the DNA mixture. 10
- 11 And, again, this was sperm fraction DNA; is 12 that correct?
- 13 Α. Sperm fraction from the vaginal swabs, yes, that's correct. 14
 - And with regards to the reference -- the evidentiary sample from the panties, what about that? Was that also sperm fraction?
- Yes, it was also a sperm fraction. And the 18 Α. results: It was a mixture of DNA from at least two 19 20 individuals, at least one of whom is male. And Obel Cruz-Garcia could not be excluded as a contributor to 21 22 the major component of that DNA mixture.
- 23 Ms. Head, in your analysis of the case, I 24 guess, it's suffice to say that in the techniques that you used, DNA was not too degraded for you to be able to 25

```
make findings. Is that accurate?
1
2
        Α.
            That is accurate.
3
                 MR. WOOD: Your Honor, I will pass the
   witness at this time.
4
                 THE COURT: Mr. Cornelius, you may proceed.
5
                 MR. CORNELIUS: One second, if I might,
6
7
   Judge.
8
                 (Pause)
9
                       CROSS-EXAMINATION
   BY MR. CORNELIUS:
10
11
        Q. Okay. Ms. Head, my name is Skip Cornelius.
12
   think I've met you before on a different case in the
   last couple of years.
13
14
            I think that's true.
15
            But we've never discussed this case, right?
        O.
16
        Α.
            No.
17
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Judge, may I look at the
18
   document that came into evidence?
19
                 THE COURT: Here is 2 through 4 from the
20
   State.
          (By Mr. Cornelius) The one marked as State's
21
        Q.
22
   No. 4, do you have a copy of this yourself?
23
        Α.
            I do.
24
        Q. Now, what do you know about this submission --
   I guess we can call it a submission form. What do you
25
```

```
1 know about this?
```

- A. Only that it appears to be a letter generated
 by Jim Bolding, who I seem to think was one of the
 supervisors in the crime lab at the time. And he had
 been asked to draft this letter in order to describe
- 6 what exactly was being sent to Genetic Design and to 7 request a certain type of testing.
- Q. Okay. And beyond that, do you know anything about these?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. So, you don't know how they were obtained?
- 12 A. I don't know how the letter was obtained?
- 13 Q. No.
- 14 A. The sample?
- 15 Q. The different extractions.
- 16 A. I have some notes on the certain samples and 17 that's all I have.
- 18 Q. Okay. And do any of your notes have to do with 19 Joseph Chu or B. Sharma?
- 20 A. Joseph Chu is just what Justin Wood described,
- 21 the head hair pulling and the receipt of the buccal
- 22 swab. B. Sharma --
- Q. The receipt of the buccal swab when?
- 24 A. In 2010.
- Q. Okay. All right. Well, that doesn't have

```
anything to do with this letter?
1
2
             No.
                  These samples, I do believe that Sharma
   did do -- or at least was involved in the DNA
3
   extractions for these samples.
4
             Sharma doesn't work for crime lab any more,
5
        Q.
   right?
6
7
                  I actually don't think he is still alive.
             No.
        Α.
8
        Ο.
             Okay. I guess that's true.
9
                 Do you know if he was terminated from the
10
   crime lab?
11
        Α.
             I don't know.
12
             You don't know about all that stuff?
        Ο.
             No.
13
        Α.
14
             So, you came to work there when?
        Q.
             In 2010.
15
        Α.
16
             So, in 2010 was the crime lab up and fully
        Q.
17
   operational when you went to work there?
18
        Α.
             Yes.
19
             Okay. From this letter marked State's Exhibit
        Ο.
20
   No. 4, we can determine that the evidence in this case,
21
   which would include a vaginal swab from Diana Garcia,
22
   the crotch of the panties of Diana Garcia, and blood
   from various individuals, was handled by the Houston
23
24
   Police Department Crime Lab?
25
             Yes.
        Α.
```

```
And Sharma was one of the ones -- Sharma was
1
        Q.
2
   one of the ones that worked on this case?
3
        Α.
            Yes.
 4
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Nothing further at this
   time, Judge. I'll put the evidence back.
5
6
                 THE COURT: I have a couple questions.
7
                 All right. As to Joseph Chu, where was
   Joseph Chu working when he received the buccal swabs in
8
9
   2010?
                 THE WITNESS: He currently works in the
10
   evidence receiving section. And mainly that has to do
11
12
   with --
                 THE COURT: For Orchid Cellmark?
13
14
                 THE WITNESS: No. For HPD. He still works
15
   at HPD.
16
                 THE COURT: Okay.
17
                 THE WITNESS: He's entitled a criminalist,
18
   however, he works in the section that receives most of
   the controlled substances. On occasion, he's actually
19
20
   with the D.A.'s office. If they have buccal swabs, they
21
   don't submit them directly to HPD property room, they
22
   can go to our central evidence receiving. And that's
23
   where he works, he receives the buccal swab.
24
                 THE COURT: Okay. And so, your information
   shows that Joseph Chu received a buccal swab of the
25
```

```
defendant in 2010?
1
2
                 THE WITNESS: Yes.
                 THE COURT: And it did not go directly to
3
   Orchid Cellmark?
4
                 THE WITNESS: No. What I understand is two
5
   buccal swabs were collected from the defendant in this
6
   case. One several years prior to the one I actually
7
   tested. And the buccal swab that Orchid Cellmark tested
8
   was this one that was collected previous. And the one
   that I tested was collected in 2010.
10
11
                 THE COURT: Okay. So, the buccal swab that
12
   was collected -- that Joseph Chu received in 2010, that
   was not used for any of the DNA analysis that was
13
   done -- performed by Orchid Cellmark?
14
15
                 THE WITNESS:
                               That's correct, to my
16
   understanding.
                 THE COURT: And then you've already
17
18
   testified as to what you believe Sharma's contact with
19
   this case was. And was he the -- according to your
20
   notes, was he the main analyst on the items that were
21
   tested when they received extractions from the rape kit?
22
   Was he the main analyst?
23
                 THE WITNESS: He is the main analyst for
24
   the DNA testing.
25
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.
```

```
And as to -- do you show anything, Deetrice
1
2
   Wallace, was she on any of the testing in this case?
3
                 THE WITNESS: I do believe that she might
   have been involved in -- let me check my notes before I
4
   speak on this.
5
6
                 THE COURT: Okay.
7
                 THE WITNESS: Yes, I believe she initially
   received the sexual assault kit and did some screening,
8
   which is the basic detection of blood or semen. Because
   she does have some results written on this worksheet
10
11
   that would document what test she did. And it has the
12
   initials D.M.W., which I believe are Deetrice Wallace,
   but I don't know for sure. I've never seen her or
13
14
   worked with her.
15
                 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?
16
                 MR. WOOD: Just one second, Your Honor.
17
                 THE COURT: Okay.
18
                 (Pause)
19
                 MR. WOOD: I'm sorry. May I ask one
20
   follow-up?
21
                 THE COURT: Please proceed.
22
                      REDIRECT EXAMINATION
23
   BY MR. WOOD:
24
        Q. Ms. Head, I just had one follow-up question, if
   you know. Do you know, based on your review of the
25
```

```
information, when the last time the DNA crime lab
1
2
   handled or dealt with any of the evidence prior to you
   becoming involved in 2010?
3
            I can check and see if I can figure that out.
4
        Α.
   Did you mean the old HPD Crime Lab?
5
6
        O.
            Yes.
7
        Α.
            The latest date I can see, just in a brief
   quick look of the registries, is 1994.
8
9
        Q.
            Thank you, Ms. Head.
                           I pass the witness, Your Honor.
10
                 MR. WOOD:
11
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No further questions.
12
                 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Cornelius.
                 Anything further from this witness at all?
13
   May she be excused?
14
15
                 MR. WOOD: No objection.
16
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No objection.
17
                 THE COURT: You may be excused. Thank you,
18
   Ms. Head.
19
                 Call your next.
20
                 MR. WOOD: State rest, Your Honor.
21
                 THE COURT: Okay. Arguments. You may
22
   proceed since it's your motion, Mr. Cornelius, unless
23
   you want to waive.
24
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I will just wait and
25
   respond to the State, if they have any argument.
```

THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Tise. 1 2 STATE'S ARGUMENT Thank you, Judge. 3 MS. TISE: There are a lot of different issues at play 4 here, so I want to try to compartmentalize them as best 5 I can to address each one of them. 6 7 The first issue is whether -- and, perhaps, the easiest issue in this case -- is whether or not this 8 evidence should go before the jury. And it's the 9 State's argument that it certainly should. 10 11 question of fact in this case whether or not the jury is going to find the evidence sufficiently reliable and not 12 13 a question of law. And, therefore, that that is really the easiest question. This evidence should go before 14 15 the jury. But there are a number of things that I 16 think pretty clearly should not go before the jury. And 17 I want to argue those things now with regards to our 18 19 motion in limine about some of those things. First of 20 all, the disciplinary history and the criminal records of Deetrice Wallace, in my opinion, should not go before 21 22 the jury. Deetrice Wallace will not be called as a 23 witness in this case. She'll not be testifying, nor 24 will any of the work that she did at the crime lab be 25 offered by the State. Because of that, she's not a

```
testifying witness. So, Rule 609, which allows the
1
2
   defense to impeach someone by their prior convictions,
   is not going to come into play. So, her prior
3
   conviction is not going to be relevant for impeachment
4
5
   purposes.
6
                 It's also not relevant when it comes to the
7
   reliability issue because Deetrice Wallace' issues did
8
   not happen when she was at HPD. You have a copy of the
   I.A.D. history on Deetrice Wallace and you'll see there
   is nothing in the exhibit that the --
10
11
                 THE COURT: I don't really have it before
12
   me.
        I know --
13
                 MR. CORNELIUS: It's down here. You
14
   haven't seen it yet.
15
                 THE COURT: But I do know from your Brady
   notice that she has criminal convictions for tampering
16
   with a governmental record. I have no idea what those
17
18
   are about.
19
                 MS. TISE: Those happened a great deal of
20
   time later when she was working at the D.P.S. Lab and
21
   she was responsible for going out and checking on the
22
   intoxilyzer instruments. And she was saying that she
23
   had gone when she hadn't. Over 10 years after --
24
                 THE COURT: Like a timesheet issue?
25
                 MS. TISE: Yes. Well, she had records
```

where she was indicating I had gone out and checked this intoxilyzer instrument at this location and I checked at this location, where she hadn't done it, so that she could be paid, basically.

There is no evidence, and you won't find it in any of the Bromwich reports, which I invite you to look at, of anything that Deetrice Wallace did during her time at the crime lab to indicate that she did not have competence. Her file from her previous conviction is full of commendations where she was actually doing a good job at HPD. And there is no disciplinary history for her at HPD. It's over 10 years later when she gets in trouble. And that is simply too remote to have anything to do with this case, especially since she's not testifying.

So, it's our very strong argument that that evidence is not -- I can't even think how it would come into play since she's these not going to be impeached and none of her reports are going to be offered.

B. Sharma also was an analyst at the crime lab who had problems. When you look at the Bromwich report, you're going to see that most of his problems were supervisory and management problems, and also problems with the fact that when he tested DNA he used really rudimentary techniques that show he missed a lot

1 of stuff. And so, in the report they talk about things that B. Sharma should have done, he might have gotten 2 better results if he had done this test, or he might 3 have gotten more -- you know, more information if he had 4 done that test, but it's not the kind of -- basically, 5 he's written up for incompetence because he's not using 6 the most modern lab techniques that he could use to get 7 8 the results that he needed to get. And he is ultimately seen as ineffective manager who is not really doing his 9 10 job at the crime lab and he gets removed from his 11 duties. 12 He is not going to be called as a witness, obviously. I don't even think he is still with us and 13 none of his reports are going to be offered, but there 14 15 is nothing to indicate any kind of tampering or anything that B. Sharma might have done with the evidence that 16 might have caused it to be comprised in any way. 17 18 You are going to also see from the Bromwich 19 report some talk from the individuals who did the report 20 about contamination issues at the crime lab. None of 21 that is relevant to this case because of the way this 22 particular evidence was stored. 23 First of all, the cigar was stored in the 24 HPD property room on Goliad. It was not stored in the 25 crime lab where the issues happened with the leaking

roof that resulted in potential contamination on 36 Those 36 cases are not identified in the Bromwich report, but it does make clear they are cases where they contained clothing evidence that were in cardboard boxes that got wet during one of the tropical storms and were potentially contaminated. Our cigar wasn't even there. Our cigar was in the property room on Goliad. We also know that that cigar never appears to have been unsealed. It was in its original packaging from when it was collected at the scene. As far as the sexual assault kit goes, we do know that the old crime lab retrieved that and tested

As far as the sexual assault kit goes, we do know that the old crime lab retrieved that and tested it. You are not going to have the concerns about the contamination issues with the leaky roof because the sexual assault kit was also not stored on the top floor of the HPD Crime Lab. It was stored in an annex on a lower floor. In addition, Officer Mehl testified it was in very good condition when he found it and no indication that it had been comprised in any way.

In addition, you have the fact that when they analyzed the evidence it shows that contamination is extremely unlikely in this case. And I know it's confusing with the different DNA samples, so I want to make sure the Court is clear about that. HPD and the old crime lab never had the defendant's DNA until 2008

```
1
   when he was found in a Puerto Rican prison and a DNA
   sample was obtained by some federal agents and sent to
2
   Eric Mehl. So, in 2008, that's the first time HPD --
3
 4
                 THE COURT: And that one didn't go to the
               That went to Mehl?
5
   crime lab.
6
                 MS. TISE:
                            It went to Eric Mehl.
7
                 THE COURT: And he testifies that he sent
   that to Orchid Cellmark, right?
8
9
                 MS. TISE: And he didn't even open it. He
   left it in the packaging that he received from the FBI
10
11
   agent, put it in a FedEx container, and shipped it
12
   directly to Orchid Cellmark.
13
                 THE COURT: Okay.
14
                 MS. TISE: That was in 2008.
15
                 THE COURT: This 2010 sample came out of
             What was that for?
16
   nowhere.
17
                 MS. TISE: I will explain.
18
                 THE COURT: Okay.
19
                            The Orchid Cellmark got the 2008
                 MS. TISE:
20
   sample of the defendant that the FBI agent sent from
21
   Puerto Rico.
22
                 In 2010, by that time the defendant had
23
   been extradited from Puerto Rico to Houston.
24
   time, in order to try to prevent bringing FBI agents
25
   from Puerto Rico in to testify that they took a sample
```

3

8

10

11

12

13

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25

from the defendant, we decided to get a separate sample 1 here in Houston and have it tested. And at that time, 2 the HPD lab was up and running again, so we sent it to them and they tested that 2010 sample. So, there are 4 two separate DNA samples of the defendant, both of which 5 have been tested and both of which show that he matches 6 7 DNA on the cigar, he is the major contributor to the DNA on Diana Garcia's panties, and he is a contributor to the DNA on her vaginal swabs. 9

If there was going to be contamination because of a tropical storm coming in and raining down on the top floor of the crime lab, unless it was raining Obel Cruz-Garcia's semen, it's not going to have affected the results that Orchid Cellmark and HPD got. If someone had malicious intent at the crime lab, which there is no evidence that any of the analysts involved in this case did have -- were malicious and just want to rub evidence all over each other, then -- and, therefore, contaminate it, that's a stretch, but let's just give them the benefit of the doubt and say that happened. Then Matt Quartaro would not have gotten the results that he had gotten. He got semen, semen on the panties, semen on the vaginal swabs, and epithelial cells on the cigar. So, it's just not likely. And not only that, but he's the major contributor and the semen

```
1
   was prolific on the panties and it matches the
2
   defendant.
                 So, for all these reasons, our position is
3
   that criminal history on Deetrice Wallace is certainly
4
   not admissible because she's not going to testify. Any
5
   evidence as to the competence of B. Sharma is not
6
7
   relevant or admissible because she's not going to
8
   testify and his results are not going to be offered to
   the jury, or even referred to in any way. There is no
   contamination evidence that can be directly linked to
10
   this case. And the Genetic -- thank you, Justin.
11
12
                 The Genetic Design Lab from California, who
   also had their hands on this case, only had their hands
13
   on the extraction. They didn't get the original
14
15
   evidence. And the leaky roof, you will see from the
   Bromwich report -- I'm sorry to jump around -- but that
16
17
   happened in the late 1990s, long after the HPD Crime Lab
   had finished with what they were doing with this case.
18
   And the evidence was all stored.
19
20
                 Thank you, Judge.
21
                 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Tise.
22
                 Mr. Cornelius.
23
                   DEFENSE CLOSING STATEMENT
24
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Just a couple of things,
25
   Judge.
```

```
What is in evidence as Defendant's No. 9,
1
2
   which I know you haven't seen yet, contains the -- I
   guess you call it the disciplinary report of Sharma.
3
   And there are -- there is one finding of incompetence,
4
   two findings of misconduct, and one finding of improper
5
   police procedure.
6
7
                 And then with respect to Chu, we have two
   findings -- or one finding of misconduct and one finding
8
   of at-fault accident. There is nothing in terms of --
9
   well, all I have been provided is nothing on Deetrice
10
11
   Wallace other than --
12
                 THE COURT: You were provided nothing on
13
   Deetrice Wallace?
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Well, I have been finding
14
15
   lots of things on Deetrice Wallace, but not -- there is
   no discipline while she worked at the crime lab, at
16
   least that's what I'm told. So, her -- the only thing
17
   we would seek to offer are convictions, but it happened
18
19
   at a different crime lab. But in our opinion, it goes
20
   to -- as part of the overall part of showing lack of
   competent in the crime lab or anything that they
21
22
   handled.
23
                 Another just a couple of quick comments.
24
   won't make a long argument to the Court. The testimony
   is you cannot see contamination, you can't see it.
25
```

```
1
   the analyst -- or whatever the proper title is -- from
   Orchid Cellmark can't -- what he said is he can't
2
   testify whether things had been contaminated or not, you
3
   can't really see that. He did testify he didn't
4
   think -- he did not think they were contaminated, but he
5
   can't say that they weren't.
6
7
                 For example, you can see a skin cell. You
   can't see if one person passes a skin cell on to
8
   something else, their own skin cell or somebody else's
9
10
   skin cell. You can't really see it with the naked eye.
11
   There's a process to try to get a DNA profile from a
12
   skin cell or a sperm cell.
13
                 So, two quick things. Our argument is that
14
   we wish the Court to suppress because of the problem
15
   with the HPD Crime Lab as handling this case,
   including -- in my opinion, including the cigar. We ask
16
   that it all be suppressed, any testimony concerning the
17
   results of DNA extraction and identifications be
18
   suppressed. And so, that's number one.
19
20
                 The second thing is if you are not going to
21
   suppress it, then we've had this hearing also as a
22
   proffer to try to determine what you might let into
23
   evidence and what you might not let into evidence from
24
   the defense standpoint. If you allow it in, I would
   like to be able to introduce all of this evidence for
25
```

```
the jury to decide, because it will be a fact issue,
1
   whether what they would know then, after getting all
2
   this evidence about our crime lab that handled this
3
   stuff, is sufficient to create in their mind doubt about
4
   the results of what finally the State's offering as DNA
5
   analysis and comparisons.
6
7
                 Among other things that's an issue, I'm not
   sure how I sponsor Michael Bromwich's report if he won't
8
   -- he lives in Washington D.C. -- if he won't take my
9
10
   phone calls or won't come down here. I suppose I
11
   can -- well, I probably can get around that, but that's
   an issue for me right now. I've got a couple of weeks
12
13
   to figure that out.
                 But, anyway, I would like to offer all this
14
15
   stuff. If you allow the State to go forward with the
   DNA testimony, I would like to make the jury as aware as
16
   I can make them as to what the situation was with our
17
   crime lab that handled all of this evidence. And that's
18
19
   it.
20
                 THE COURT: Okay. I did find in the
21
   record -- and this was filed by Christian Capatine and
22
   Steve Shellist, but it was a State's -- a motion for
23
   in-camera inspection the State's file on Deetrice
24
   Wallace -- it gives the cause number -- to determine the
   existence of any evidence favorable to the defendant
25
```

```
under Brady v. Maryland.
1
2
                 So, have you received everything that you
   feel you need on those files to determine whether or not
3
   there is any Brady information in those files on
4
   Deetrice Wallace?
5
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yes.
6
7
                 THE COURT: Okay. I want to make sure
   that's noted in here.
8
9
                 Okay. First off, as to the general
   admission of the DNA evidence, I agree with the State
10
11
   that this evidence is going to come in. Specifically
12
   this cigar evidence, I don't see that the HPD Crime Lab
13
   ever handled the cigar. So, any of the issues as to
   whether it could have been tainted or contaminated or
14
15
   mis-tested, or whatever, any of these problems don't
   have anything to do with the cigar. As far as I
16
17
   understand the testimony, the cigar was kept in the HPD
   property room over there on Goliad and was in a sealed
18
   container up until Eric Mehl decided to get it out and
19
20
   send it to Orchid Cellmark and that was in 2007.
21
                 MS. TISE: May I correct the record on
22
   that, Judge?
                Because there is a -- I don't want the
23
   Court to have any misconception.
24
                 THE COURT:
                             Okay. That's what I
25
   believe the testimony to be from this hearing.
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MS. TISE: Eric Mehl testified that it
1
2
   appeared to have never been taken out of the package,
   the original packaging. Now, the crime lab did request
3
   some evidence to test from the crime scene and there was
 4
   a large brown paper bag that was brought over from the
5
   property room and there was a sheet
6
7
   individually-packaged, a t-shirt individually packaged,
8
   and a cigar individually packaged. And they tested the
   sheet for blood and semen and didn't find any. And then
   sent that whole thing back over to the property room.
10
11
                 So, I do not want there to be any kind of
12
   misconception. They did have it, but there is no
13
   indication that they ever tested it or removed from it
   from its original packaging.
14
15
                 THE COURT: So, what you are saying now is
   that the cigar in a larger container may have gone over
16
   to the HPD Crime Lab. On what date?
17
                                          When?
18
                 MS. TISE: October 9th of 1992.
19
                 THE COURT:
                             Okay. And that the crime lab
20
   at that time tested a sheet and some other evidence in
21
   that larger package, but there's no indication they even
22
   opened the container containing the cigar?
23
                 MS. TISE:
                           Eric Mehl said it was in the
24
   original sealed plastic bag.
25
                 THE COURT:
                             Okay.
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MR. CORNELIUS: Well, that's not what he
said. Did he say it was the original sealed plastic bag
or sealed plastic bag? I mean...
                         So, I stand corrected. There
             THE COURT:
may -- it's not that the cigar never went over there as
I originally thought, but there is no indication that it
was ever tested by the HPD Crime Lab in any way.
that's not the same with the sexual assault evidence.
It looks like, even though it may have been stored
long-term in a property room, it, at one point, had gone
over to the HPD Crime Lab and at least some samples were
taken out of there, at least one swab perhaps, and a
cutting from the panties crotch area, and there was some
extractions made as to that evidence.
             I believe all that evidence is admissible.
And there may be a question of fact as to whether the
jury believes that evidence to be credible, but from
what I have heard in this motion to suppress, I'm not
going to suppress that evidence, that the jury is going
to get to hear it.
             Now, what else might they get to hear along
         And you are telling me that, State, that you
don't intend to call Deetrice Wallace, B. Sharma, or
Joseph Chu, or any other person from the HPD Crime Lab
that might have had contact with this evidence; is that
```

```
1
   correct?
2
                 MS. TISE: My intention is to call Courtney
   Head, who was not working there back in those days, but,
3
   no, I have no intention of calling Deetrice Wallace, B.
4
   Sharma, or Joseph Chu, nor offer any report or any
5
   findings from those individuals.
6
7
                 THE COURT: I have not had an opportunity
8
   to review the Defense exhibits. And so, before I make
   my ruling on what actually is admissible, I'm going to
9
   review all of this because I don't know what they show
10
11
   or what kind of connection there might be to this case.
                 But, Mr. Cornelius, what would your theory
12
   of their admissibility be if you do not have any of
13
   these witnesses to call? How would you consider them to
14
15
   be admissible? Of course, I can see a felony
   conviction, if someone testifies, may be admissible, but
16
   if they didn't testify, how would you get into these
17
   things? Under what theory?
18
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I don't know about the
19
20
   felony conviction. I will think about that, but I'm not
   sure where this stuff is -- well, first of all, what --
21
22
   is the objection hearsay? Is that --
23
                 THE COURT: No. We're talking about in
24
   terms of -- in terms of what I'm going to allow you to
   put in, if anything. I'm allowing them to put on the
25
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1
   DNA evidence. So, if I allow you to put on anything to
   counter that in terms of trying to establish that it's
2
   contaminated or anything like that, I'm trying to, at
3
   this point, establish what I'm going to allow you to go
4
   into. I can't see -- if there is not a witness called,
5
   I'm trying to determine what theory you would be
6
7
   presenting that under.
8
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Okay. So, you are not
   saying that I need to overcome relevance. You're saying
9
10
   that I need to overcome hearsay?
11
                 THE COURT: Potentially. Here with
12
   B. Sharma, it looks like disciplinary records. You
13
   know, usually extraneous conduct of even a witness isn't
   available to impeach them unless there is some other
14
15
   relevance, like motive or something like that. How
   would you -- and I guess that's what you are going to,
16
17
   is motive on these -- motive and identity and all those
   others, 404(b) type scenario where these would be
18
19
   allowed in for any witness testifying. The Bromwich
20
   report is not going to be -- that's something that may
21
   come in under, you know, a business record, but it's
22
   still going to have to be relevant. I suppose the
23
   relevancy is going to be the challenge of DNA.
24
   have to read through that to see if I feel that would
25
   come in.
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But say the disciplinary records of Sharma,
do you plan to call him or do you plan to impeach him
as --
             MR. CORNELIUS: No. Well, first of all,
I've gotten all this stuff essentially from the State.
             THE COURT:
                         I understand that.
             MR. CORNELIUS:
                             I don't know what the
objection would be that it's unreliable. I can
understand the objection whether it's not relevant, I
understand that one, but from a reliance standpoint, I
don't know that I have witnesses available to --
             THE COURT: So, would you be offering it in
like under business records that it's reliable and there
is no witnesses here to say what they did, but you are
going to try and impeach that witness? Like B. Sharma,
you're going to be trying to impeach that witness under
his disciplinary records without having him here to say
what he did or didn't do in this case; is what you would
be doing?
             MR. CORNELIUS: With Sharma, correct.
don't know how I get into -- I can't make an argument
right now how to get into Deetrice. I don't know how I
get into evidence of misconduct that occurred at a
different lab.
             THE COURT: At a different time 10 years
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1
   later. So, that's --
2
                 MR. CORNELIUS: If I'm attacking this lab,
   I'm not sure how I attack this other lab.
3
 4
                 THE COURT: And --
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I'd have to think real hard
5
   about a good faith argument to get that in.
6
7
                 THE COURT: And then Joseph Chu.
                 MR. CORNELIUS: The other stuff --
8
9
                 THE COURT: You would be offering it in
   simply to impeach the HPD Crime Lab, which they're not
10
11
   really even offering the results from. So --
12
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Yeah, but they handled it.
                 THE COURT: And I understand. I know we're
13
   still on the record, I'm just -- I have not made my
14
15
   ruling. I'm trying to contemplate what your arguments
   will be to convince me that I should let it in, but they
16
17
   are not offering in the results there. You are offering
18
   it in for contamination, but you don't really have a
   witness that's saying it is contaminated.
19
20
                 MR. CORNELIUS: True, I don't. And their
21
   witnesses testify you couldn't see it anyway.
22
                 MS. TISE: But he also testified that from
23
   the results he got, contamination is not consistent
24
   with --
25
                 MR. CORNELIUS: No. He made a good witness
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1
   for you. He made a good witness.
2
                 THE COURT: Is there any case law you want
   me consider in terms of --
3
4
                 MR. CORNELIUS: On a defunct crime lab?
                                                           Ι
5
   don't have any cases on that.
6
                 THE COURT: It doesn't necessarily have to
7
   be the HPD Crime Lab, but on this type of evidence
8
   coming in just simply to impeach like a whole agency.
   Obviously, the HPD Crime Lab was shut down and I can't
   make an analogy to any other agency that I can think of,
10
11
   but I'm sure there are other crimes and such that that's
12
   happened to. And to allow that in in general just to
13
   say that you can imagine how many cases we would just
   have to throw evidence out if we excluded everything
14
15
   that they ever laid their hands on, but --
16
                 MR. CORNELIUS: You are not going to
   exclude it, though. You've already ruled you're going
17
   to let the evidence in.
18
19
                 THE COURT: Correct, I am going to let the
20
   evidence in.
21
                 MR. CORNELIUS: So, the case doesn't get
22
                I think it's something the jury has the
   thrown out.
23
   right to know in a case this serious, but I need to
24
   isolate whether what I'm trying to overcome is
   relevance. Because if your ruling is it's not relevant,
25
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then I'm done. You know, I have offered what I can
1
   offer. I really --
2
                 THE COURT: I need to read them first and
3
   need to think through it because I don't know, there may
4
   be portions of those reports that are very relevant to
5
   what I'm seeing here, what's been testified about here
6
7
   as to extractions and the handling. From what I hear so
   far, the crime lab did not have the defendant's profile
8
   at the time that they were handling it -- the old crime
   lab -- that it would be virtually impossible for them to
10
11
   have contaminated those samples with his DNA profile.
12
   And even though they had a cigar in a different
13
   location, the cigar was epithelial cells and it turned
   out there were sperm cells on the items that were in the
14
15
   rape kit or the sexual assault kit.
                 So, that's what I'm hearing, but I don't
16
   know what those reports show. So, let me read through
17
   those and see if they bring to light anything else that
18
19
   may be relevant. And in general, contamination issues
20
   maybe that have not been discussed here, but could be
   extrapolated from some of the evidence that I heard.
21
22
   So, I'm going to withhold my ruling on what exactly I
23
   will allow in. I'll read through that. And if you have
24
   any case law to support it coming in, would you please
   give to me?
25
```

```
1
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Okay.
2
                 THE COURT: If you have any case law to
   support it not coming in, more than what you've already
3
   argued -- I know a lot of this is not case law, a lot of
4
   it is just common sense and --
5
                 MS. TISE:
                            Right.
6
7
                 THE COURT: -- applying the rules, but if
   there is anything else, please give it to me. And I'll
8
   make my ruling by -- I'll try to make my ruling by that
9
   week of July 1st, so you a little time to plan.
10
11
                 Is everyone going to be around on that
12
   Wednesday of the July 4th week?
                 MR. CORNELIUS: I'll be around, but not
13
   till after lunch.
14
15
                 THE COURT: Okay.
16
                            I will be here.
                 MS. TISE:
17
                 THE COURT: Okay. So, I'll try to put it
18
   on the record that afternoon, that Wednesday afternoon.
19
                 MR. CORNELIUS: Great.
20
                 But let me ask another question on the
            If you decide that some part of it or all of it
21
   record.
22
   is admissible, do I need to have Bromwich here -- if the
23
   objection is hearsay, do I need to have Bromwich here to
24
   offer this report or some specific person to offer this
   report, or any of these documents, or is it going to
25
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come in as a public record or some other argument I can
1
   come up for its admissibility?
2
3
                  THE COURT: Okay. Let's go off the record.
                  (Proceedings recessed)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
1
2
   THE STATE OF TEXAS
   COUNTY OF HARRIS
                        )
3
        I, Mary Ann Rodriguez, Official Court Reporter in
4
   and for the 337th District Court of Harris County, State
5
   of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing
6
7
   contains a true and correct transcription of all
   portions of evidence and other proceedings requested in
8
   writing by counsel for the parties to be included in
   this volume of the Reporter's Record, in the
10
11
   above-styled and numbered cause, all of which occurred
12
   in open court or in chambers and were reported by me.
        I further certify that this Reporter's Record of
13
   the proceedings truly and correctly reflects the
14
15
   exhibits, if any, admitted by the respective parties.
16
        WITNESS MY OFFICIAL HAND this the 2nd day of
   October, 2013.
17
18
19
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   Mary Ann Rodriguez, Texas CSR 3047
20
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21
   1201 Franklin
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