

STATE OF MISSOURI,)
)
 Plaintiff,) Case No. 2024-2025
)
 vs.)
)
 JAMES WILD,)
)
 Defendant.)



Revised February 3, 2025

Susan McCourt Baltz
Danny Barnett-Foster
Courtney Chen
Gretchen Garrison
Crista Hogan

Joshua M. Jones
Jordan May
Jeffery McPherson
Bryce Slaughter
James Wilke

The Missouri High School Mock Trial Competition is presented by The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis with support from the Lawyers Association of Kansas City Young Lawyers Section and the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association and is financially supported by the Saint Louis Bar Foundation and the Missouri Lawyer Trust Account Foundation.

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Indictment.....	5
Jury Instructions	6
Joint Stipulations	8
Order.....	10
Deposition of Lennon Ravensburger.....	11
Deposition of Archer Fritz	18
Deposition of Harper Klein	27
Deposition of Jess Fletcher	33
Deposition of A.J. Still	42
Deposition of Robin Atticus.....	49
Exhibits.....	56
Revision Notes	69

Author’s Note: While the facts of this fictitious mock trial case could lead some to believe that members of the mock trial steering committee despise each other so much as to attempt murder, such is not the case. The steering committee members have a very good relationship, full of good-spirited banter. Moreover, you might be concerned that the case author’s wife would be offended at the suggestion she would off her husband for insurance proceeds. On the contrary, she found this case to be quite funny and noted, “as long as you put away your dirty laundry, you have nothing to worry about.”

Introduction

For decades, Pinebrook High School and College City High School had been friendly cross-town rivals. This rivalry extended to their respective mock trial teams, both of which competed in the Missouri High School Mock Trial Competition (undoubtedly the best program in the nation). Both Pinebrook and College City enjoyed tremendous success, having each won multiple state championships. Yet, tensions between the schools' mock trial coaches threatened an otherwise friendly rivalry. Unfortunately, things took a dark turn in the Spring of 2024 when Julius Jones, one of the Pinebrook attorney coaches, was found dead. After an investigation, prosecutors have charged James Wild, head coach of the College City mock trial team, with first degree murder. Wild has maintained his innocence, claiming to have evidence that Jones' surviving spouse—now a multi-millionaire thanks to a lucrative life insurance policy—is the true killer.

With neither side interested in a plea deal, this matter seems destined for trial . . .

*Please note that the introduction material is solely for entertainment purposes, and may not be used by competitors during any part of the competition.

Witnesses

For the State of Missouri:

- Lennon Ravensburger, teacher at Pinebrook High School
- Archer Fritz, homicide detective with the Pinebrook Police Department
- Harper Klein, stay at home parent

For the Defense:

- Jess Fletcher, private investigator
- A.J. Still, freshman student at Truman State University
- Robin Atticus, human resource director with the U.S. Attorney's Office

Exhibits

Exhibit A: Autopsy Report

Exhibit B: Photo Lineup

Exhibit C: Search History Report from Wild's Computer

Exhibit D: Receipt Recovered from Wild's Apartment

Exhibit E: Email Chain

Exhibit F: Printout of Life Insurance Election

Exhibit G: Photograph of Julius Jones home

Exhibit H: Jess Fletcher CV

Exhibit I: Map of Driving Route

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SOUTHFELD COUNTY
STATE OF MISSOURI

STATE OF MISSOURI,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Case No. 2024-2025
)	
vs.)	
)	
JAMES WILD,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	
)	

Indictment

The Grand Jurors of the County of Southfield, State of Missouri, charge that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.020, RSMo, committed the class A felony of murder in the first degree punishable upon conviction under Section 565.020, RSMo, in that on March 29, 2024, in the County of Southfield, State of Missouri, the defendant, after deliberation, knowingly caused the death of Julius Jones by poisoning him with a known fatal allergen, and that the defendant was eighteen years of age or older at the time of the offense.

D. Barnett
Prosecuting Attorney
Southfield County, Missouri

A TRUE BILL

Alex Critzas
Foreperson

Instruction No. ____

If you find and believe from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt:

First, that on or about March 29, 2024, in the State of Missouri, the defendant caused the death of Julius Jones by poisoning him with a known fatal allergen, and

Second, that it was the defendant's purpose to cause the death of Julius Jones, and

Third, that defendant did so after deliberation, which means cool reflection upon the matter for any length of time no matter how brief, and

Fourth, that defendant was eighteen years of age or older at the time of the offense,

then you will find the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree.

However, unless you find and believe from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt each and all of these propositions, you must find the defendant not guilty of murder in the first degree.

Instruction No. _____

As used in these instructions, a reasonable doubt is a doubt based upon reason and common sense after careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence in the case.

Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you firmly convinced of the defendant's guilt. The law does not require proof that overcomes every possible doubt. If, after your consideration of all the evidence, you are firmly convinced that the defendant is guilty of the crime charged, you will find the defendant guilty. If you are not so convinced, you must give the defendant the benefit of the doubt and find the defendant not guilty.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SOUTHFIELD COUNTY
STATE OF MISSOURI

STATE OF MISSOURI,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Case No. 2024-2025
)	
vs.)	
)	
JAMES WILD,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	
)	
)	

Joint Stipulations

COMES NOW the State of Missouri, by and through the prosecuting attorney, and Defendant, by and through counsel, and for their Joint Stipulations, state as follows.

1. All documents and exhibits are deemed authentic. No party may object on the grounds that the offering party cannot authenticate an exhibit. This stipulation does not prohibit a party from objecting to an exhibit on any permissible grounds, such as foundation, hearsay, relevance, etc.
2. All deposition excerpts provided herein were given under oath by the deponent, and all witnesses are presumed to have read and updated their depositions immediately prior to trial. No witness may deny the authenticity of their deposition statement or deny having signed the deposition.
3. The only motions that are permitted are to strike testimony and admit evidence.
4. Jury instructions may be utilized in closing arguments only. Only those instructions provided herein may be shown or argued to the jury.

5. The Medical Examiner's report is admissible at trial, and no party may object to the admission of the report as an exhibit at any time, including pre-trial.
6. Prior to trial, the Defendant filed a motion to quash certain evidence recovered from their residence as a result of a search warrant. Circuit Judge Jay McPherson denied that motion. The issue is deemed preserved for appeal, and attorneys representing the Defendant need not renew their Fourth Amendment objection at trial for the sake of preservation. However, attorneys for the Defendant may raise any other evidentiary objections to the admission of the evidence.
7. For purposes of this trial, the parties and Court shall presume that any disclosure of financial and insurance information by Robin Atticus does not violate the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, or any other state or federal law. No party may object to the introduction of this evidence on the grounds that doing so would violate laws prohibiting dissemination (although other evidentiary objections are permitted).
8. All exhibits are pre-marked. At the request of the Court, both parties shall use exhibit labels with letters to mark their exhibits.
9. The defendant is 46 years old.
10. The image circled in red on the photo lineup exhibit is the Defendant, and no team may argue that the image is anybody other than the Defendant (although any team may argue that the lineup was not properly conducted, and both teams reserve the right to make any evidentiary objections to the lineup's introduction into evidence).
11. The State of Missouri is not seeking the death penalty in this case.
12. The Defendant has chosen not to testify, and teams and judges should presume that the Defendant has been advised of his rights on the record by the presiding judge, and knowingly invoked his right to remain silent. No Defense team may have a student at the counsel table acting the role of the Defendant. Instead, teams may constructively presume that Defendant is present.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SOUTHFIELD COUNTY
STATE OF MISSOURI

STATE OF MISSOURI,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Case No. 2024-2025
)	
vs.)	
)	
JAMES WILD,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	
)	
)	

ORDER

Before this Court is a motion to quash evidence filed by Defendant. In the motion to quash, Defendant seeks to exclude any and all evidence recovered from their residence as the result of a search conducted by law enforcement on April 3, 2024. Defendant argues the application for the search warrant was not supported by probable cause, as required by the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and therefore, any evidence found is “fruit of the poisonous tree.” *See Nardone v. United States*, 308 U.S. 338 (1939).

After careful review, this Court finds that sufficient probable cause existed to support law enforcement’s warrant application. Regardless, even if insufficient probable cause existed, law enforcement relied on the warrant in good faith, which is an exception to the exclusionary rule. *See Arizona v. Evans*, 514 U.S. 1 (1995).

Accordingly, Defendant’s motion to quash is DENIED.

SO ORDERED,

Hon. Jay McPherson

Deposition Excerpts of Lennon Ravensburger

My name is Lennon Ravensburger, and I am 40 years old. I grew up in Pinebrook, Missouri, and remain there today. I graduated from Pinebrook High School in 2003, and then attended the University of South Carolina where I earned my bachelor's degree in U.S. history. After undergrad, I attended the University of Alabama School of Law. I graduated law school in 2010, and moved back to Missouri. Although I moved back to the Midwest, I never relinquished my love of the SEC. In my classroom, for example, I proudly display a USC Gamecocks banner and celebrate every victory over Clemson. I also love soccer, and proudly sport the Chelsea F.C. logo as much as possible.

I practiced law for a few years, mostly family law and general civil litigation. I was in a small firm in a small town, and we had to take pretty much every case that walked in the door. Honestly, it was not for me. Don't get me wrong, I love the law and studying the law and learning about the law. It's just that the practice of law—chasing down clients, tracking billable hours, trying to get clients to pay the bills, et cetera—was just not for me. I managed a few years at the firm before I quit. I decided that a career in teaching was more my style. I obtained my social studies teaching certificate, and luckily for me, found a job teaching at Pinebrook High School. It has been the best decision of my life—other than marrying my spouse, of course. I love teaching, I love being around the kids, I love making a difference in their lives, and

21 I love being the “goofball” teacher in the social studies department. For example,
22 every Friday I use memes of cats when teaching, because, after all, who doesn’t like
23 cats?

24 A year after I started teaching at Pinebrook, I was approached by another one
25 of the social studies teachers about taking over the mock trial program. I had heard
26 of mock trial but I didn’t know anything about the program. This teacher—a real
27 legend in the school, famous for playing Billy Joel songs in class and wearing tweed
28 jackets—explained that mock trial is a competition between schools in which students
29 compete as lawyers and witnesses using a fictitious fact pattern. He explained that
30 the Missouri mock trial program is over 3 decades old, involves schools from across
31 the state, and is objectively the best high school mock trial program in the country.
32 This teacher was retiring soon, and thought I might be perfect as the new teacher
33 coach of the team. He also explained that he had attorney coaches with decades of
34 mock trial experience who would be helping.

35 Long story short, I agreed. That was seven years ago. Since then, I have
36 become the team’s head coach and we have done really well. The Pinebrook team
37 has won several state championships and even placed in the top ten at the national
38 championship. Julius Jones was one of our attorney coaches during those years, and
39 he and I got to know each other really well. Julius is . . . well, he was . . . a federal
40 prosecutor, something I really admired about him. But more importantly, he was my

41 friend. He and I are both pretty nerdy, we liked talking about politics and sports, that
42 kind of thing. When he turned 40 not long ago, Julius' wife Rebecca even invited
43 me to his surprise birthday party.

44 Over the years, Pinebrook has developed a mock trial rivalry with College
45 City High School. Both teams are really successful, and usually finish in the top
46 eight in the State of Missouri. I never really understood that a "mock trial rivalry"
47 could actually be a real rivalry until I took over as Pinebrook's coach. Mock trial
48 competitions take place on select weeknights at the local courthouse, where all the
49 teams gather to compete. I remember one particular night of competition really well.
50 It was shortly after I took over as the mock trial teacher coach at Pinebrook. I suppose
51 this would have been in 2017 or 2018, I cannot remember exactly when. You see,
52 mock trial teams gather in the lobby of the courthouse while they wait for their room
53 assignments from the tournament directors. James Wild came over to Julius and put
54 a finger in his chest, saying, "My kids are going to destroy yours this year." Julius
55 responded, "That'll be a first. Get out of here, James, before you make an even bigger
56 embarrassment of yourself."

57 At first I thought they were just kidding, but later I realized they were being
58 serious. Later that night, I asked Julius about the incident, and he said, "James Wild
59 is crazy. He's the teacher coach at College City and takes this way too seriously. It's

60 like he lives through his students. Best to stay away from him, because that man has
61 a temper unlike any other.”

62 After that, the interactions between James and Julius just got worse and worse.
63 James would make rude gestures to Julius at competitions; he would complain to the
64 tournament directors and state coordinators about Julius; and he even attended one
65 coaches-only meeting hosted by the state coordinators during which he made a
66 speech about why Julius was bad for the legal community and should be banned
67 from mock trial.

68 Honestly, I was concerned for the students at College City. Julius was not
69 innocent, per se, in the interactions with James. Julius certainly said a few things that
70 he should not have said. But James was—and I guess has proven he still is—totally
71 unhinged. He had no filter, a wild temper, and made crazy and false accusations.

72 During one of the competitions in 2021, we had to physically restrain James
73 after Pinebrook beat College City 2-1 in a close round of competition. After the
74 round, which ended at about 9:15 pm, James came up to me and accused Pinebrook’s
75 students of cheating. He said to me, “We’re going to take this up with the tournament
76 directors right NOW.” I wanted nothing to do with another James Wild temper-
77 tantrum, but nevertheless Julius and I met with the tournament directors along with
78 James. After Julius calmly explained the situation, the tournament directors agreed—
79 rightly—that Pinebrook had done nothing wrong. James lost his mind. He started

80 yelling and cursing, accusing everyone of being in a conspiracy with one another.

81 He then looked at Julius and growled, “You disgust me. You’ll pay for this.”

82 The next day, Julius copied me on an email reply to James. Apparently James
83 had gotten up quite early in the morning and sent an email to Julius. Julius blind
84 carbon-copied me on his reply. I was, frankly, shocked. In the email, James was
85 threatening Julius. Over mock trial! At first, I wasn’t sure what I should do. I admit—
86 and I am not proud of this—that my first thought was that the email was a good way
87 to get James to leave the mock trial program altogether. Maybe I could take a
88 screenshot of the email and text James something like, “Quit, or I send this to your
89 superintendent.” Not only was James’ attitude toxic and not good for the program,
90 but it would get rid of a really good coach for a rival team. I know, I know, that’s a
91 terrible thing to say. And my better angels straightened me out.

92 Before I did or said anything stupid, I forwarded the email to my
93 administration. Thankfully, the school administration agreed that the matter was
94 serious. My building principal called me to let me know that the administration was
95 going to handle the situation. I heard a rumor that administrators at Pinebrook called
96 administrators at College City and that James was suspended without pay for a week
97 as a result of the emails.

98 Like I said, that was back in 2021. Thankfully, the tensions between the two
99 schools, and between Julius and James, died down for a while. College City beat

100 Pinebrook in the finals of the 2022 state championships, and that probably gave
101 James the vindication he *thought* he deserved. I even asked Julius a couple weeks
102 after the 2022 championship whether he and James had “buried the hatchet.” He told
103 me, “No, we just do not talk to each other anymore. That’s how it should be and
104 always will be.” For a little while, I believed that might be true. In September of
105 2022, I ran into James Wild at an outdoor concert where he was playing drums for
106 some 60s cover band. I went up to him after their set and told him that I didn’t realize
107 he played an instrument. He clearly did not remember who I was. He just smiled and
108 shook my hand, and “No?” was all he said. He even looked down at my shirt which
109 caused me to look down at my shirt and I realized that I was wearing a Pinebrook
110 mock trial team shirt with Julius’ name on it. I think it dawned on James who I was
111 because he asked “How’s Julius doing? Tell him I’d like to get coffee sometime to
112 talk.” He seemed sincere, at least right then.

113 College City did not make the top eight of either the 2023 or 2024 state
114 championship tournaments, and our two schools have not faced each other since the
115 finals in 2022. So there really have not been many interactions that I am aware of
116 the past couple of years. So yes, I am pretty shocked to hear that James was involved
117 in Julius’ death. I guess the hard feelings from years ago never really went away.

118 I am truly saddened that Julius is gone. It’s heart wrenching. Julius was a kind
119 person who volunteered his time with his community. He loved his wife, loved his

120 job, and loved life. For someone to take that all away over something petty like mock
121 trial seems incomprehensible. I've heard of murder over money, jealousy, love, etc.
122 But mock trial? Really?

123 I understand that some people have suggested Rebecca had something to do
124 with Julius' death. I know for a fact that is not true. Remember when I said that I
125 attended Julius' surprise birthday party? That was in 2023. Julius was sitting at a
126 table with some of his coworkers, and Rebecca and I started a casual conversation.
127 We talked about our careers and how things were going. We talked about travel, and
128 she told me about some of the places in the world she had been and where she
129 planned on going next. During that conversation, Rebecca confided in me that she
130 and Julius wanted to start a family.

131 "I know we're both getting older, but we want to have kids. I love kids, and
132 so does Julius," she told me. I said that I "understood," and that I wished her luck.
133 She ended the conversation with "Hopefully by this time next year, we can be
134 sharing baby pictures and celebrating Julius' birthday at the same time!" I smiled
135 and simply said, "I cannot wait! Count me in for babysitting whenever you need it."

136 So you see? Why would Rebecca, who wanted to start a family with Julius,
137 decide to kill him? It does not make sense. I know you're just doing your job and
138 defending James, I get it. I have a law degree too. But you're barking up the wrong
139 tree. Your client is guilty as sin and deserves what's coming to him.

Deposition Excerpts of Archer Fritz

My name is Archer Fritz, and I am 44 years old. After graduating high school, I attended UMKC where I obtained my B.A. in criminology. Both of my parents were in law enforcement; my father worked for the Kansas City Police Department and my mother was a special agent with the F.B.I. After she graduated college, my older sister got an internship with the D.E.A. and eventually became an agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. So I guess you could say law enforcement is in my blood. Although my sister was always interested in a career path with the feds, I wanted to stay local. I applied for the police academy in St. Louis, graduated, and eventually became an officer in the SLMPD.

After several years, I eventually made detective in the SLMPD investigating drug organizations. I did that for five years. It was really tough work, and physically and emotionally exhausting. My typical work-week was 60+ hours and I would often get called into work at 3:00 am. My health took a beating, with the stress and the constant need to refill my coffee mug. Plus, the hours took a significant toll on my family life. I had no time to spend with my spouse, and kids were out of the question. One night after I came home late, my spouse gave me an ultimatum: “either find a new job, or a new spouse.” I chose the new job. That’s how I landed a job in Pinebrook, working in the homicide unit. You wouldn’t think that going from narcs to homicide would be a job improvement, but going from the big city to a mid-size

21 town like Pinebrook meant a much better quality of life. Most days are 9-5.
22 Weekends are rare. My stress has significantly improved. My blood pressure has
23 stabilized, but I couldn't kick the coffee habit.

24 Okay, I can talk about my training. I took the basic classes while at the police
25 academy, but that was many years ago. However, when I became a homicide
26 detective here in Pinebrook, there were several additional courses I had to take. For
27 example, I spent two weeks with the Missouri Highway Patrol learning the basics of
28 forensics. I have taken ongoing courses on evidence collection and interrogation
29 techniques. I also took a three-day course in Indianapolis on witness interview
30 techniques. And, of course, we have ongoing trainings within the Pinebrook Police
31 Department although the best training is in the field actually doing the job.

32 I was contacted early in the morning of March 30, 2024, about a suspicious
33 death. It was a Saturday morning, but thankfully, my spouse was on a trip to Mexico
34 with some of their college friends, so I avoided getting in trouble on the homefront.
35 I arrived at the victim's home and met with several uniformed officers. I was
36 informed that the vic's name was Julius Jones. I knew Julius, because he was a
37 prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of Missouri. He and
38 I had actually worked on a couple of prosecutions in 2021 and 2022, in cases our
39 Department referred to the federal prosecutors. The uniforms indicated a neighbor
40 called 9-1-1 after looking through a window and seeing Jones lying on the living

41 room floor. The uniforms also indicated to me that there was no sign of a struggle,
42 and no evidence of a break in. Nothing appeared to have been taken, including cash
43 in the vic's wallet and several pieces of jewelry in the master bedroom. I knew that
44 Jones was married, and I asked the uniforms about where his wife was located. I was
45 told that the spouse's name was Rebecca, but that she was MIA. EMTs had arrived
46 before me and attempted life-saving procedures, but Jones was pronounced dead on
47 the scene. The uniforms sealed off the scene and started dusting for fingerprints and
48 photographing the scene and the body was bagged and taken to the coroner's office.

49 Later that afternoon, I was forwarded a call that came into our main number.
50 The caller identified themselves as "Lennon Ravensburger," a local high school
51 teacher. Ravensburger told me that they knew Jones because they coached moot
52 court—or was it mock trial?—together. Ravensburger claimed to have been copied on
53 some emails in which Jones and a coach from another high school had been arguing.
54 Ravensburger said that some threats had been made over email. I asked
55 Ravensburger to please forward the emails to me so that I could review. I have
56 provided those emails as part of discovery in this case.

57 I learned that Jones was a volunteer coach for Pinebrook High School, and
58 that Ravensburger was the head coach. Apparently there had been a long-running
59 feud between Jones and James Wild, the teacher coach at College City High School.
60 In the emails, Wild made some very explicit threats against Jones' life. Statistically,

61 murders that do not involve random acts of violence are overwhelmingly committed
62 by people who have a close relationship with the victim, such as a spouse. So while
63 Jones' wife might have normally been a prime suspect, the emails made Wild at least
64 a person of interest in my mind.

65 The following Monday, April 1, I met with our medical examiner. She
66 provided me with her initial findings and indicated that the autopsy and tox report
67 were forthcoming. The preliminary results indicated that the vic likely died from
68 anaphylactic shock. The ME surmised that Jones ingested something that gave him
69 a severe allergic reaction, and that he did not have an EpiPen or other life saving
70 device nearby. The ME told me she would learn more with the final report.

71 More progress was made later that afternoon. Some of the uniform officers
72 canvassing the neighborhood talked to a neighbor named Harper Klein. This
73 individual indicated to the uniforms that they saw someone enter Jones' home the
74 morning of March 29, when (according to the witness) Jones was not at home. The
75 description of the person provided by the witness matched images of Wild that I had
76 reviewed from an internet search. I asked the uniforms to bring the witness into the
77 station to review a photo lineup. I followed standard procedures for the lineup. First,
78 I chose five photographs from one of the national databases used by law enforcement
79 to build photo lineups. It's actually amazing technology. What you do is upload a
80 picture of your suspect, and the program uses AI or algorithms or whatnot to generate

a lineup of six people with similar characteristics. The officer can review the lineup and make changes as necessary. For this lineup, I wanted some deviation in age, hair color, and eyewear. Our department policy states that the subjects in a photo lineup should have some deviation, albeit not too significant, to truly test the witness's memory. Afterwards, I had a fellow detective conduct the lineup. This detective had no idea which photo was my suspect. In fact, she did not know whether suspect was even in the lineup at all. She placed the six photographs in front of the witness, asking the witness to circle the person who entered Jones' home that afternoon. The witness circled Wild's photograph.

I had a positive witness ID of Wild.

So far, I had a possible motive for Wild, and a possible means. I'm the first to admit it wasn't much, but my captain said it was enough for a search warrant. I completed the warrant affidavit, and the judge signed it. A team of three detectives, including myself, and four uniforms executed the search warrant at 5:00 am on April 3, 2024. I prefer to do search warrants early in the morning. I find that people are usually at home during that time (in case we need to do an arrest). More importantly, studies show that suspects are much less likely to become violent early in the morning versus afternoon or evening. This job is dangerous enough already, so I take every step necessary to help protect myself and my fellow officers.

100 After knocking and announcing, Wild appeared at the front door of his
101 apartment. He was clearly groggy yet demonstrated that all-too-familiar shock when
102 seeing seven police officers with badges at his front door. I explained to him that we
103 had a warrant to search his apartment, asked if he was alone (he said “yes”) and
104 whether there were any weapons in the apartment (he said “no”). Wild asked me,
105 “What is this all about?” I told him that everything would be explained later, but that
106 he needed to exit the apartment so that we could conduct the search. Most suspects
107 resist in some way—either by running or arguing with me. Thankfully, Wild complied
108 with our every request, and waited in the hallway in his bathrobe, closely monitored
109 by one of the uniform officers. As Wild exited the apartment, he looked at me and
110 said, “I don’t know what this is about, but I’m just a teacher. I didn’t do anything
111 wrong!”

112 The evidence collected from the apartment tells a different story. The search
113 was pretty easy, as the apartment was pretty small. Per policy, I logged everything
114 that was taken from the apartment. I’ll save you all the boring details. We did find a
115 box of unused EpiPens in the apartment, which was bagged and tagged. In the
116 hallway, I held up the bag containing the EpiPens and asked Wild whether these
117 were his. He looked at me and said, “Am I free to leave? Am I in custody?” I told
118 him that, “Right now, you’re in my custody, and you’re not free to leave. Now, about
119 these pens?” He claimed they belonged to a friend of his. I asked him if he could

120 identify the name of this friend, and Wild hesitated for several seconds—as if he was
121 trying to think of a lie (hard to do at 5:00 in the morning)—before giving me some
122 name. I wrote it down, but knew it was a bogus lead. We also recovered a receipt
123 from Billy Bob's grocery store dated March 24, 2024, showing that Wild purchased
124 three bottles of sesame seeds. That purchase was made less than a week before the
125 victim's death. Additionally, we seized a laptop computer.

126 I had our computer forensics team review the computer. It didn't take long,
127 and by 9:30 am on April 4, I had the results. Among other things, Wild had
128 apparently been doing internet searches on “effects of anaphylactic shock” and “can
129 anaphylactic shock kill you?” I checked a national law enforcement database and
130 was able to confirm that the credit card number on the receipt recovered from Wild's
131 apartment matched a credit card issued to Wild, proving it was he who made the
132 purchase. The pieces were beginning to fall into place. The final piece to this puzzle
133 came at 1:15 on April 4, when the ME called me saying that the final autopsy and
134 tox report confirmed that Jones died of anaphylactic shock as a result of ingesting
135 sesame seeds. The ME explained that while rare, some people can have an allergy
136 to sesame seeds that can be deadly without having an EpiPen. She also explained
137 that sesame is particularly dangerous, because it can fall onto foods in prep stations
138 at restaurants and the like.

139 Given the circumstances of the death, the ME concluded that the manner of
140 death was homicide. She explained that the likelihood that Jones committed suicide
141 by ingesting a known allergen is statistically so low as to rule it out as a possibility,
142 especially given the evidence that Jones' EpiPen was missing from the home.
143 Without the homicide finding by the ME, I probably could not have continued my
144 investigation. I was thankful she did me a solid by ruling the death a homicide.

145 I tried contacting Jones' wife to get consent to review his medical records.
146 Unfortunately, she was still nowhere to be found and unreachable via cell phone.
147 Yes, I thought this was odd and perhaps a little suspicious. Nevertheless, I called Dr.
148 Charles, Jones' primary care physician, and explained the circumstances. He said
149 there was little information he could give, and certainly could not give out medical
150 records. However, Dr. Charles told me on the phone that Jones did suffer from select
151 food allergies, including a severe allergy to sesame. Dr. Charles also told me that
152 Jones should have had an EpiPen in his home at all times. Dr. Charles told me that
153 an EpiPen is a device that allows a person with severe allergies to self-administer a
154 dose of Epinephrine to counteract a severe allergic reaction. I know what they look
155 like because I carry one for one of my children who has a severe peanut allergy.
156 None were found at the scene.

157 I needed to close one last loophole before presenting the case to my captain. I
158 contacted College City High School to find out about Wild's teaching schedule. I

159 learned that Wild had a plan period from 11:05 am to 11:55 am. The neighbor
160 witnessed Wild entering Jones' home shortly after 11:20 am. Although I admit this
161 timeframe is pretty tight, it does give Wild enough time to enter Jones' home, expose
162 food in the home to the allergen, steal the EpiPens, and get back to classes
163 undetected. The only remaining question—one I could not answer—is how Wild
164 knew about Jones' allergy. My hunch was that Wild heard about it from common
165 acquaintances.

166 With all this, I wrote up my report and presented it to my captain. She agreed
167 that we had enough to make an arrest, and we presented the file and evidence to the
168 DA. The DA agreed, and obtained an indictment for first degree murder. I personally
169 made the arrest at Wild's apartment the morning of April 8. I placed Wild into
170 handcuffs, read him his rights pursuant to *Miranda*, and asked him if there was
171 anything he wanted to say. He just looked at me and said, "I'm an innocent man.
172 You're making a mistake."

173 Since the arrest, I have learned about the life insurance policy taken out by
174 Jones' wife shortly before his death. Together with the disappearance after the
175 murder, this was disturbing evidence. However, with the evidence we have, I am
176 convinced beyond any reasonable doubt that we arrested the actual murderer.

1 **Deposition Excerpts of Harper Klein**

2 My name is Harper Klein, and I am 37 years old. Until recently, I worked as
3 an accountant for my father's manufacturing firm. But six years ago my spouse and
4 I had our first child—a son!—and I decided to become a full time stay-at-home parent.
5 My spouse works as a computer programmer and works from home most days. I
6 grew up in Savannah, Georgia, but my family moved to Pinebrook, when I was 12
7 years old. My mother was the primary breadwinner of the family, and got a job offer
8 here in Missouri that was too good to pass up. My father started his own
9 manufacturing business, making parts for pool pumps, and the rest is history.

10 I attended Pinebrook High School. It was hard growing up in the Midwest
11 with my Georgia accent. I tried to adapt, but the accent stuck. It's such a good school
12 district that my spouse and I decided to stay in Pinebrook so our children could attend
13 the schools. My spouse and I bought a house on Everbrite Lane in 2014, and we plan
14 on staying there until our kids graduate high school. Maybe longer, we'll see.

15 Julius and Rebecca Jones moved into the house across the street from us in
16 January 2017. They seemed like such a great couple. We got to know them really
17 well, and would regularly play board games together on weekends or walk our dogs
18 together to the nearby park. I knew that Julius was an attorney for the government,
19 but I didn't really understand what he did. I think he was a prosecutor? Rebecca was

20 a travel planner specializing in taking groups of people to Central and South
21 America.

22 Over the years, I noticed that Rebecca and Julius' relationship started to seem
23 strained. I guess it was the amount of time Rebecca spent traveling, often times 2-3
24 weeks at a time. That can be hard on a marriage, you know? Plus, when we first met
25 her, Rebecca was only taking trips 3 or 4 times a year. But in 2022 and 2023, she
26 was gone 6 or 7 times a year. That might not sound like a lot, but when trips can last
27 20 days sometimes, that adds up. I mean, in 2023, she was gone on seven trips
28 averaging 20 days each which...let me see...is almost 40% of the year! See, I told
29 you I was an accountant. Like I said, that kind of distance caused a strain in their
30 relationship. When Rebecca was on her trips, Julius would often come over to our
31 house for dinner. He would talk about how distant he felt from his wife. On good
32 weather days when our windows were open, we could sometimes hear Julius and
33 Rebecca arguing from across the street. It got worse over the years.

34 But the suggestion that Rebecca would kill Julius? That's ridiculous. She was
35 one of the sweetest people I have ever met. She was the kind of person that would
36 go out of her way to help others. She also wouldn't hurt a fly. Literally. She was the
37 kind of person that would save a spider rather than squish it. I know that her marriage
38 was going through some tough spots, but she loved Julius. I remember a time in
39 February 2024 when Rebecca came over to help me shovel snow out of my

40 driveway. She was always going out of her way to help people like that. After we
41 cleared the driveway, we shared a couple of mugs of hot chocolate, and we had a
42 good long conversation. Rebecca told me that she was thinking about changing jobs,
43 because of the time she was spending away from her husband. I remember she told
44 me, “It’s a great job, and I love it, but my marriage comes first. Nothing is more
45 important.” You’re going to tell me that someone like that would kill her husband
46 the next month? It’s not possible. I don’t care how much insurance money she got.
47 She never needed money. She never wanted money. Her husband had a pretty good
48 salary, yet she was always shopping at thrift stores because she thought buying new
49 was “wasteful.”

50 But I’m here to talk about March 29, right? My oldest had just started
51 kindergarten, so he was at school that day. My youngest usually takes a midday nap
52 at around 10:30. I remember that day that my youngest started his nap a little later,
53 around 11:00 am. When he *finally* went down, I took the opportunity to get some
54 yard work done. After the long winter, there was a lot of mulching and seeding to
55 do, you know. I’d only been working for a few minutes when I saw a black sedan
56 park in front of the Jones’ residence. I remember that Rebecca had left that morning
57 for one of her trips, this time I think it was Ecuador? Julius was at work, so seeing a
58 car park in front of their house was unusual. I decided to keep a close eye on what
59 was going on, because I believe in being a good neighbor.

60 The person that got out of the car was about pretty tall, probably over 6 foot
61 and had a medium build. I pride myself on being pretty observant, you know? He
62 looked to be in his mid-40s. He was carrying a bag in his right hand and was wearing
63 gloves. It was a nice day outside, probably mid 60s, so wearing gloves was weird.
64 He walked quickly—almost running—up to the front door of the Jones’ house. My first
65 thought was that this was some sort of delivery person, but he was in business casual
66 attire, not the uniform of that company that delivers stuff to our houses. To my utter
67 amazement, he entered the security code to unlock the front door, opened it, and
68 walked in! I took out my phone, checked the time (it was about 11:20 am), and then
69 tried calling Julius to let him know what was going on. The call went straight to
70 voicemail. Darn it! In hindsight, I should have called the police to report a suspicious
71 person. It just didn’t occur to me. I feel so stupid. I might have saved Julius’ life if I
72 had called the police.

73 About three minutes later, the guy left the home, closing the door behind him.
74 He still had the bag in his hand, but this time he was carrying a box in his left hand.
75 I thought something wasn’t right, so I decided to take a picture with my phone. It
76 wasn’t the best, as the guy’s head was blocked. But it was something. I turned over
77 the picture to the police.

78 The next day, I learned about Julius’ death. I saw all the police cars, and then
79 the ambulance taking his body away on a stretcher. Apparently another neighbor

80 saw him through a window and called 9-1-1. I was devastated. I still am. He was
81 such a wonderful person who was kind to everyone he met and volunteered in the
82 community. This is a big loss. I had to sit down with my oldest child and try to
83 explain what happened; I'm not sure he understood. I still don't think he
84 understands. Thankfully, my youngest child is too young to comprehend what
85 happened.

86 I remember when Rebecca came home from her trip abroad. It was about a
87 week after the body was found. Apparently she was unreachable before then. I tried
88 to talk to her, but it was too difficult. Every time I saw her, her eyes were red as if
89 she had been crying. I cannot imagine how difficult this must be for her. For the first
90 few weeks after Julius' passing, I would see her walking the dog through the
91 neighborhood, and I could hear her crying. Imagine being in another country and
92 finding out that your husband had been killed?

93 I also cannot believe that I saw the killer. A couple days after Julius was found
94 dead, a police officer came by the house and asked my spouse and me whether we
95 had seen anything unusual. I told the officer everything I saw on March 29, and
96 showed the officer the picture I took on my phone. Later that day I was called by a
97 detective and asked to come into the station to review a photo lineup. Someone
98 showed me six pictures, and said "one of these is the killer, do you recognize
99 anyone?" The officer had a pen in her hand, and laid it down on top of the paper with

100 the six pictures. The pen tip was resting on top of the picture of the man I saw, as if
101 the officer wanted me to choose that picture. It was the picture on the bottom row,
102 in the middle. It didn't matter, I recognized the photograph immediately. I knew it
103 was the same man I saw enter the Jones' home that day—the day before they found
104 Julius' body. I told the detective that I was 100% sure that was the person who I saw
105 go into the house, and I circled his picture with a red pen. I also wrote my initials
106 next to the circle.

107 I hope they nail that jerk. What he did to Julius is unforgivable. I will never
108 forgive him, and I doubt Rebecca ever will either.

Deposition Excerpts of Jess Fletcher

Good morning counselors. My name is Jess Fletcher. I am 59 years old. I live in Cary, North Carolina. I am not now nor have I ever been married, and I have no children. I was born and raised in the suburbs of Boston, and attended Tufts University where I received my undergraduate degree in psychology. Afterwards, I received my M.A. in psychology from Boston College. While in graduate school, I was approached by a recruiter for the FBI. I had never considered a career in law enforcement, but after meeting with the recruiter a few times and doing some in-person visits, I was hooked. After I graduated with my M.A., I attended the FBI's training program in Quantico.

Given my background in psychology, I worked primarily as a profiler. I worked on several high-profile cases throughout the country. I also received regular training in the use of investigative techniques; interview skills; and regular practice and certification in firearms. I worked my entire career in Virginia, near the FBI's headquarters in downtown Washington, D.C. For ease of reference, I have included my curriculum vitae for the attorneys in this case. When I turned 57, I was forced to retire from the FBI. No, it was nothing bad, it's not like I was asked to resign because of some disciplinary reason. The FBI has a mandatory retirement age, that's all. I love working, and my passion is problem solving. A career at the FBI was perfect, but the retirement rules are what they are. So when I did retire, I decided to start a

21 new—albeit similar—career working as a private investigator. Because I have family
22 in Cary, one of the suburbs of Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina, I decided to
23 relocate. After all those years living alone in and around the beltway, it was nice to
24 be near family for a change. I found a small home in Cary, and shortly afterwards,
25 started my own private investigation firm. That’s been about two years now.

26 I have been hired a few times to be an expert witness. I am primarily hired by
27 wealthier criminal defendants looking for someone with my years of experience and
28 expertise to review law enforcement investigations and give my opinions. I am also
29 hired by private clients for the typical stuff, like tracking a spouse during a messy
30 divorce, that kind of thing. For cases in which I serve as an expert witness, I require
31 a retainer of \$10,000 and charge \$400 an hour for my services, including depositions
32 and trial testimony. The client is also expected to pay for any travel related costs,
33 including my hotel room and flights. That is the arrangement I have in this case.

34 I was first contacted by lawyers representing Mr. Wild in early June 2024. I
35 had previously worked for the law firm representing Mr. Wild in this case. In fact,
36 that was the first law firm that hired me as an expert when I started my new career
37 as a private investigator, so I owed them one. I was happy to take this case, as a
38 “thank you” to the firm. After some discussions, during which time we talked about
39 my fees, the scope of my work on the case, and any required travel, we signed a
40 contract on June 28, 2024. I began working on the case almost immediately, which

41 consisted of reviewing the police reports, coroner's examination, toxicology reports,
42 copies of witness interviews, etc. I would agree, yes, that I had sufficient facts and
43 data to give an opinion in this case.

44 In my opinion, the police investigation in this matter was wholly deficient, so
45 much so that no reasonable prosecutor could have or should have, ethically, filed
46 charges in this matter. To that end, there are three broad categories where I find the
47 investigation lacking, and where a reasonable jury ought to find reasonable doubt.

48 First there is the opportunity to commit this crime. You have all heard the
49 classic "motive, means, opportunity" right? While somewhat cliché, the phrase
50 actually applies to actual investigations. The eyewitness claims to have seen my
51 client enter the victim's residence at 11:20 am on March 29, 2024. The lead detective
52 in this case confirmed that my client was working at College City High School that
53 day. The police's theory is that my client left work during a break during the day,
54 drove to the victim's house, planted sesame seeds in food which the victim later ate,
55 stole the victim's EpiPens, and then drove back to work. The police seem to think
56 that committing this crime during a work day would give my client a good alibi.

57 Okay, neat theory. But there are just one or two holes in this theory—holes the
58 size of the Grand Canyon. Conveniently, the detective handling this case never
59 actually confirmed that the timeline actually works. But I did. As part of my review
60 of this case, I traveled to Pinebrook and spent several days reviewing the evidence.

61 This included traversing the route from College City High School to the victim's
62 residence. I intentionally traveled to Pinebrook during the work-week, *after* school
63 was already in session. At exactly 11:05 am on three consecutive days, I drove from
64 the high school to the victim's residence located at 2513 Everbrite Lane. I wanted to
65 mimic the likely traffic my client would have faced the day of the murder, if he were
66 truly the killer. On Day 1, it took me 14 minutes and 32 seconds. On Day 2, the trip
67 took me 16 minutes and 22 seconds. On Day 3, the trip took me 15 minutes and 14
68 seconds. So yes, it is plausible that had my client left the parking lot of the high
69 school at precisely 11:05, he could have, in theory, been at the victim's residence at
70 exactly 11:20 am.

71 But here's the rub. The previous class ends at 11:05 am. That does not mean
72 that my client would have been in his car and out the parking lot at exactly that time.
73 My client's classroom is on the third floor of the high school building. I asked and
74 received permission from school administration to test the walking route from the
75 classroom to the parking lot. I did this after school one of the days I was in
76 Pinebrook. The walk took me 12 minutes. And that was after school, without dozens
77 of teenagers blocking the route. So the notion that my client was able to walk from
78 the third floor of the building, to his car, drive anywhere from 14-16 minutes, and
79 be at the victim's house by 11:20 am is simply irrational.

80 Yes, it is possible that he left earlier than 11:05 am. Perhaps it is possible that
81 he had someone else watch his prior class, allowing him to leave the campus a few
82 minutes early. However, to my knowledge, the police never spoke with anyone who
83 was working in the school that day to verify that my client was teaching until 11:05
84 that day. Remember, it is the State of Missouri that has the burden of proof—the state
85 should have to present evidence that his killing was possible. My client does not
86 have to present evidence showing that he could not be the killer. So what I was doing
87 as part of my investigation is what the police should have been doing as part of their
88 investigation. Unfortunately, they did not and now my client is out thousands of
89 dollars to defend against a wrongful prosecution.

90 Yes, I did review the photograph taken by the neighbor. I concede that the
91 photograph does appear to be by my client. Certainly, the height, weight, and other
92 identifying features would lead one to believe that it is likely my client. However,
93 the person's face is partially blocked in the photograph, making a positive
94 identification impossible. And remember, it is the state that has to prove beyond a
95 reasonable doubt. In my opinion, a jury should find reasonable doubt in the fact that
96 the photograph—while it certainly looks like my client—cannot show with absolute
97 certainty that it is my client.

98 Moreover, what about the obvious unanswered questions? How did my client
99 know the front door code to access the house? There are devices that crack the codes

100 of less-sophisticated code locks that most people purchase at their local home
101 improvement store—but there is no evidence that my client had anything like that
102 available to him. Plus, how did my client know about the victim’s severe allergy?
103 Yes, I suppose he could have learned it over the years that they knew each other, but
104 in my experience, what foods you might be allergic to is not a common topic of
105 conversation except between your spouse and your doctor.

106 These are questions that remain, to my knowledge, unanswered. These
107 questions should have been answered long before any indictment was sought in this
108 case.

109 Second, the photo lineup conducted in this case was questionable, at best, and
110 likely unethical. The American Psychological Association has done significant
111 studies in the area of accuracy of lineups. The generally accepted procedures,
112 adopted by numerous different law enforcement agencies and advocacy groups,
113 including the APA and International Association of Police, recommend that the
114 officer or officers that are performing the photo lineup be someone in the department
115 unfamiliar with the case or the suspects. What should happen is that the officer
116 conducting the lineup gathers at least six photographs of possible suspects, one of
117 which is the person of interest. The photographs should be people of similar defining
118 characteristics, such as gender, height, weight, etc. The investigating officer would
119 prepare the photo lineup and give it to the administrating officer without telling that

120 officer who the person of interest is, to keep it “blind.” The officer conducting the
121 lineup should inform the witness that the suspect may or may not be in the lineup,
122 and that the officer conducting the lineup does not know who the suspect may be.
123 The goal, according to the APA, by these steps is to avoid any unconscious bias in
124 the lineup and to ensure accurate identifications.

125 Here, there was clear evidence of bias. The deposition statements from Harper
126 Klein indicate that the officer conducting the lineup had a pen that was resting on
127 the photo of my client. This suggests to me that the investigating officer
128 communicated to the officer performing the lineup who the person of interest was,
129 in other words, my client. Even if that did not happen, the officer conducting the
130 lineup made a physical act that, even unconsciously, would have suggested who the
131 person was in the lineup that police believed was involved in this crime. This act
132 alone, whether intentional or not, should have invalidated the entire lineup and it
133 should not have been used.

134 Also, the officer clearly indicated to the witness that the suspected killer was
135 in the lineup. Every publication on the reliability of photo lineups and all of the
136 research shows that officers that are performing a lineup should indicate to a witness
137 that the suspect may or *may not* be in the lineup. The officer should *never* tell a
138 witness that the person of interest is in the lineup. This causes the witness to feel

139 pressure to pick someone, leading to possible misidentifications (and, therefore,
140 wrongful convictions).

141 To be fair, the subjects that were chosen for the lineup were done correctly.
142 Yes, the research says that the six individuals in the lineup should have similar
143 defining characteristics. So I understand your questioning the people chosen. Two
144 of the subjects are wearing glasses, four of them are not. One subject appears to be
145 in his sixties or older, the others younger. And each has different hair colors. So yes,
146 I understand your hesitation. However, it is impossible to gather six people with
147 identical defining characteristics, and in fact, you do not want that. You want some
148 slight differences, such as wearing glasses versus not. Having similar, but not too
149 similar, characteristics better tests the witnesses' memory and actually leads to better
150 identification.

151 All things considered, though, the lineup in this case should not be given any
152 weight or credibility, and should not be considered.

153 Third, law enforcement completely ignored a suspect in this case. The FBI
154 statistics show that in the overwhelming number of murders that are not the result of
155 a random act (for example, car jackings), the victim has a close relationship with
156 their killer. Based on the statistics alone, law enforcement in cases such as these
157 should at least look into the whereabouts of spouses. In this case, the evidence made
158 clear that the victim's spouse insisted on a dramatic increase in the amount of life

159 insurance coverage shortly before the murder took place. Additionally, the spouse
160 would have—logically—easier access to the victim’s EpiPens and the food inside the
161 house. The fact that the spouse was out of the country the day before the victim was
162 found murdered creates an all-too-easy alibis. At the very least, law enforcement
163 should have questioned the spouse. The fact that they did not is another source of
164 glaring and obvious reasonable doubt that warrants an acquittal in this matter.

165 In conclusion, I strongly believe that the investigation in this matter was
166 substandard and inadequate, and cannot be the basis for conviction.

Deposition Excerpts of A.J. Still

Good afternoon! My name is A.J. Still. I am a freshman at Truman State University. I am studying Political Science, with a minor in English. I really love Truman, and have developed close friendships with many of the other freshmen in Dobson Hall. On the weekends, we like to drive to Columbia to tailgate and go to the football games. I also compete on the Truman mock trial team and we have invitational tournaments every other weekend, which is pretty stressful but a ton of fun. We have a really good team, and we hope to qualify for the national championship this year.

I was born and raised in College City, Missouri, just a couple hours south of Kirksville. I actually competed on the College City mock trial team when I was in high school. In fact, that is the reason I attend Truman State at all. I was never really interested in attending a small liberal arts school, but then every mock trial case in high school had some connection to Truman. I guess the state directors who wrote the cases have some connection to the school? Mock trial inspired me to tour Truman. I was on a trip with my parents to Iowa State University, and we made a small detour to Kirksville. Long story short, after the hour-long tour of the campus, I was hooked. I knew Truman was where I belonged.

But you wanted to talk about Coach Wild. I know, I know, his real name is “James” but everyone on the team called him “Coach.” He was actually my senior-

21 year A.P. U.S. History teacher at College City High but even in class, I called him
22 “Coach.” Coach was an inspiration. In class, he was energetic and passionate about
23 U.S. history. He loved teaching so much that he would often come to school in period
24 costumes based on the events in history we were studying. During the unit on the
25 Civil War, he would wear uniforms from the Union Army. During the unit on the
26 Dust Bowl and Great Depression, he would dress up as characters from *Grapes of*
27 *Wrath*. Nobody really knows where he got the costumes. And I’m sure the other
28 teachers talked badly about him behind his back, but his students didn’t care. His
29 energy was infectious, and he made learning a lot of fun.

30 As a mock trial coach, Coach was awesome. Coach did not have a law degree,
31 but he still knew all about the rules of evidence and courtroom procedure. He was
32 also a great actor, and inspired our witnesses to walk and talk like the characters they
33 were portraying. During practice, he would talk to the students who were going to
34 be witnesses about how to portray their characters, oftentimes asking us to practice
35 different accents. He wanted us to “live the character on the stand” rather than just
36 regurgitate some pre-written lines in response to questions. He insisted that
37 witnesses were the key to winning at mock trial and given the team’s success, I think
38 he was right. That’s not to say that he was any slouch when working with the student
39 attorneys either. Even without formal legal training, he still knew how to help us
40 learn to needle witnesses on cross examination, give an impassioned closing

41 argument, and to make timely objections. He even created gigantic flash cards that
42 had the rules of evidence and would spend the first ten minutes of every practice
43 having the student attorneys play a *Jeopardy*-style game where he flashed a rule
44 number and we had to raise our hands (instead of buzzers, I suppose) to answer what
45 the particular rule said.

46 I know that Coach had his disagreements with the coaches at Pinebrook.
47 Really, we all did. Pinebrook and College City were rivals at most things, including
48 mock trial. We didn't really have any issues with the students at Pinebrook, but the
49 coaches were rather rude. At least twice when I was a student at College City,
50 Pinebrook's teacher coach accused my team of cheating and insisted that the
51 tournament directors invalidate our scores. It never happened, as Pinebrook's
52 accusations were nothing more than hogwash. "Malarkey," as someone famous
53 might say. Pinebrook's teacher coach was always making up accusations and lying
54 about our team.

55 But Coach and Julius Jones never got along. Julius was one of the attorney
56 coaches at Pinebrook, and Coach hated the guy. I remember one night when I was a
57 sophomore, and Coach saw Julius walking into the courthouse. Thankfully, we were
58 not facing Pinebrook that night. Nevertheless, Coach muttered under his breath,
59 "Why can't that guy do us a favor and go away forever?" I don't know for sure that
60 Coach was talking about Julius, because we were in the lobby of the courthouse and

61 Julius was just walking into the front door, a distance of about 200 feet. But Coach
62 was looking right at him. And Coach really did not like Julius at all.

63 I know what you're trying to imply. You're trying to imply that because Coach
64 didn't like Julius Jones that he is the killer. It's not true. It cannot be true. I know
65 this for a fact. How? For two reasons. Let me explain.

66 First, Coach just wasn't the type of person to do that. I know, I know, he didn't
67 like Julius. Everyone has someone they don't like, right? But that doesn't make us
68 all killers, you know. Coach was a caring person. He volunteered his time with the
69 mock trial team at College City High. He cared about his students deeply. He was
70 the kind of teacher that would stay late after school to help a student struggling in
71 his class. He was the kind of teacher that students approached when they were having
72 troubles, because Coach was a good listener. When he was not coaching mock trial,
73 Coach would spend his weekends volunteering at the local animal shelter or
74 homeless shelter. He was always giving his time to others. I remember one afternoon
75 in the beginning of my senior year, when I was taking A.P. U.S. History and Coach
76 was my teacher. A student found a spider crawling across the floor and screamed
77 (because, you know, a spider is worth screaming over). Some of the kids tried to
78 squash the spider with their shoes, but Coach just said "Stop! Let me take care of it."
79 Coach then picked up a spare piece of paper, collected the spider, and walked three
80 flights of stairs from our classroom out the door of the building and let the spider

81 free. You heard that right. In the middle of class, and from three flights away, Coach
82 went out of his way to save a spider rather than allow it to be squished. You tell me,
83 does that sound like someone who is going to plan a murder—especially by
84 poisoning? I’m telling you, you . . . have . . the . . . wrong . . . guy.

85 Plus, did you know that Coach won the district’s Teacher of the Year award
86 when I was a junior? There was a big ceremony and everything. The principal gave
87 a speech to an assembly of the whole school. A bunch of the mock trial kids,
88 including me, were allowed on stage to talk about how great Coach was. The
89 principal, I remember she said something like, “For your years of dedication, stellar
90 character, integrity, and dedication to the profession of teaching, the Board of
91 Education presents this award to James Wild.”

92 Was I aware of that incident back in 2019? I heard about it, yes. I wasn’t in
93 high school yet, but I heard about it. From what I understand, Coach was out
94 celebrating the grand opening of a new animal shelter in College City. He had a few
95 too many drinks and was pulled over by a cop on the way home. He was charged
96 with a DUI but given—what’s the term?—a suspended imposition of sentence? But
97 Coach owned up to it. He talks about it to his kids, as a “learn from my mistakes”
98 kind of thing. At the beginning of my senior year, Coach talked to everyone in my
99 A.P. history class and admitted to everything that happened. He said, “I made a
100 terrible mistake. I am only human. But I learned from my mistake, and I am a better

101 person because of it. You will make mistakes in your life too, but please do not make
102 the same mistakes I did. When you make a mistake, you too can either learn from it
103 and become a better person, or you can ignore it and doom yourself to the same
104 mistakes.”

105 Okay, the second reason I know Coach didn’t commit this crime: I was in his
106 class on March 29! After you charged him with this crime, Coach called me and told
107 me about your “theory,” that somehow Coach left class at 11:05 am and drove to
108 Julius’ house and then came back to school. Coach asked me if I remembered being
109 in his class and if I could testify that he was in class that day. “Yes, of course I will!”
110 I responded. You see, I had A.P. U.S. History in the mornings. That was the class
111 that ended right before Coach’s planning period. I told you that our classroom was
112 on the third floor of the building, right? So here’s the thing. In order for Coach to
113 get from his classroom to his car takes some time. You first have to contend with
114 three flights of stairs. Coach was not a young man, and although he was in pretty
115 decent shape, he was no star athlete if you get my drift. Plus, it’s not like he had a
116 clear path from his classroom door, to the staircase, and down the stairs. Everyone
117 in the school was changing classes *at the same time*! That meant that the hallways
118 and stairwells were packed with hundreds of students going in opposite directions.
119 Even me, a teenager, would take a good 5-6 minutes to get down a couple of flights
120 of stairs.

121 And then, even when he finally got out the front entrance of the building, he
122 would have had to walk to his car. I cannot believe the police never came and took
123 pictures, or got a diagram of the school's parking lot. You act as if his car was right
124 outside the entrance to the building. It wasn't. The teacher's parking lot was at least
125 600 feet away from the main entrance to the building (the entrance that was closest
126 to the hallway that led to Coach's classroom). The front entrance to the building to
127 the teacher's parking lot is a good 3-4 minute walk.

128 So your theory is that Coach walked from his classroom, down three flights
129 of stairs with hundreds of students blocking his path, to his car, drove to Julius'
130 house, planted some evidence, drove back, parked, walked back to the main
131 entrance, and back up three flights of stairs . . . in 50 minutes? You're crazy. It's
132 simply not possible. Trust me, I spent four years of my life at College City High
133 School and I'm telling you, it's just not possible. It's like how Truman scheduled
134 my Spanish 5 class in Barnett Hall from 8:00 to 8:50 am and then World Music in
135 Ophelia Parish at 9:00 am. It's physically not possible to get there in time.

136 I'll say it again. You have the wrong guy.

1 **Deposition Excerpts of Robin Atticus**

2 Good morning. My name is Robin Atticus, and I am 47 years old. I was born
3 and raised in North Dakota, and then attended Kansas State University where I
4 received a bachelor's degree in history. In college I met my future spouse, who was
5 from mid-Missouri. After we graduated, we moved to Pinebrook where my spouse
6 got a job working as a clerk at the Mountain Top Shop. I love the outdoors, and
7 Pinebrook is near several state parks with some wonderful hiking trails. Even after
8 all these years, my spouse and I still love to take our dog on long hikes in the woods.
9 When we moved to Pinebrook, I did not have any job prospects, so I was regularly
10 checking various job sites. I happened to check one day on a government website
11 advertising open positions within the federal government, and learned about a job
12 opening with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of Missouri. It was
13 for an HR assistant within the office's administrative division. I applied, got an
14 interview, and was offered the position.

15 My job duties mostly consisted of drafting job announcements, processing
16 applications, assisting with background checks of new hires, helping with the
17 onboarding process, and coordinating the benefits program. The federal government
18 has quite the cafeteria plan, consisting of dozens of different health, vision, dental,
19 flexible spending, long-term disability insurance, and life insurance options. On top
20 of that, the government also has a variety of different retirement options, including

21 a pension plan, that have rules and regulations. It took months of training to learn all
22 of the different ins-and-outs of the cafeteria and retirement plans. Then, there are
23 monthly virtual trainings, new guidance being issued by Washington, and sometimes
24 I even have to travel to South Carolina for additional in-person training programs.
25 It's honestly very exhausting, but it's also very rewarding. I often get to help
26 employees navigate the various health insurance options, giving advice about what
27 plan or plans might be best for them and their families. Plus, I get to help employees
28 plan for retirement, making sure they know the various options. And, of course, I
29 help employees with the different life insurance options.

30 I have been working for the U.S. Attorney's Office ever since applying so
31 many years ago. I have been promoted to HR director for the office, and I plan on
32 retiring from the office in the next ten years or so. It's a great job, with a great office,
33 with fantastic employees.

34 I understand you want more information about the life insurance options. Let
35 me see if I can simplify the process. The life insurance program is maintained by the
36 U.S. Office of Personnel Management, or OPM as we call it. The life insurance
37 program is called "FEGLI" or Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance. DOJ
38 employees, like those in the U.S. Attorney's Office, are offered basic life insurance,
39 which is the amount of an employee's salary (rounded to the nearest \$1,000). For
40 example, if an employee makes \$74,999, then the basic life insurance would be

41 \$75,000, payable to the employees' designated beneficiary or beneficiaries.
42 Additionally, employees can add Option A insurance, which is an additional \$10,000
43 in life insurance on top of the basic life insurance. Then there is Option B, which
44 adds multipliers. An employee can purchase 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 multipliers on top of basic
45 and Option A insurance. For example, if an employee makes \$75,000 and has Option
46 A insurance and Option B insurance with a 2 multiplier, that employee's
47 beneficiaries could receive \$235,000...\$75,000 in basic, \$10,000 for Option A, and
48 \$75,000 times two for Option B.

49 There is also Option C insurance, which is coverage for employees' spouses
50 and minor children, and payable to the employee upon the death of one of those
51 covered people. But you told me that was not relevant here so I won't get into it.

52 Employees can modify their life insurance coverage within 60 days of being
53 newly hired, during a qualifying life event (for example, marriage, birth of a child,
54 divorce, etc.), or during the life insurance open enrollment period which occurs once
55 a year. We have an online benefits portal that allows employees to login with their
56 credentials, and make changes to their benefits during the open enrollment period,
57 including changes to their life insurance coverages. Those reports are sent to me
58 electronically and I approve them before they are implemented.

59 Julius Jones? Yes, I knew him. I knew him very well. His office was on the
60 same floor as mine, just a couple doors down. He was always so kind to everyone. I

61 followed him on social media, and he was always posting pictures of him and his
62 wife on weekend trips together, or out walking the dog. Most attorneys' offices are
63 filled with diplomas or other items to remind people that they have law degrees—as
64 if the words “Assistant United States Attorney” on the door placard was not enough
65 reminder. Not Julius. He plastered his wall with pictures of he and his wife on their
66 honeymoon in Alaska, or he and his wife traveling to Ireland and France. (He also
67 had a couple posters of that popular book series about teenage witches and wizards
68 in England. Also a bunch of playing cards with the word “magic” on them...he was
69 a little nerdy). Julius had kept his office door open for anyone that wanted to come
70 and chat, and his office had a bowl of candy that was constantly stocked. He was
71 always eager to talk about his love of mock trial and coaching. I really don't
72 understand what “mock trial” is, or why it's so popular, but Julius loved that
73 program. It brought a smile to his face. He told me about coaching with several of
74 his high school friends.

75 On top of that, he was one hell of an attorney. The best, some might say. Okay,
76 nobody said that, but he was pretty good.

77 So let me be unequivocal and very clear about this. I do not think Rebecca
78 killed her husband. I understand that I am being subpoenaed to testify for the
79 defense, and I will give you the complete truth and nothing but the truth. And I don't
80 know what happened the day Julius died, and I have no idea about any feud between

81 Julius and the defendant. I'm just speculating. But I knew Julius well, and he never
82 spoke an ill word about his wife. He loved her, he adored her, and they were very
83 happy. I even met Rebecca on a couple of occasions during office social events. She
84 is a sweet and caring person too. There's just no way she killed anyone, much less
85 her husband.

86 But yes, in open season at the end of 2023, Julius did change his life insurance
87 options, effective January 1, 2024. Prior to that time, Julius had nothing more than
88 basic life insurance, covering only the amount of his salary. For the ten years he
89 worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office, I had advised him that he should purchase at
90 least Option A insurance, if not Option B as well. It's relatively inexpensive,
91 compared to the premium you would pay for private life insurance policies (and with
92 no medical exams to boot!). But he was stubborn, telling me it was not necessary.
93 Then, in December 2023, I got a notice through the benefits portal that Julius had
94 opted for additional life insurance, this time purchasing not only basic, but Option
95 A insurance and the 5 times multiplier. In other words, he went from the bare
96 minimum to the absolute most life insurance possible.

97 When I got that notice, I walked to Julius' office and knocked on the door. "I
98 received the notice about the increase in life insurance. I wanted to make sure this is
99 what you intended. You've never purchased additional life insurance before." He
100 looked at me and smiled and said, "Yeah. My wife and I talked about it last night.

101 She convinced me that we need more life insurance in case something ever happened
102 to me.” I nodded, told him that I’d approve the request, and went back to my office.
103 The new life insurance coverage would mean that Rebecca, Julius’ sole beneficiary
104 (at least according to the paperwork he submitted) would receive over \$1 million
105 should Julius pass away. I approved the request, and thought nothing of it. I provided
106 a copy of the request and approval to the attorneys in response to your subpoena.

107 That is, of course, until Julius died. Our office was devastated. The U.S.
108 Attorney emailed the entire office with the news. People in the office were shocked,
109 and a vigil was held in our conference room. I don’t really like talking about it,
110 because it was so emotional for us. About a week after Julius was found dead, I
111 received a phone call from Rebecca. “I want information about Julius’ life insurance,
112 and how I can get paid,” was what she said. I told her how sorry I was for her loss,
113 and she replied “Yeah, it’s a tragedy. Now, about that life insurance?” The tone of
114 her voice, it was not like she sounded sad at all. It’s as if she was brushing me aside.
115 I suppose we all handle grief differently. I told Rebecca that she would need to
116 complete some paperwork with me and submit a copy of the death certificate. I told
117 her that it would be fastest if she simply came into the office to complete the
118 paperwork rather than trying to fax or mail it. “Can I come today? The sooner the
119 better,” is how she replied.

120 So that afternoon, she came into the office and completed the paperwork. I
121 escorted her from security directly to my office, trying to avoid her being seen by
122 other employees. I didn't think she would want to stop every ten feet to hear people
123 give condolences. I certainly wouldn't want that if I were in her position. To my
124 surprise, when I met Rebecca at security, she acted like nothing major had happened.
125 She wore a smile on her face, greeted me warmly and asked how I was doing. I
126 would describe her as . . . "bubbly." Not how I would have suspected someone whose
127 spouse had just been killed to be acting, but then again, who am I to tell someone
128 else how to manage grief? We all behave differently in stressful situations, right?
129 Maybe she was in denial? I don't judge people, as I have never walked a mile in
130 their shoes, and I will not judge Rebecca now.

131 I'm not sure how long it takes for the insurance proceeds to be issued to the
132 beneficiary, as that is handled by folks in Washington. But the payment would have
133 been in excess of \$1 million.



OFFICE OF THE SOUTHFIELD COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER
Autopsy Report

Date of Report: April 4, 2024

Deceased: Julius M. Jones

Age	Sex	Length	Weight	Eyes	Hair	Beard
41	Male	74 in	210 Lbs	Blue	Brown	N/A

Blood Type	Contents in Blood	Rigor Mortis	Liver Mortis
O+	.00 BAL	Moderate	Moderate

Possible Cause of Death

The decedent suffered acute respiratory failure secondary to anaphylactic shock, characterized by widespread vasodilation, bronchoconstriction, and severe hypotension. Examination of the airway revealed marked edema of the larynx and upper respiratory tract. No other significant trauma or underlying conditions were found that could explain the sudden onset of symptoms.

Toxicology Examination

Gastric contents analysis revealed partially digested food, including trace amounts of sesame seeds (*Sesamum indicum*), consistent with recent ingestion. The presence of this allergen is considered contributory to the onset of the decedent's anaphylactic response.

Determination of Manner of Death

Homicide

Christina Moore
Christina Moore
Medical Examiner



HK





Pinebrook Police Department

Forensic Science Divison

Pinebrook Forensic Laboratory
437 Lamplight Dr
Pinebrook, MO 64013
(636) 245-7826
FAX (636) 245-7822

LABORATORY REPORT

Laboratory No.	: TX24-29846	Record No.	: 1
Delivered By	: Hand Delivery	Date Received	: April 3, 2024
Agency	: Pinebrook Police Department 152 Main St. Pinebrook, MO 64013	Time Received	: 8:32 a.m.
		Date Completed	: April 3, 2024
		Time Completed	: 4:15 p.m.
File No.	: 20242025 WILD, JAMES		

Evidence Received:

Item #1	Apple MacBook Pro (15-inch, 2018). Model A1502
---------	--

Results of Analysis

On March 19, 2024, from 8:12 p.m. C.S.T. until 8:21 p.m. C.S.T. the following internal browser searches were performed:

"effects of anaphylactic shock"
"can anaphylactic shock kill you?"
"where can I buy pajamas with pictures of jalapenos?"
"balding yet handsome personal injury defense attorneys"

EXHIBIT

D

BILLY BOB'S

BAKERY AND MARKET

(636) 555-5555
5656 Birchroot Blvd.
Pinebrook, MO 63013

03/24/24..... 05:31:14 PM

US DEBIT..... Entry Method: Chip

CARD #:..... XXXXXXXX4456

Name	QTY	Price
Organic Carrots	2	\$3.38 ea/\$1.69
Green Onions	1	\$1.49
Brian W's Sesame Seeds	3	\$14.97 ea/\$4.99
Doz Free Range Eggs	1	\$3.89
3pk Chicken Breast	1	\$7.96
Premium Bacon	1	\$3.29

SUBTOTAL..... \$34.98

TOTAL TAX..... \$3.01

TOTAL..... \$37.99



Ravensburger, Lennon

From: Ravensburger, Lennon <lennonravensburger@pinebrookschoools.ws>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:42 AM
To: Maxwell, Katherine <katherinemaxwell@pinebrookschoools.ws>
Subject: FW: Last Night's Round

Katherine,

Below is an email thread I was copied on this morning. You might know Julius Jones; he is a volunteer attorney coach for the mock trial team. James Wild is a teacher at College City High School, and the coach of that school's mock trial team. The emails are somewhat vague, but it appears to me that James is making a threat against one of our school's volunteers. I don't know what, if anything, you can do about this but I wanted to bring it to your attention.

Please let me know if there is anything else you need from me.

Lennon Ravensburger
Social Studies Department
Mock Trial Coach
Water Polo Coach
Cat Enthusiast Fan Club Sponsor

From: Wild, James <jwild@collegcityschools.ws>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:12 AM
To: Jones, Julius <jjones@usattymoc.gov>
CC: Ravensburger, Lennon <lennonravensburger@pinebrookschoools.ws>
Subject: RE: Last Night's Round

Nothing about last night was "fair and square." You better hope you and I do not meet in some dark alley, because I'd love to give you a piece of my mind.

James Wild
High School Social Studies Teacher
Mock Trial Coach
College City High School

From: Jones, Julius <jjones@usattymoc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:43 AM
To: Wild, James <jwild@collegcityschools.ws>
CC: Ravensburger, Lennon <lennonravensburger@pinebrookschoools.ws>
Subject: RE: Last Night's Round

James,

The fact that you are up at 4:38 in the morning to email me with wild accusations and threats speaks to your character. I am truly saddened that your life has come to this. There is more to life than mock trial . . . like sleep! My team beat yours, fair and square. Get over it.

Julius Jones
Assistant United States Attorney
Central District of Missouri

From: Wild, James <jwild@collegcityschools.ws>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:38 AM
To: Jones, Julius <jjones@usattymoc.gov>
Subject: Last Night's Round

Julius:

What your team did last night was truly disturbing. I pride myself in teaching my students the difference between right and wrong, and that no matter the outcome, they must always compete with honesty and dignity. I have always thought the purpose of the Missouri High School Mock Trial program was to promote learning and honest competition among the students. I am therefore shocked that your team—no doubt at your instruction—would stoop so low as to cheat in a mock trial round.

No matter how long it takes, I will make sure that you are held responsible for this behavior. You will not get away with this, no matter what it takes.

James Wild
High School Social Studies Teacher
Mock Trial Coach
College City High School



FEDERAL GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

Notice of Employee Election

Employee: Jones, Julius M.
Agency: USAO, MOC
Date: 12/18/2023
Employee ID: 2024202511749
Retirement SCD: 4/19/2014

*****2023 Open Season Change Summary*****

Previous Election: Basic

New Election: Basic; Option A; Option B x5

Coverage Amounts:

Basic	Option A	Option B	Total
\$180,000	\$10,000	\$900,000	\$1,090,000

Designated Beneficiary: Jones, Rebecca C.

Relationship to Employee: Spouse



Exhibit
G

JESS FLETCHER
jfletcher@fletcherinvestigations.com

Professional Address:

4814 S. 10th Street
Suite 341
Raleigh, North Carolina
27605

Personal Address:

11749 Ellis Drive
Cary, North Carolina
27513

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jess-fletcher-a7130786/>

EDUCATION

M.A. in Psychology, Boston College May 2000

B.A. in Psychology, Tufts University May 1998
Magna Cum Laude

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Student Government Vice President

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner and President June 2022-Present
Fletcher Investigations; Raleigh, North Carolina

Founder and president of private investigation firm offering a wide range of services to clients, including review of law enforcement investigations for criminal defendants; acting as private process server; and conducting background investigations for employers. Gave expert witness testimony in depositions and trial, and prepared expert reports.

Special Agent May 2000-June 2022
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Special agent tasked with creating psychological profiles of suspects in high-profile criminal investigations. Extensive training in the areas of investigation, interview, evidence collecting, and weapons.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

- **Director's Award** (September 2003)

For outstanding work in the creation of profile of suspect accused of murdering wealthy antiquities collectors to steal ancient artifacts, resulting in successful prosecution in *United States v. Riddle*

- **Director's Award** (January 2012)

For outstanding work in the investigation of high-profile public official who killed his father with a crossbow after suffering years of neglect and emotional abuse, resulting in successful prosecution in *United States v. Tyrion*

- **Attorney General's Award for Service** (May 2022)

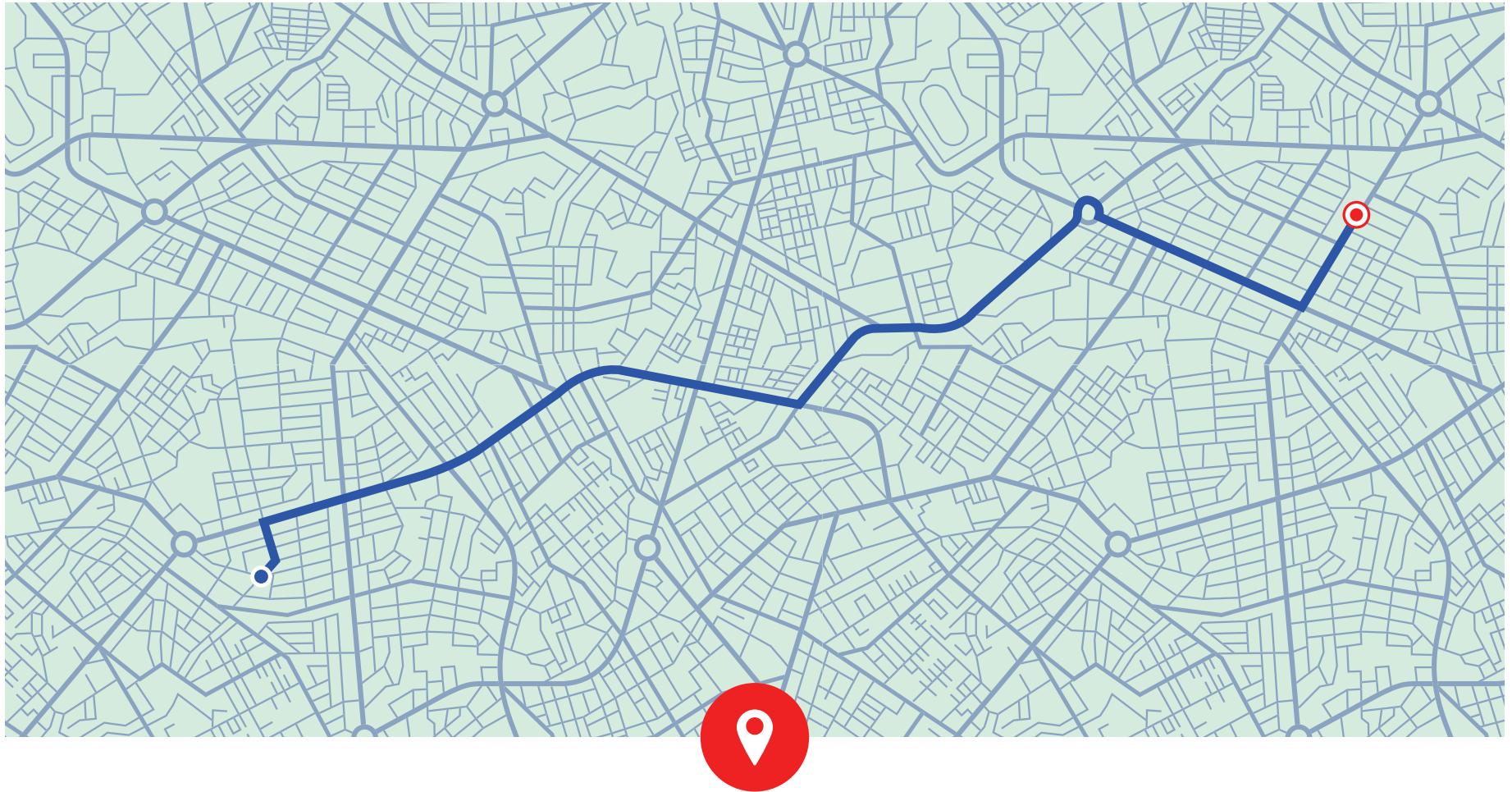
Awarded for career of service to the FBI

PRESENTATIONS

- *The Use of Psychological Profiles in the Aid of Violent Crime Investigation*; Quantico, Virginia (July 2017)
- *Interview Skills for New Agents*; Quantico, Virginia (Feb. 2021)

PUBLICATIONS

- "Tell Me No Lies: How Psychological Profiles Can Catch a Killer," *Journal of Criminology* (Vol. 89; Sept. 2019)
- "The Dragon Within: Six Interview Techniques to Uncover the Truth in Suspects." *Journal of Criminology* (Vol. 68; Jan. 2014)



YOU HAVE ARRIVED!

COLLEGE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  2513 EVERBRITE LN.

DISTANCE TRAVELED:

5.82 mi

DURATION:

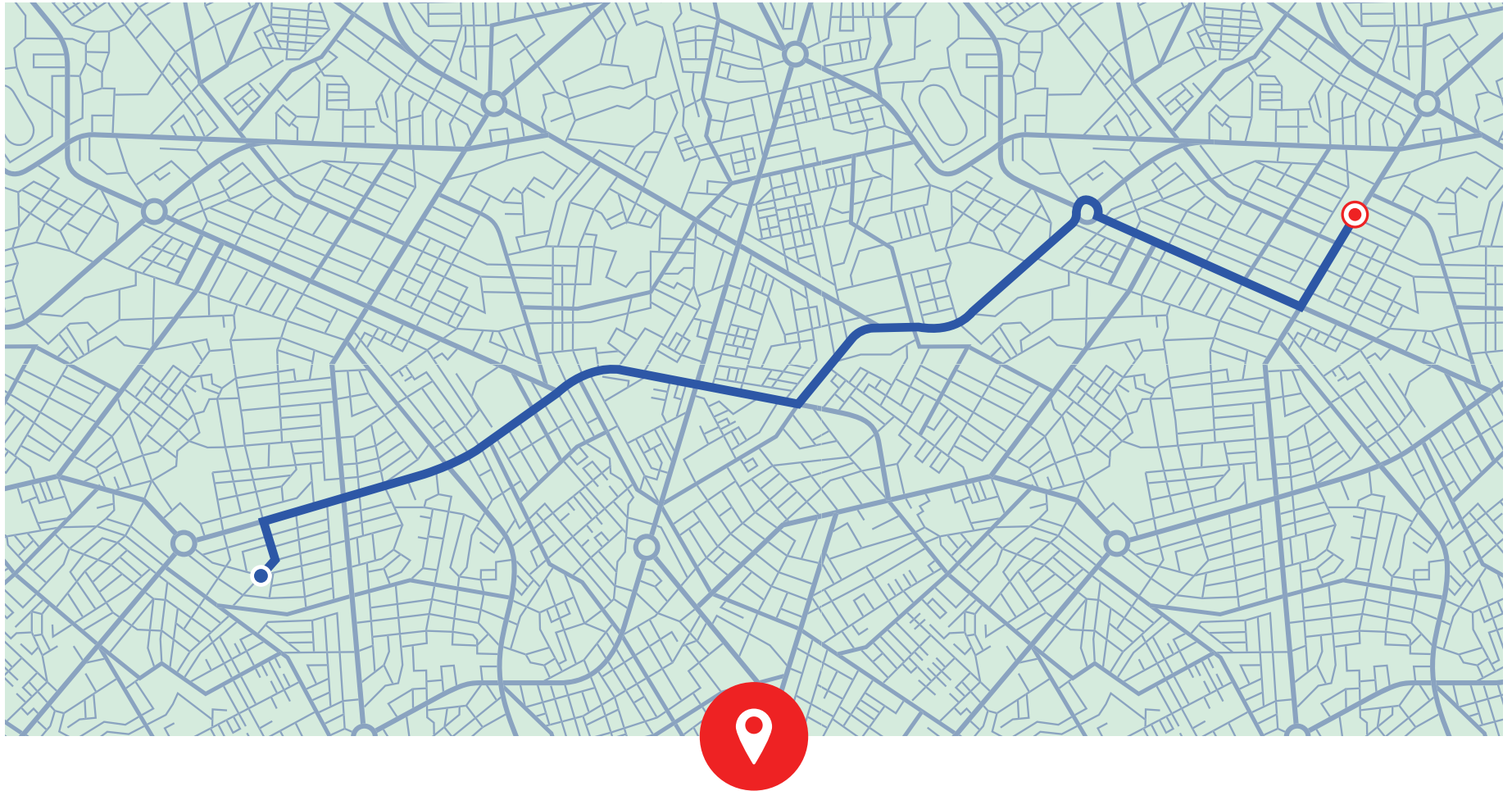
14 min 32 sec

AVERAGE SPEED:

45 mph

EXHIBIT

I



YOU HAVE ARRIVED!

COLLEGE CITY HIGH SCHOOL —————> 2513 EVERBRITE LN.

DISTANCE TRAVELED:

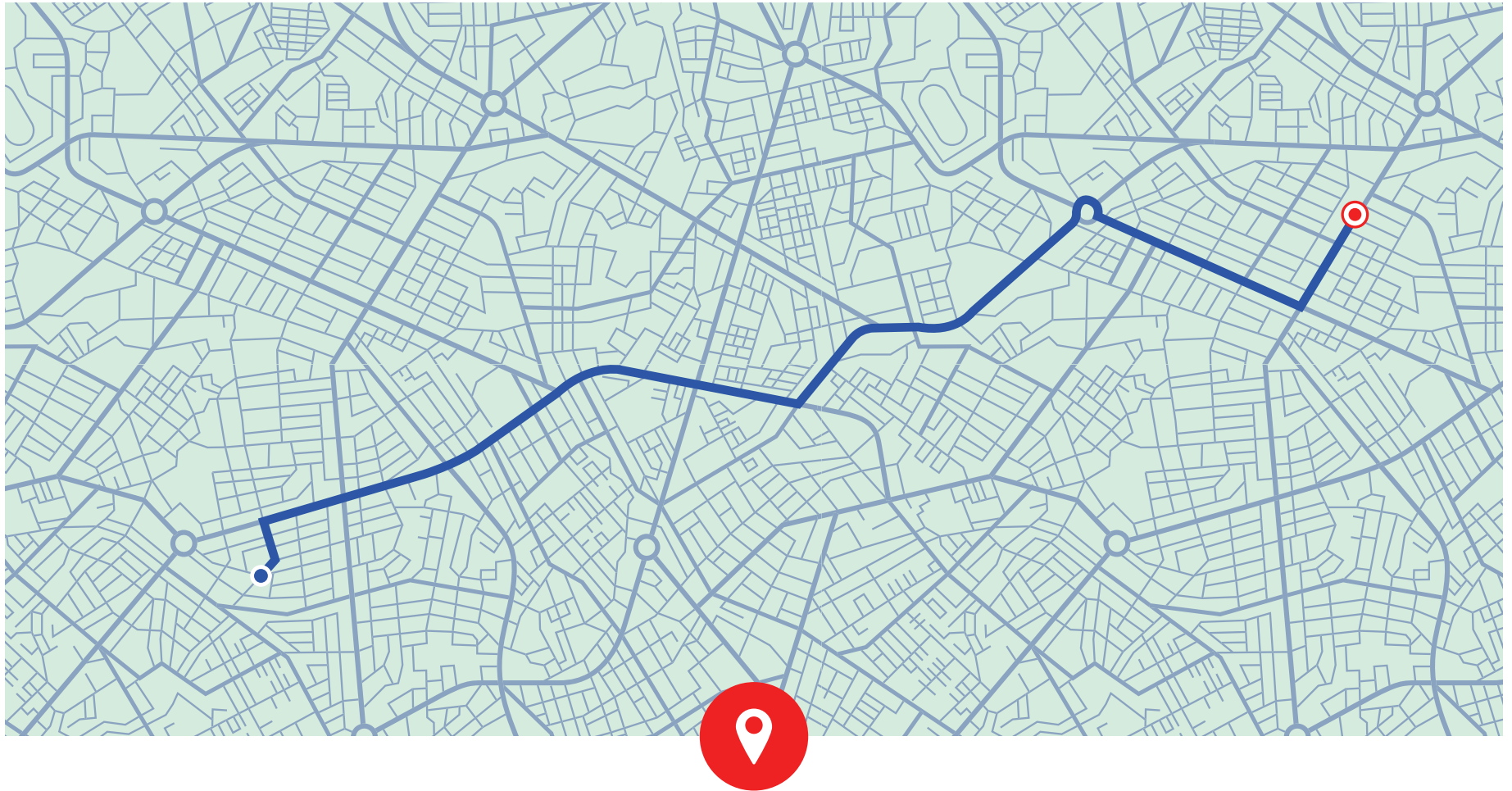
5.82 mi

DURATION:

16 min 22 sec

AVERAGE SPEED:

41 mph



YOU HAVE ARRIVED!

COLLEGE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  2513 EVERBRITE LN.

DISTANCE TRAVELED:

5.82 mi

DURATION:

15 min 14 sec

AVERAGE SPEED:

44 mph

Revision Notes

2/3/2025

1. Packet Introduction: Corrected year to 2024 instead of 2023.
2. Lab Report: Corrected "Received" and "Completed" dates to April 3, 2024.
3. Fritz Statement, Line 74: Corrected "March 28" to "March 29."
4. Klein Statement, Line 50: Corrected "March 28" to "March 29."
5. Klein Statement, Line 95: Corrected "March 28" to "March 29."
6. Fletcher Statement, Line 51: Corrected "March 28" to "March 29."
7. Still Statement, Line 106: Corrected "March 28" to "March 29."

10/8/2024

1. Fritz Statement, Line 122: Added description of receipt and seizure of laptop computer.
2. Fritz Statement, Line 129: Added description of credit card match to Wild.