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		ON	<del>5/7/2024</del> 5/6/2024
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8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE S	TATE OFC	ALIFORNIA
9	FOR THE COUNTY O	F SAN MAT	TEO
10	·		o.: SC055500A
11		) SUPREM	D CASES: E COURT NO. S132449;
12	PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, PLAINTIFF,	) Court (	OF APPEAL CASE NO. A167615
13	VS.		4TO OPPOSITION TO IN FOR DNA TESTING (PEN.
14 15	SCOTT PETERSON, DEFENDANT.	ODE §	(1405); PROPOSED ORDER OVIDE DISCOVERY (PEN. (1405(C))
16 17 18		) HRG. TI ) DEPT: 1	ATE: MAY 29, 2024 ME: 9:00 A.M. 2 HONORABLE ELIZABETH M. HII
19	D.C. L. G. W.D. www. harvard.charvard.com	vymaal I aa A	nceles Innecence Project (I AID)
20	Defendant Scott Peterson, by and through co		
21	submits this Reply to the Stanislaus County District	Anomey's C	opposition to his Motion for Divi
22	Testing (Pen. Code § 1405).		
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#### INTRODUCTION

LAIP is investigating Mr. Peterson's claim of innocence. On January 17, 2024, Mr. Peterson moved this Court for an order directing that certain items of physical evidence be subjected to DNA testing pursuant to Penal Code section 1405 (hereafter, DNA Motion) and an order directing the prosecution to produce discovery Mr. Peterson is entitled to under Penal Code section 1054.9 (hereafter, Discovery Motion).¹ On February 13, 2024, a meet and confer between the parties took place at the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office (SCDA) at which time the prosecution stated that it would oppose both motions. On March 12, 2024, at a status hearing on the two motions, the prosecution asserted that it was unable to litigate both motions at the same time and requested that the DNA Motion be litigated first because that would "assist in some aspects as to the discovery motion" and that it was "not reasonable" for the prosecution to have to file oppositions to both motions at the same time. (Mar. 12, 2024 Hrg. Tr. at p. 8.) The Court set a briefing schedule directing that the DNA Motion be briefed first, given that the statute provides that any response or opposition be filed within 90-days, and the Discovery Motion be briefed thereafter, accommodating the prosecution's request for additional time to respond to the Discovery Motion. (Id. at pp. 13–14.)

The Court inquired whether the parties preferred to have a hearing on the motions together or separately and counsel for Mr. Peterson stated that it was preferable to have the DNA issue resolved as soon as possible so that if any testing is ordered, that testing can get started; the prosecution did not oppose that request. (*Id.* at pp. 18–19.) The prosecution now argues in its Opposition that it is not required to provide Mr. Peterson with the discovery he requested in the DNA Motion and it continues to withhold the discovery he has requested in his Discovery Motion, while arguing that Mr. Peterson has failed to meet the pleading and proof requirements of section 1405, and objecting to the evidence Mr. Peterson presented in support of his motion as inadmissible. In other words, the prosecution continues to withhold the discovery Mr. Peterson believes will further support the evidence he has already presented in support of the instant motion and at the same time argues that he has not met his burden. The Court must not permit the continued suppression of evidence the

Unless otherwise stated, all references to code sections hereafter are to the Penal Code,

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26 27 prosecution should have provided the defense at the time of trial twenty years ago, but did not and has not to this day provided to the defense, to serve as a basis for denying this motion.

### Post-Conviction Investigation & Discovery Demands

A post-conviction investigation into a claim of actual innocence begins with a review of the original investigation into the crime at issue to determine whether any evidence or leads were missed or overlooked that may support that claim of innocence. If any are found, those leads and evidence are examined to determine whether anything discovered, whether new or old evidence, or both, undermines the conviction and supports a claim of innocence. As set forth in Mr. Peterson's DNA Motion and Discovery Motion, post-conviction counsel has identified numerous investigative failures committed throughout the original investigation in this case. As one example, the prosecution admits that numerous eyewitnesses reported seeing Laci Peterson walking in the neighborhood at times after Mr. Peterson left home for the day, some of whom were never interviewed by police at all, and most of whom were never interviewed while Laci was missing, or even prior to trial. Despite the prosecution's Herculean efforts to offer hindsight justifications for why these eyewitnesses were never interviewed, the simple truth is that those witnesses who reported seeing Laci Peterson walking in the neighborhood should have been a top priority in an unbiased missing person investigation. Not only may those witnesses have provided important information and leads to what happened to Laci Peterson, if even one of those witness reports was credible, Mr. Peterson could not possibly have killed his wife and son.<sup>2</sup> The prosecution has never disputed that fact.

Post-conviction counsel has also identified considerable material exculpatory evidence that appears to have been suppressed at the time of trial, as well as certain critical exculpatory evidence that was "lost" by the prosecution and therefore never provided to the defense at the time of trial, including, to name only a few, the following items:

The prosecution argues that defense counsel could have and should have called those witnesses at trial and the failure to call those witnesses, and the failure to present other exculpatory evidence in Mr. Peterson's defense at trial, is an issue that cannot be revisited by this Court. That argument is not supported by the authorities and it reflects the prosecution's commitment to protecting its conviction at any cost and its lack of understanding as to how many wrongful convictions have been overturned based on police and prosecutorial misconduct, confirmation bias, ineffective assistance of counsel, and as is most often the case, some combination of those errors, among others, which do not come to light until after a conviction becomes final.

- the audio recorded calls between Shawn Tenbrink and his brother, Adam Tenbrink, wherein Lt. Aponte reported hearing Adam tell Shawn that Steven Todd was seen by Laci Peterson during the Medina burglary on the morning of December 24, 2002, i.e., after Mr. Peterson had left home for the day, which the prosecution claims is "lost," and the later call between Shawn Tenbrink and his mother, wherein Lt. Aponte reported hearing Shawn tell his mother to tell Adam to "that the police had just interviewed him and he was to keep his mouth shut because he doesn't know who he is dealing with." (Exh. 29 [Lt. X Aponte 12/1/2004 Interview].)
- the identity of the MPD officer or detective who interviewed Shawn Tenbrink, police reports or notes documenting that interview, and any recordings made of that interview between MPD and Shawn Tenbrink, an interview Lt. Aponte stated he believes was recorded;
- the videotaped interviews MPD conducted with Steven Todd and Donald Glenn Pearce after their arrest on January 2, 2003, which were logged into evidence, but never provided to the defense;
- reports of MPD's witness interviews related to the Croton watch that was pawned on December 31, 2002, and again on February 14, 2003, which have never been provided to the defense; and,
- the video recording or partial video recording taken on Gene Ralston's boat on March 11, 2003, depicting what Mr. Ralston publicly stated he believed to be the body of Laci Peterson located approximately three miles north of the location where Mr. Peterson fished. (Opp'n. at p. 265 [a video camera was used to tape the monitor output directly and was "partially successful"].) The defense was not provided with that "partially successful" videotape.

In addition, consistent with this pattern of suppressing evidence and relevant to the instant DNA Motion before the Court, as the prosecution is well aware, the complete police file related to the vehicle fire involving the orange former Cal Trans van was *suppressed by the prosecution at the time of trial* and was not discovered until a journalist tracked down Fire Investigator Bryan Spitulski

in 2015, who informed him that there should be more photos in the file, which the journalist then obtained from an anonymous source. (DNA Motion, Exh. 2 ¶ 46.) It was not until the journalist made Mr. Peterson's attorney aware of the photos [id. at ¶ 47] that his counsel was able to request the files associated with this former Cal Trans orange van fire from the Attorney General's office. Not until March 18, 2016, was Mr. Peterson provided with a more comprehensive Investigation Report prepared by Det. Grogan related to the van fire. (DNA Motion, Exh. 32 [Det. C. Grogan 3/18/2016 Vehicle Fire Investigation Report].) And even then, Mr. Peterson was *still* not provided with the six photos of the burned van and blood-stained mattress that was part of a "Missing Person Investigation." Not until after Mr. Peterson made a second request on July 19, 2016, asking for any color photos of the van, did the Stanislaus County District Attorney finally provide Mr. Peterson with photos of the blood-stained mattress—over thirteen years after the photos were taken—at which time the prosecution agreed to conduct very limited DNA testing on the stained mattress fabric from the back of that van.

Counsel's investigation into the original investigation in this case is obviously hampered by the purported "loss" and/or suppression of evidence, some of which is described above. For all of these reasons, counsel filed the two motions currently pending before the Court seeking post-conviction discovery and DNA testing of physical items of evidence to further investigate Mr. Peterson's claim of innocence. Notwithstanding these challenges presented by suppressed, missing, and "lost" evidence, post-conviction counsel's investigation into the disappearance and murder of Laci and Conner Peterson has already yielded important leads to evidence supporting Mr. Peterson's claim that his wife was alive on December 24, 2002, when he left home for the day, and that he did not kill her.

In the Opposition to the DNA Motion, the prosecution does not contend that the "lost" and suppressed evidence listed above, and the other evidence Mr. Peterson seeks by way of the two motions pending before the court, has been provided to the defense. Nor does the prosecution refute that many investigative failures infected the original investigation into the disappearance and deaths of Laci and Conner Peterson, as alleged in the instant DNA Motion. Instead, the prosecution argues that the Court should strike as "inadmissible hearsay" much of the evidence Mr. Peterson has

presented, that Scott Peterson is not entitled to the discovery he requested in the DNA Motion pursuant to section 1405(c) that would establish the availability and condition of the evidence he seeks to test, and that all of the concerns raised in the DNA Motion before the Court have been litigated and rejected. In other words, the prosecution is arguing that Mr. Peterson has not met his burden of making a prima facie showing that he is entitled to the DNA testing he seeks, while it continues its decades-long suppression of some of the very discovery Mr. Peterson needs to investigate evidence he believes will support his claim that he did not harm or kill his family.

The Court should reject those arguments and order the prosecution to provide Mr. Peterson with the discovery he is entitled to under section 1405(c), so the Court can establish the availability and condition of the evidence Mr. Peterson seeks to have tested, as provided for under the statute, and the Court can rule on the DNA Motion knowing what evidence is, or is not, available for testing and any Court-ordered testing can proceed without delay. A proposed order directing the prosecution to comply with its obligations under section 1405(c) is filed herewith for the Court's consideration.

Mr. Peterson believes he has satisfied the criteria necessary for the Court to grant the DNA Motion before the Court. In the event the Court is inclined to deny this motion based on the contentions, arguments, or objections to evidence in the prosecution's Opposition, Mr. Peterson respectfully requests that this Court hold this DNA Motion in abeyance and defer ruling on it until after Mr. Peterson's 1054.9 motion has been fully litigated, he has received any post-conviction discovery he is entitled to under the statute, and he has an opportunity to supplement the instant motion with additional new evidence in further support of the requirements of section 1405.

In the alternative, should the Court determine that Mr. Peterson has met the pleading and proof requirements as to some items of evidence he seeks to test, but not all, such as, for example, the items from the burned out orange former Cal Trans van and the duct tape from Laci's pants and the Target bag, the Court should grant the motion as to those items and hold off on ruling on the other items until such time as Mr. Peterson receives the post-conviction discovery he has requested and has an opportunity to supplement the evidence he files in support of those remaining items.

## Prosecution's Opposition

The issue now before the Court is whether Mr. Peterson "is entitled to develop potentially exculpatory evidence"; the Court is not asked here to decide whether Mr. Peterson "is entitled to some form of ultimate relief." (Pen. Code, § 1405, subd. (g)(5).) Under the statute, the Court shall grant the motion if the movant has satisfied the requirements set forth therein. Mr. Peterson has met the statute's requirements.

The prosecution's Opposition to the DNA Motion argues that: (i) there is no constitutional right to DNA testing; (ii) Marsy's Law prohibits DNA testing; (iii) the evidence Mr. Peterson presented in support of the instant motion is not "new"; (iv) the evidence Mr. Peterson relies on was or could have been previously litigated; (v) Mr. Peterson has failed to meet the requirements of section 1405; (vi) Mr. Peterson cannot show that there is a "reasonable probability" of a more favorable outcome at trial because "there was overwhelming circumstantial evidence" of his guilt presented at trial (Opp'n. at pp. 3, 71, 204, 225); (vii) Mr. Peterson was convicted by a jury and his conviction was affirmed on appeal and therefore DNA testing should not be conducted; and, (viii) Mr. Peterson's "new evidence claims" were or could have been litigated earlier.

The prosecution's arguments are without merit.

First, Mr. Peterson is requesting DNA testing of physical items of evidence pursuant to his statutory right under section 1405; he has not asserted that the instant motion is brought pursuant to a constitutional right.

Second, Marsy's law does not apply to the instant motion. The prosecution has cited no legal authorities supporting that argument and Mr. Peterson has found none.

Third, there is no requirement in section 1405 that a movant bring "new" evidence to support a request for DNA testing. The words "new evidence" do not appear anywhere in the statute. Section 1405, subdivision (g)(5), requires a movant to show that favorable DNA test results "would raise a reasonable probability that, in light of all the evidence, the convicted person's verdict or sentence would have been more favorable if the results of DNA testing had been available at the time of conviction." (Pen. Code, § 1405, subd. (g)(5).) Mr. Peterson presented new evidence—evidence the jury did not hear—in support of the instant motion, to demonstrate the scope and scale of the

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investigative failures present in the original investigation into the disappearance of Laci Peterson to support Mr. Peterson's claim of innocence. The statute does not require a movant to present "new" evidence in support of a motion. The statute further expressly provides that "[t]he court in its discretion may consider any evidence whether or not it was introduced at trial." (Id.) This Court is not required to "make on-the-record findings to support its ruling." (Richardson v. Superior Court (2008) 43 Cal. 4th 1040, 1053.) And, this Court has broad discretion to grant this motion; the Court's grant or denial is reviewed for an abuse of discretion. (*Id.* at p. 1045.)

Fourth, the prosecution's assertion that Mr. Peterson's "claims" have been previously litigated is simply wrong. (Opp'n. at pp. 204–214, 234 ["defendant has failed to raise a valid claim"].) There are no "claims" pending before this Court. In view of the significant number of investigative failures post-conviction counsel has identified in the original investigation in this case, counsel is conducting a thorough investigation into leads that were simply ignored, whether intentionally or unwittingly. Once that investigation is complete, Mr. Peterson will file a motion for leave to file an amended petition in the Court of Appeal and will, at that time, identify what "claims" are supported by new evidence. There are simply no "claims" pending before this Court that need to be adjudicated.

There is also no statute of limitations in section 1405. The prosecution's argument that the requests for DNA testing presented by way of this motion could have or should have been brought earlier are unavailing. The legislature expressly authorized that motions requesting DNA testing of evidence to be filed post-conviction, without any limitation as to when such motions can be brought. Indeed, in every wrongful conviction case where a person is later exonerated, the evidence the prosecution relied on to obtain the conviction turned out to be, in the end, wrong, incomplete, false, inaccurate, or some combination of those things. It is not at all uncommon, unfortunately, for individuals with claims of innocence to return to court again and again, sometimes over a period of decades, before they are able to obtain justice in their case. [cite to Maurice] The prosecution's arguments that the motion should be denied on the grounds of "law-of-the-case doctrine, collateral estoppel, or "successive writs," are simply not supported under the law. (Opp'n. at pp. 204–214.) The authorities the prosecution relies on in support of those arguments are all inapposite and do not apply to the motion presently before the Court. Moreover, it is beyond disingenuous for the

prosecution to argue that Mr. Peterson has not presented any new evidence beyond what was presented at trial, while *refusing* to comply with their discovery obligations under section 1054.9, *refusing* to provide Mr. Peterson with items he has specifically requested and which he maintains have exculpatory value and will support his claim of innocence.

Fifth, Mr. Peterson has met the requirements of section 1405. The prosecution argues that the instant motion should be denied because Mr. Peterson has not shown the items he seeks to test are in custody and available for testing. That argument is disingenuous. Mr. Peterson does not have access to current evidence and custody logs reflecting the current condition and availability of the evidence he seeks to test. As the Court is aware, in his motion, Mr. Peterson requested that the Court order the prosecution to provide the relevant discovery needed to ascertain the condition of the evidence he seeks to test, pursuant to section 1405(c). (DNA Motion at pp. 119–120, 134–138.) Mr. Peterson has also requested this discovery in the motion for post-conviction discovery pursuant to section 1054.9, also filed on January 17, 2024. The Court should order the prosecution to provide Mr. Peterson with the discovery he requested in the instant motion pursuant to section 1405(c), so the Court can ascertain the condition and availability of the evidence he seeks to have tested. (Proposed Order filed herewith.)

Sixth, contrary to the prosecution's repeated assertions throughout its Opposition, there was not "overwhelming circumstantial evidence" of Mr. Peterson's guilt presented at trial. (See, e.g., Opp'n. at pp. 3, 71, 204, 225.) The prosecution spills much ink revisiting its case-in-chief at trial, but there is no support anywhere in the record, and the prosecution has cited none, supporting its assertion that the evidence against Mr. Peterson was "overwhelming." In fact, several members of the jury from Mr. Peterson's trial have publicly stated *the opposite*. Three jurors have publicly stated that the location where the bodies of Laci and Conner Peterson washed up was the one piece of evidence that caused them to return a guilty verdict and another juror stated that any evidence that Laci was still alive after Scott left home for the day would have been important evidence.<sup>3</sup>

See, e.g., Interview with **Juror No. 1, Greg Beratlis**, on Larry King Live, December 14, 2004: BERALTIS: "There's no bodies, it don't work. I spoke yesterday and I explained that if these bodies had been found anywhere else other than San Francisco Bay and, for that matter, right where Scott Peterson had described he had been fishing on

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Seventh, to the extent the prosecution contends that Mr. Peterson's motion should be denied because he was convicted by a jury and his conviction was affirmed on appeal and is now final, that argument is not supported by any legal authorities. (See Opp'n. at p. 213 ["The People submit that defendant Peterson's claims were resolved by the California Supreme Court and there is no cause to revisit them any further. As such, requests for DNA testing based on evidence and statements of others already litigated before and decided by the California Supreme Court should be denied as a matter of law and fact."].) The prosecution has cited no authorities in support of that position. The statute expressly provides for post-conviction DNA testing, with no statute of limitations.

Last, contrary to the prosecution's repeated assertions throughout its Opposition that Mr. Peterson's "claims" have already been denied in prior proceedings, Mr. Peterson does not have any "claims" pending before this Court. (Opp'n. at pp. 204, 211, 213, 218, 228 fn. 122, 234.) There are no "claims" for this Court to adjudicate, only two post-conviction motions. The Court of Appeal will determine whether any claims Mr. Peterson raises in the petition pending before that court are timely, successive, or otherwise procedurally barred.

The prosecution's arguments are without merit, on all counts.

The prosecution proclaims it has the utmost confidence in the jury's guilty verdict and yet, they vehemently refuse to consent to test any of the evidence Mr. Peterson seeks to submit for DNA testing and they vehemently refuse to comply with their discovery obligations under section 1054.9

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Christmas Eve, wouldn't having this conversation."] available we be http://edition.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0412/14/lkl.01.html; Interview with Juror No. 8, John Guinasso, on Larry King Live, March 16, 2005: "KING: What, if anything, was the determining factor in this case, John? GUINASSO: It's probably the most obvious, and that is where the bodies washed up. I can personally say for myself, if they would never could have convicted Peterson."] have washed up, Ĭ never Scott available http://edition.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0503/16/lkl.01.html; Interview with Juror No. 9, Julie Zanartu, on Hannity Colmes Beckel, and with guest host March "BECKEL: What was the single most important piece of evidence that made you decide that he was guilty? ZANARTU: Exactly where he was fishing was where the bodies turned up. That was the bottom line." Available at https://www.foxnews.com/story/transcript-scott-petersons-death-sentence; Decl. of Juror No. 6, Stephen Cardosi, Exh. 50 to Initial Habeas Petition (IHP) at HCP-000986-000987 ["Any evidence that Laci was still alive when Scott was already at the marina would have been important to me as a juror. We heard evidence that Laci was a pretty bold person . . . Evidence that she may have confronted burglars would have been significant."].

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and provide Mr. Peterson with the discovery he was entitled to receive at the time of trial but to date, still has never received.

Many District Attorney offices across the country and across the state of California now understand that wrongful convictions occur much more frequently than once believed and have created conviction integrity units that have procedures in place to facilitate and accommodate requests for post-conviction DNA testing without the need for litigation. The Stanislaus County District Attorney does not appear to be one of those counties.

As the California Attorney General explained in *Morrison v. Peterson* (9th Cir. 2015) 809 F.3d 1059, 1067, "a number of California district attorneys proactively review convictions and offer DNA testing without the need for a § 1405 motion." (*Id.* [citing James Sterngold, San Diego District Attorney Offering Free DNA Testing, N.Y. Times, http://www.nytimes.com/2000/07/28/us/san-diego-district-attorney-offering-free-dna-testing.html, Jul. 28, 2000 ["The San Diego County district attorney has begun a policy of offering free DNA testing to prison inmates who say they were wrongly convicted and would be exonerated by this increasingly common scientific method."]; Marisa Gerber, L.A. County D.A. To Create Unit To Review Wrongful-Conviction Claims, L.A. Times, http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-conviction-review-unit-20150422-story.html, Apr. 22, 2015 [citing efforts by district attorneys in Yolo, Ventura, Santa Clara, and Los Angeles counties].)

In 2015, when *Morrison* was decided, there were only five counties in California where the D.A. had established a conviction integrity unit (CIU). Now, there are 17 counties in California that have a CIU, and 10 of those counties have documented exonerations. (See https://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Pages/Conviction-Integrity-Units.aspx.) Last year, the California Attorney General's Office joined a growing number of other states and established the first-ever Post Conviction Justice Unit within the California Department of Justice, which has as its mission providing statewide leadership to support best practices across California, building on DOJ's commitment to transparency and accountability, and supporting integrity in the criminal legal system by seeking to remedy cases where there have been miscarriages of justice. (See

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27 28 https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-establishes-first-ever-postconviction-justice-unit.)

Even without a CIU, the Stanislaus County District Attorney (SCDA) can of course still stipulate to allow the requested testing to go forward. The DNA testing that is available now is more precise than it was two decades ago and the testing will be conducted at no cost to Stanislaus County. If the SCDA is concerned about further traumatizing the victims' family, as they contend, all the SCDA had to do was stipulate to the requested DNA testing and the Rocha and Peterson families would both have been spared further publicity surrounding these proceedings.

Given the prosecution's certainty that Mr. Peterson is guilty, they should have no reason to oppose his efforts to conduct further investigation and provide him with the discovery and further DNA testing he seeks. On the other hand, if Mr. Peterson is innocent and did not harm or kill his family, as he maintains, the DNA testing requested could not only exonerate him, it could provide valuable leads to other suspects who may have committed these horrific crimes.

Former MPD Det. Jon Buehler, who worked extensively on the investigation into the disappearance of Laci Peterson, publicly supported the Court granting this motion when he stated on NewsNation: "I welcome them to test to, you know, DNA test more evidence, feel free to do it." (See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QorFV5WYdrU). In a recently released documentary, Det. Buehler again stated: "Test it. Let's dig through it. But the big thing is, test that blood. And if we had the wrong guy, I want the truth to come out." (See IMPACTx Nightline: Scott Peterson – The Wrong Man?, available at: https://www.hulu.com/series/f4c772ba-b893-4d3b-b503-8e1358121870; https://www.today.com/video/scott-peterson-to-make-another-attempt-to-get-his-casesee also retried-206300741722 ["As far as any evidence that comes forward test it. Let's see where it leads."].)

Former Modesto Fire Inspector Bryan Spitulski, who came forward and expressed concerns about the lack of investigation into the bloodstains on the mattress found in the back of the burned out orange van, told CBS News: "Let the facts say what they need to say." (See https://www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/potentially-important-evidence-overlooked-petersonmurder-case/ [further explaining that it is significant that there is human DNA present on that

mattress].) Spitulski further stated on NewsNation: "I have no dog in this fight. I don't care which way this goes—innocent or guilty. The important thing for me is that this is finally being looked at." (See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzcYm7Mmeoo)

And, Juror 4, Mike Belmessieri, stated on ABC News, "If they think they're going to find something different, that sheds light on something new, I fully support it." (https://abcnews.go.com/US/innocence-project-takes-case-notorious-killer-scott-peterson/story?id=106487571). Mr. Belmessieri further stated on NewsNation: "I'm glad this group is taking up the Peterson case and investigating it because if there's new evidence that suggests he's innocent then he's innocent." (See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvpayS5IVEo).

The motion before the Court is governed by section 1405, which is straightforward and requires a movant to meet a relatively low burden to make a prima facie showing that he is entitled to develop potentially exculpatory evidence. Mr. Peterson has met the statute's requirements. The Court must grant this motion.

#### **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS & AUTHORITIES**

### I. THE COURT SHOULD GRANT THE MOTION

## A. Mr. Peterson Has Met Section 1405(d)'s Pleading Requirement

For the Court's ease of reference, the table below summarizes the parties' positions as to section 1405(d)'s pleading requirements.

Pleading Standard	Prosecution's Position	Peterson Reply		
1405(d)(1)(A) Declaration of innocence	Standard met. (Opp'n. at p. 224.)	Standard met.		
1405(d)(1)(B) Explain why identity of perpetrator was at issue	Position is unclear: prosecution claims there was "overwhelming circumstantial evidence." ( <i>Id.</i> at 224-225.)	Standard met: defense at trial was third party culpability; the evidence was not "overwhelming"; and, prosecution has not refuted the numerous investigative failures counsel has identified supporting third party culpability.		
1405(d)(1)(C) Identify evidence to be tested and type of testing	Standard not met. (Id.at 226.)  The mattress fabric "may be" too brittle so M-Vac technology may not be feasible; no explanation for testing of debris from Target bag.	Standard met.  See DNA Mot. 120-121, Exh. 13 at ¶¶ 8, 9, 13: (i) the GlobalFiler™ amplification kit coupled with a 3500 series Genetic Analyzer to achieve state-of-the-art DNA detection and discrimination power; (ii) probabilistic genotyping; and, (iii) sensitive and male DNA specific YFiler™ typing kit.		

1 2	Vi ust addition of		If M-Vac technology is not feasible, the mattress evidence can still be subjected to additional more comprehensive testing with traditional swabbing; prior testing only involved very small
			cuttings, the entire surface should be sampled.
3			Debris from Target bag should be visually examined for anything resembling biological material (blood or bone fragments) associated
4 5			with crab activity, if any type of DNA from Laci of Conner is found, it links the debris to the victims.
6	1405(d)(1)(D) Reasonable	Standard not met. (Id. at 226.)  Items 1-4: orange van not	Standard met.  Items 1-4: prosecution conceded evidence was related when it
7	probability of more favorable result at	related to case  Items 5-12: bay evidence	stipulated to limited DNA testing in 2019; investigation into burned orange van was related to "Missing Person
8	trial (assumes test results are favorable)	already forensically examined	Investigation." (See Bates 3781 [fire investigation report includes Laci Peterson MPD Case No. 02-142591].)
9		Item 8: baby not handled     outside the womb	Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12: prior forensic testing was <b>not</b> DNA testing.
10		• Item 9: pants tape not the	Item 8: Coroner could not rule out the possibility that Conner
11		same tape as on Target bag  Items 13-14; were not	was born alive and protected by something else in the marine environment (Opp'n. at p. 153.) Coroner would not speculate as
12	The published and the second s	collected	to whether the tape could have been tied post mortem. (RT 17481.)
13		See 1405 (g)(5)	Item 9: Human DNA was found on the duct tape from Laci's
14			pants but a genetic profile was not obtained; foreign DNA on the tape could point to a perpetrator other than Mr. Peterson.
15	1405(d)(1)(E)	Standard not met. (Id. at 228.)	Standard met.
16	Results of prior testing	Items 1 & 2: 2019 testing "indicated the blood on the	Items 1 & 2: a DNA 'profile' is obtained when DNA is subjected to DNA typing procedures. In 2019, no typing was performed so no
17		mattress clipping was a male profile, and as such no further	male profile was obtained. Furthermore, it was not concluded that the DNA obtained from the mattress was from blood. While the
18		testing was needed." (Opp'n. at	DNA quantitation results suggest that the DNA obtained was male,
19		p. 196.) "There is no legitimate DNA test that will turn the male	the samplings represented only a small percentage of the surface area of the items. The presence of male DNA does not mean there
		profile into a match for Laci." (Opp'n. at p. 228.)	is no female DNA elsewhere on the material; the evidence needs to be more thoroughly tested. There is also a male victim in this case.
20		Item 9: tape previously tested	Item 9: No authority cited; no DNA expert can state what testing
21		and "may reveal result" is hardly	"will" reveal, only what the possibilities are. Mr. Anjaria is
22		sufficient to meet the burden requirement here." (Opp'n. at p.	thoughtful in his approach and recognizes that final determinations on testing specifics are best made in a controlled laboratory
23	1405(-1)(1)(E)	229.)	environment in light of the exact current condition of the evidence.
24	1405(d)(1)(F) Prior motions	Standard not met. (Id. at 229.) Prior 1405 to test pubic hair not	Standard met.  Mr. Peterson admits that DNA testing was conducted on a pubic
25		mentioned in motion.	hair in 2013, in addition to the prior testing that was stipulated to on the stained fabric from the mattress in the van in 2019. Mr.
26	1		Peterson is not seeking to test pubic hair.

## 1. Section 1405(d)(1)(A): Declaration Of Innocence

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The prosecution concedes Mr. Peterson has met this pleading requirement. (Opp'n. at p. 224.)

The prosecution's position as to this factor is unclear. Their argument essentially rehashes some of the circumstantial evidence presented in the prosecution's case-in-chief about Mr. Peterson having an affair and purchasing a porn channel and asserts that Mr. Peterson was convicted by "overwhelming circumstantial evidence," again without any citation or support for that conclusion which has been publicly refuted by at least three of the jurors from Mr. Peterson's trial (citations above). (Opp'n. at pp. 224–225.) While not expressly conceding that the identity of the perpetrator was an issue at trial under section 1405(d)(1)(B), elsewhere in the brief, the prosecution acknowledges that Mr. Peterson has presented a third-party culpability defense at trial (Opp'n. at p. 204 ["Peterson's third party culpability claims were raised at trial"]; pp. 212–213 [there is a section entitled "C. Third Party Culpability,"]; p. 247 ["The claim that third parties were responsible for the 'abduction' in this case has been litigated to the trial jury"].)

The California Supreme Court explained in its opinion that "[t]he defense argued the police had not diligently pursued whether a person or persons other than Peterson were more likely responsible for Laci's disappearance and murder." (*People v. Peterson* (2020) 10 Cal 5th 409, 425.) On this record, it is clear Mr. Peterson has met this pleading standard.

Mr. Peterson has provided the Court with ample admissible evidence supporting his contention that the identity of the perpetrator was at issue in the case. Since the prosecution's position is unclear, Mr. Peterson will summarize some of the significant investigative failures counsel has identified that occurred during the investigation into Laci Peterson's disappearance, which were set forth in the DNA Motion and which the prosecution has not refuted, all of which support his claim that he is innocent and that further investigation is needed:

#### a. Laci Was Alive After Mr. Peterson Left Home on December 24

#### i. Unrefuted Witness Evidence: Laci Walked the Dog

The prosecution does not refute that MPD repeatedly told the public and press that Mr. Peterson was the last person to see his wife alive, beginning on December 25, 2002, despite numerous eyewitness reports contradicting that statement, which the MPD refused to investigate in the days and weeks following Laci's disappearance.

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- The prosecution admits that, while Laci was missing, MPD failed to interview at least the following neighborhood eyewitnesses, who reported seeing Laci alive and walking the dog on December 24, 2002, after Mr. Peterson left home for the day, including: Homer Maldonado, Tony Freitas, Martha Aguilar, Frank Aguilar, Vivian Mitchell, Gene Pedrioli, John Brazil, Sharon P., Dean T., and Grace Wolf.
  - The prosecution does not refute that these witnesses reported seeing Laci Peterson at times when a massive search for her was underway.<sup>4</sup>
  - The prosecution also does not refute the allegation that several of these witnesses attempted multiple times to report what they had seen but were actively dissuaded from coming forward with their information. (DNA Motion at pp. 23–25, 30.)
    - o Witness C H has recently come forward and stated under penalty of perjury that he saw Laci walking into the park the morning of December 24, as he was riding his bike north on Covena, and that later that morning when he was returning home, riding his bike out of the park heading south on Covena, he saw a white van parked in front of the Medinas' home with a man hitting or pushing down something in the back of van. (Exh. 1 [Decl. of C H 10.)
    - o When C H went to the police station to report what he had seen, sometime before January 2, 2003, Det. Brocchini told him something to the effect of, "We got our guy, but thank you." (*Id.* at ¶ 14.)

As the Guidelines and Curriculum for Missing Person Investigations published by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) state at POST Guideline 2.1, one of first steps law enforcement should take in a Missing Person Investigation is determining whether there are any potential eyewitnesses and, where witnesses provide conflicting information, the investigating officer should investigate the reasons for conflicting information offered witnesses and other individuals, to assess its reliability. (Available https://post.ca.gov/portals/0/post docs/publications/Missing Persons Investigations.pdf.) That did not occur in this case; eyewitnesses were systematically ignored and their accounts dismissed. The prosecution's manufactured hindsight explanations as to why the police failed to interview these eyewitnesses are not compelling for numerous reasons, addressed below.

In the Opposition to the instant motion, the prosecution attempts to summarily dismiss these egregious investigative failures by asserting that 10,000 tips were received by law enforcement but generated "nothing credible," but the record is clear: numerous eyewitness reports from within the Petersons' own neighborhood were never investigated. (Opp'n. at p. 134.)

- o At the outset of the investigation, there was a clear pattern of MPD ignoring witnesses or turning away witnesses who attempted to report information that did not point toward the guilt of Mr. Peterson.
- The prosecution does not refute that Det. Grogan's sworn testimony at trial that Mr. Peterson was the last person to see Laci Peterson was flatly contradicted by Ms. Campos, who told police she saw Laci Peterson alive and walking the dog the morning of December 24, 2002, as well as other eyewitness reports. (DNA Motion at p. 35.)
- The justification the prosecution offers for ignoring Diane Campos's eyewitness account is, without any citation to the record, that "multiple 'look-alike' witnesses testified that they walked in the general area of where Laci lived," that "medical records and witness testimony disproved that Laci was walking that morning," and that Ms. Campos "had seen missing person flyers." (Opp'n. at p. 239.) None of the witnesses who reported seeing Laci the morning of December 24, has ever identified any other woman as the person they saw. Additionally, Laci's sister, Amy Rocha, testified that as of December 24, she knew Laci had walked in the last couple days. Laci was walking and walking often, as she was concerned about her weight and staying fit. (RT 8926-8927.) Lastly, the assertion that eyewitnesses who come forward after seeing a missing person flyer should be ignored or discredited *because* they recognized a person they had seen as looking like the photo of the person on the flyer is ludicrous and does not merit a response, for obvious reasons.
- The prosecution has never disputed that if Laci Peterson was alive when her husband left home for the day on December 24, 2002, he is innocent. If even one of the eyewitnesses who reported seeing Laci alive that morning is credible and believed, Mr. Peterson is innocent. MPD interviewed none of those witnesses prior to trial, and some have never been interviewed by police to this day. The jury convicted Mr. Peterson and sentenced him to death without hearing from a single one of these critical eyewitnesses.
  - o In its Opposition, the prosecution states that Homer Maldonado was interviewed by MPD Det. Stough. (Opp'n. at p. 170, fn. 95 [citing RT 18569].) **That is false**. (See RT 18494 [Det. Grogan testifying: "Q: Now I don't see anywhere where

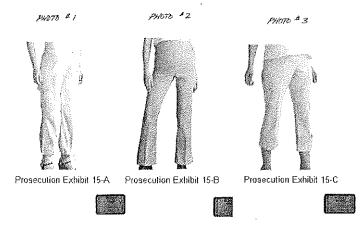
Detective Stough	. talked to Mr.	. Maldonado.	Are you	aware of that?	A:	I don'
think he did."].)						

- The prosecution admits that the affirmative statements in Mr. Maldonado's declaration regarding when and where he saw a woman he believed was Laci Peterson walking the dog the morning of December 24, 2002, are admissible. (Opp'n. at p. 300.)
- The prosecution states in its Opposition that Tony Freitas was interviewed in 2003. (Opp'n. at p. 175 ["Opp'n. at 175: "On July 29, 2003, a DA investigator followed up with Freitas."].) **That is false**. Mr. Freitas was not interviewed by the prosecution until over a year and a half after he called in his report, and not until after Mr. Peterson's capital murder trial had already started, in **July 2004**.
- O The prosecution admits that the affirmative statements in Mr. Freitas's declaration regarding when and where he saw a woman he believed was Laci Peterson walking the dog the morning of December 24, 2002, are admissible. (Opp'n. at p. 300.)
- The prosecution attempts to discredit Vivian Mitchell's information—an eyewitness never interviewed by detectives—by referencing interviews with *her neighbors*—but does not dispute that Ms. Mitchell was never interviewed by MPD. (Opp'n. at p. 206, fn. 116.)
- o The prosecution admits "Detective Grogan never spoke to Grace Wolf." (Opp'n. at p. 169.)
- While the prosecution asserts that there were 260 MPD officers on staff at the time of Laci's disappearance (Opp'n. at p. 130), the testimony at trial was that not one of these officers was assigned to follow up on sightings of Laci in the neighborhood. Det. Craig Grogan testified that sightings of Laci were not a priority and yet MPD presented sworn affidavits in support of numerous search warrants stating that there were no verifiable sightings of Laci Peterson. (RT 18283-18284.)

- The prosecution asserts summarily that of those eyewitness reports from the La Loma neighborhood, "none proved to be correct" (Opp'n. at p. 1) but they admit <u>law</u> enforcement failed to interview any of those witnesses while <u>Laci was missing</u>.
- The prosecution has now come up with a new explanation to justify why MPD did not need to interview eyewitnesses who saw Laci in the neighborhood: the purported justification now is that these witnesses reported seeing Laci wearing "black pants." (Opp'n. at p. 74, 170, 175, 206.) At the time the eyewitnesses were calling in reports of seeing Laci walking in the neighborhood, police were operating under the belief that she was, in fact, wearing black pants. Ignoring witnesses who report seeing a missing person wearing black pants, when police have asked the public for assistance finding a missing person wearing black pants, makes no sense; there is no reasonable justification for employing such an incomprehensible investigation strategy.
- The prosecution further argues that eyewitnesses who reported seeing Laci walking in the neighborhood in "black pants" are not credible because they were influenced by information being reported by "the media." But it was the MPD that issued a press release as early as December 25, with the clothing description of "black pants" on it, asking for citizens to assist in the search for Laci. (Opp'n. at pp. 170 ["the same clothing description that had been reported by the media"]; pp. 175–176 ["after the media released the clothing description"]; p. 243 ["As pointed out for each of the witnesses above, they are incorrect or stating the impossible, seemed to be influenced by media accounts."].) The prosecution's arguments are nothing but hindsight justifications as to why the MPD ignored all of the eyewitness reports—tips the MPD solicited from the public, for which there simply is no rational or reasonable excuse or justification.
- Worse, the prosecution misstates the evidence and argues that Laci was killed on December 23, 2002, because "when Laci's body was eventually recovered nearly four months later, Laci was not wearing a white shirt and black pants," (Opp'n. at p. 74), but instead, "She Was Still Wearing the Motherhood Maternity Tan Capri Pants She Wore on December 23" that Laci's sister, Amy Rocha, saw Laci wearing. (Opp'n. at p. 161 [in a

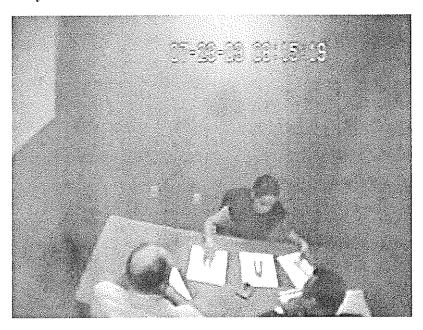
heading]; p. 235 ["Laci's remains were recovered in tan/creamy pants that her sister had identified as being worn by Laci the night before."].) Those assertions are blatant misrepresentations of the evidence in this case.

- Laci was not found wearing the same pants she wore on December 23, 2002. On February 18, 2003, Amy Rocha went to the Petersons' home while police were executing a search warrant to see if she could identify the outfit Laci was wearing when Amy saw her the evening of December 23, and Amy was able to find "the whole outfit." (RT 8919.)
- 7 Q. You saw the shoes that you thought she was
  8 wearing -- I think I said the 18th. All -- on the 18th you
  9 saw all -- the whole outfit, basically, that you thought
  10 she was wearing on the 23rd?
  11 A. Yes.
  - And yet, the prosecution states in its Opposition that "[a]fter going through all of Laci's clothing, they could not locate the cream-colored maternity capri pants." (Opp'n. at p. 161.) That is false.
  - In addition, after Amy Rocha showed the police on February 18, 2003, that the pants Laci wore on December 23 were found hanging in Laci's closet, Det. Grogan interviewed her again on video a the police station, apparently in effort to see if she would identify the pants Laci was found wearing when her remains were found as the same pants Amy saw her wearing on December 23. Amy was shown three photos of pants to see if she could



identify the pants Laci wore on December 23. (Bates 40776.) The pants Laci was actually found wearing when her remains were recovered are depicted in Photo #3 in the image below, labeled Exhibit 15-C.

• When Amy Rocha looked at the photos depicted above on July 23, 2003, at the police station, she told Det. Grogan that the pants she saw Laci wearing on December 23 were "definitely not" in Photo #1 or Photo #3.



### STATEMENT AMY ROCHA

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ROCHA: GROGAN: But definitely not these two. You don't think it's those two?

ROCHA:

Um um. (negative)

- In other words, Amy Rocha *twice* told police that the pants she saw her sister wearing on December 23, were *not* the pants found on her remains.
- The prosecution has misrepresented the record to this Court in yet another desperate attempt to protect a conviction that is clearly in need of review. All of the clothing Amy saw Laci wearing the evening of December 23, was found in her home. The evidence

shows Laci got undressed the evening of December 23, she hung her cream-colored pants in the closet, she went to bed, and she woke up the next morning and put on black pants and a white top. At some point, after Mr. Peterson left on the morning of December 24, 2002, at which time he reported to police Laci was wearing black pants and a white top. It is possible and even likely that, after Mr. Peterson left home on the morning of December 24 and after Laci returned from her walk, Laci changed into khaki capri pants like the ones pictured in People's Exhibit 15-C, which were on her body when her remains were found.

# ii. December 24, 2002 Timeline: Laci Could Have Left'Home to Walk the Dog as Early as 9:50 a.m.

- The prosecution continues to argue that MPD was justified in ignoring the eyewitnesses who reported seeing Laci walking prior to 10:08 a.m. because Mr. Peterson did not leave home the morning of December 24, 2002, until 10:08 a.m. That contention is not supported by the evidence because it is based on a call Mr. Peterson made on his cell phone to check his voicemails, and the cell phone tower evidence the prosecution relies on does not support that conclusion. (Opp'n. at pp. 69, 70, 175–176, 236.)
  - The prosecution does not refute that a police report dated January 11, 2003, authored by Det. Grogan, states that Mr. Peterson's computer at his office and warehouse was *turned on* at approximately 10 o'clock that morning, **meaning that**Mr. Peterson left home around 9:50 a.m., given that the drive from his home to warehouse was approximately ten minutes. (DNA Motion at p. 18, fn. 10.)
  - The prosecution does not refute that prosecution witness Mary Anderson from Mr. Peterson's wireless carrier, AT&T, testified that because of anomalies in the system related to checking voicemails (as opposed to making phone calls), it is not possible to determine with any certainty where someone is located when they are checking their voicemails from their cell phone, as opposed to making a call. (DNA Motion at p. 19, fn. 11 [citing 79 RT 15045 ("Q. Okay. So as you sit here today, it's also a fair statement and a reasonable statement that, based upon these

anomalies, and based upon what you see here on the voicemails, that you can't draw any conclusion whatsoever as to -- with any kind of certainty, as to where somebody is located when they're checking their voice mail, correct? A. I think that's a fair statement.")

- The prosecution's argument that the eyewitnesses did not need to be interviewed because "the sightings were spread out quite a distance away from one another and the time that it would take someone to walk that distance," (Opp'n. at p. 175), also fails because it erroneously assumes that (i) every eyewitness who reported seeing Laci was correct as to the time they estimated seeing her, and, (ii) every witness who reported Laci did, in fact, see her. As the prosecution has acknowledged, however, if even a single witness who reported seeing Laci walking the dog the morning of December 24, is deemed credible and believed, that evidence would exonerate Mr. Peterson and prove his innocence.
- The prosecution does not dispute that MPD failed to investigate several witness reports that a dog fitting McKenzi's description was seen walking in the neighborhood unattended on the morning of December 24, 2002, which Mr. Peterson contends is further evidence that Laci was walking in the neighborhood with the dog that morning.
  - As one example, the prosecution does not dispute that MPD failed to investigate Leora Garcia's report of seeing a dog fitting McKenzi's description walking in the neighborhood alone on Edgebrook Avenue and that she also saw a suspicious van speeding off on the morning of December 24, near La Loma Park. Instead, the prosecution objects to the Court considering that evidence on the ground that it is hearsay. As with the other evidence concerning the investigative failures in this case, the Court should overrule the prosecution's objection and consider this evidence for purposes of determining the reasonableness, or lack thereof, of MPD's investigation and/or the thoroughness of post-conviction counsel's investigation.
- The prosecution does not refute the allegation that MPD failed to investigate a report by witness Lillian V. of a suspicious man riding his bike down Covena the morning of

December 24, 2002. (see Opp'n. at p. 252 ["This is also not new evidence, is not an orange van, or a van of any kind, and has no legal connection to this case."].) While the prosecution pretends it does not understand the relevance of Lillian V.'s report, its relevance and materiality are patently obvious in light of Steven Todd's admission that he often rode his bike on Covena Avenue, but was not there on December 24, and in light of Lillian V.'s description of the man she saw, which resembled Todd's physical description, evidence that impeaches Todd's statement to police that he was not on Covena on December 24.

- The prosecution also argues that the eyewitnesses who reported seeing Laci did not need to be interviewed because investigators located a number of women who were pregnant at the time and walked, many with their dogs (Opp'n. at p. 132), but the evidence presented at trial regarding these other women dog-walkers did not support the prosecution's theory that the eyewitnesses who reported seeing Laci confused her with the other women dog-walkers from the neighborhood. The prosecution knows this. (See DNA Motion at p. 24.5)
  - What the prosecution's argument does show, however, is that while MPD steadfastly and systematically refused to interview the eyewitnesses who reported seeing Laci while she was missing and before they arrested charged and tried Mr. Peterson for capital murder, they did find the time to track down and interview numerous other women dog-walkers from the neighborhood—all in an effort to discredit witnesses they never bothered to interview. To this day, the prosecution has failed to identify which of these women were positively identified by any witness who reported seeing Laci.

See, e.g., 87 RT 16753-16755 [Elizabeth Guptill: took walks in the neighborhood, but **did not have a dog**]; 87 RT 16753-16767 [Jill Lear: **did not walk on December 24**]; 88 RT 16815-16820 [Patricia Mewhinney: pregnant with **long blond hair**, walked her **Lab/German Shepard mix** in La Loma Park between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on December 24]; 88 RT 16851-16858 [Amy Neumann: pregnant, **did not walk her standard poodle on December 24**].) None of that evidence persuasively undermines the contention that Laci Peterson walked her dog in the neighborhood on December 24, nor does it persuasively support the notion that the eyewitnesses who reported seeing Laci confused her with any of the above-described women walkers.

### iii. Scent Dogs

- The prosecution does not refute that police reports show on December 26, 2002, scent dog Merlin, a bloodhound, trailed Laci's scent through the La Loma neighborhood to the precise location where Tony Freitas reported seeing Laci walking the dog the morning of December 24, 2002. (Opp'n. at p. 89, fn. 60 [arguing the trial court did not allow the evidence about Merlin to come in at trial].) But, as the prosecution is aware, the reason the court did not allow Merlin's evidence to come in was because there was no corroborating evidence, i.e., because MPD failed to interview witnesses like Tony Freitas and Homer Maldonado, prior to trial. (DNA Motion at pp. 25–27 ["After Ms. Valentin testified at a pre-trial hearing about the route Merlin took when trailing Laci's scent on December 26, 2002, the court ruled that her testimony was inadmissible since there was no evidence 'corroborating' that the scent dog was trailing Laci's scent." [citing 10 RT 2001–2002].)
  - The prosecution does not refute the allegation that MPD failed to investigate leads that would corroborate that the trail scent dog Merlin followed was Laci's trail, i.e. statements by Maldonado, Dean T., Frank Aguilar, Martha Aguilar, etc., who reported seeing Laci in the same general direction of Merlin's trailing route, and the precise locations where Mr. Freitas reported seeing Laci. (DNA Motion at p. 28.)
  - The prosecution does not refute the allegation that Merlin trailed Laci's scent into the Airport District to a location a few blocks away from the homes of Todd and Pearce, and that MPD failed to investigate whether Laci could have been taken to the Airport District in a vehicle. (DNA Motion at p. 30.)
- The prosecution acknowledges that "[c]adaver dogs track scent of dead or decaying flesh," (Opp'n. at p. 82, fn. 55), and does not dispute that MPD told Eloise Anderson *not* to put the cadaver dog she was handling into the back of Mr. Peterson's pick-up truck; a truck police believed he used to transport his wife's body to the bay. There was no forensic

- evidence found anywhere in Mr. Peterson's truck tying him to these crimes. (DNA Motion at p. 16)
- The prosecution does not refute that there were no positive cadaver dog alerts during the searches on the bay in the area south of Brooks Island, where Mr. Peterson reported he had gone fishing, nor does the prosecution refute that there were many, many positive cadaver dog alerts in area near buoys 4 and 6, close to the location where Gene Ralston stated he believed he saw Laci Peterson's remains, three miles north of the location where Mr. Peterson fished. (DNA Motion at pp. 71-73, 80-86.)

### iv. Medina Burglary

- The prosecution fails to refute Mr. Peterson's allegation that with regard to December 24–25, 2002, "the alibis of Mr. Todd and Mr. Pearce were never investigated, as police publicly announced, and that individuals in addition to Mr. Todd and Mr. Pearce were involved in the burglary and have never been investigated." (DNA Motion at p. 44.)<sup>6</sup>
  - In fact, the word "alibi" appears nowhere in the Opposition, nor has there ever been any explanation of what investigation MPD conducted into the alibi of Steven Todd for December 24, which is a critical omission in view of the importance of Todd's purported alibi in establishing that the Medina burglary did *not* occur on December 24, as Mr. Peterson has contended for the last 20 plus years. The prosecution remains silent on this issue and continues to suppress videotaped interviews with Todd and Pearce from the time of their arrest. (See Discovery Motion.)
- The prosecution admits that Steven Todd gave police the wrong date when he initially confessed to committing the burglary and told police the burglary occurred on December

The prosecution repeatedly argues, summarily, throughout its Opposition that the Medina burglary was an "unrelated" case and therefore it is outside the bounds of a reasonable post-conviction investigation. (Opp'n. at pp. 286–287 ["This was an unrelated case and the trial jury rejected this theory so the defendant cannot as a matter of law get a do-over."].) The prosecution has cited no authorities supporting that argument, which once again reflects the prosecution's profound misunderstanding of the purpose of a post-conviction investigation into a claim of actual innocence.

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27, one day *after* the Medinas returned home from their out-of-town trip and found their home had been robbed.<sup>7</sup> (Opp'n. at p. 178, fn. 101.)

- The prosecution fails to refute that Susan and Rodolfo Medina's home, located directly across the street from the Petersons' home, was burglarized on or beginning on December 24, 2002.8
- The prosecution argues that this was an "unrelated burglary that occurred across the street from the Petersons house two days after Laci disappeared" (Opp'n. at pp. 243, 286–287) but the record in this case does not support that argument. The Medina burglary was very much at issue during the investigation into Laci Peterson's disappearance.
  - O Susan Medina testified as a witness for the prosecution at Mr. Peterson's trial.
  - O All three questions posed to Todd and Pearce during their polygraph examinations were about the disappearance of Laci Peterson—making it related to the investigation in this case. In addition, the prosecution cannot deny that the polygraph technician did not ask either Todd or Pearce about their whereabouts on December 24, 2002—leaving the timeframe of the burglary in dispute.

It is odd that MPD was willing to find truthful, reliable, and credible, a statement by a suspect like Steven Todd, who had a lengthy criminal history, including a history of making false statements to police [Exh. 2 at ¶ 91] when he stated he was "confused" about what day he committed the burglary, but police were unwilling to interview eyewitnesses who reported seeing Laci Peterson to find out if they may have been "confused" or off by a few minutes about the time. (See e.g., Opp'n, at p. 251 [discrediting eyewitness Linda Chilles's report, which was similar to the accounts provided by Diane Jackon and Niniv T., wherein Ms. Chilles stated that on the morning of December 24, 2002, she was driving on Covena Avenue and saw a suspicious looking van parked in front of the Medinas' home with three men standing around it and providing a detailed physical description of two of the men she saw standing by the van because Ms. Chilles stated that she saw the van at 9:30 a.m."].) MPD never contacted Ms. Chilles to interview her about what she saw or whether she could have been mistaken as to the time she saw the van, despite the fact that she made two attempts to report what she had seen. Instead, the prosecution argues that no investigation was needed because "the Medinas' had not left to go out of town yet and they did not testify to seeing a van in front of their house when they did leave." (Id.) MPD also calls Mr. Peterson's estimate that he left home "inconsistent with the evidence," as the evidence indicates he left at least twenty minutes later. While the police had no problem believing Steven Todd when he got "confused" about which day he burglarized the Medinas' home and changed the date from December 27 to December 26, the police did not provide any of the eyewitnesses who reported seeing Laci walking in the neighborhood an opportunity to confirm or clarify whether any of their time estimates were approximate, or whether they could have also been confused and off by a few minutes, or more, and MPD certainly did not extend that same opportunity to Mr. Peterson.

Again, the defense was not provided with the complete MPD investigation file into the Medina burglary. (See Motion for Post-Conviction Discovery filed concurrently herewith.)

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Numerous MPD reports in the investigation into the disappearance of Laci Peterson, MPD 02-142591, cross-reference the Medina burglary, MPD 02-143025, and vice versa, as being part of the same investigation, including: 2002.12.26 - Wend interview with Medinas (Bates 4090-4093); 2002.12.27 -Diane Jackson's tip (Bates 14765); 2002.12.27 – Diane Jackson: Callahan's report (Bates 20389 [a box is checked for copies to be sent to Grogan]); 2002.12.27 – Diane Jackson: Stough's report (Bates 2090-2092 / 20386-20388 [his report cross references both case numbers]); 2002.12.27 - Stough's vehicle report (Bates 2087-2089); 2002.12.30 - Bertalotto's interview with Medinas (Bates 1981-1984); 2003.01.02 — Todd and Pearce: story given to Hick's (Bates 4111-4120); 2003.01.02 - Cloward's informant report (Bates 20393-20395); 2003.01.02 -Helton's burglary reward Airport District (Bates 2385); 2003.01.02 – Helton's report Fred Monaco and Mark Thomas (Bates 2392); 2003.01.02 - Helton's report informant (Bates 2391A); 2003.01.02 - Stough's report Informant X (Bates 20361-20365); 2003.01.02 – Kelly's report: Medina burglary (Bates 4158-4159); 2003.01.02 - Search Warrant for 1407 Tenaya Nicole Erwin (Bates 4160 [only Laci Peterson case number is referenced]); 2003.01.03 - Todd and Pearce polygraph (Bates 4161-4164 [only Laci Peterson case number is referenced]); 2003.01.06 - Gail P tip (Bates 15010 / 15031); 2003.01.10 - Diane Jackson's interview with Reid (Bates 2443-2444); 2003.01.15 - Todd interview with Stough (Bates 4151); 2003.01.17 – Diane Jackson hypnosis interview (Bates 36740-36762); 2003.01.19 - Stough report on Jackson and Dempwolf interview (Bates 2096-2100); 2003.07.03 - Grogan report Medina safe destroyed (Bates 26041-26047 / 30936-30941); 2002.12.26 - Crowd control, Medina burglary reported (Bates 4082/4094, has only Laci Peterson case number on it), shown below:

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CN #02-142591

#### MODESTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

### Page 1 of 1

On 12/26/02, myself and OFF. Meyer were called to the 523 Covena address to assist with crowd control. While we were onscene, the neighbor from 516 Covena arrived home.

The homeowners went into their home. After they were inside the house for approx. I minute, the female ran out and said that their house had been broken into. OFF. Meyer and myself conducted a security check of the inside of the home. It was determined that there had been a burglary while the homeowners were gone on vacation for the Christmas holiday. OFF. Wend responded to conduct the investigation of the burglary.

 Other MPD reports include case numbers for both the Laci Peterson investigation and the Medina burglary investigation.:

20309

Supplement

Page 1 of 3

02143025 X-ref 02142591

#### NAMES TO APPEAR:

√ (V): MEDINA, Susan Same phone and address as Rodolfo

(W): JACKSON, Diane
WFA,
Modesto, CA

o The fact that the jury was not provided with all of the evidence connecting the date of the Medina burglary to Laci's disappearance does not make the burglary "unrelated"; it merely means the jury was not presented with evidence at trial to

reach that conclusion beyond a reasonable doubt. Mr. Peterson contends that evidence the jury never heard would have led to a different result.

- Defense investigator Carl Jensen interviewed numerous witnesses, including family members and associates of Steven Todd, about his whereabouts on December 24, in an effort to determine when the Medina burglary occurred. (Exh. 2 [Decl. of Carl Jensen] at ¶ 8.) Jensen was unable to verify Todd's purported alibi for December 24, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.; instead he learned that several witnesses, including Adam Tenbrink and Glenn Pearce himself, stated that Todd started the burglary on December 24, and returned with Pearce to get the safe on December 25, not on December 26, as the police reported. (Id. at ¶ 53.)
- Adam Tenbrink stated to Jensen that on December 24, 2002, about the time it was getting dark, Todd called Adam and asked him help him "get some stuff out of the house" he was burglarizing and that Adam understood Todd was referring to the Medinas' house. Adam stated that he did not go to assist Todd. (*Id.* at ¶ 52.)
- The prosecution does not refute that MPD officers told Susan Medina that one of the burglars admitted to police that they made a phone call from inside the Medinas' home to get help with the burglary. (DNA Motion, Exh. 3 [Declaration of Susan Medina] ¶ 26.)
- According to Glenn Pearce and Adam Tenbrink, by the afternoon or evening of December 24, Todd had already located the safe the Medinas kept in their home, but he had not yet been able to remove it from the home. Both Pearce and Adam Tenbrink stated that Todd went back to collect the safe the following morning, December 25, using Pearce's mother's car.

Post-conviction counsel made diligent efforts to gather all of the materials in Mr. Peterson's case file from his various prior counsel, as required under section 1054.9. (Exh. 3 [Decl. of Paula Mitchell] at ¶¶ 4–7.) Counsel discovered that several items appeared to have become lost, including a box that contained media (CDs, CVCs, videotapes, audiotapes, and other items) and was labeled Box 1261. Counsel reached out to several of Mr. Peterson's prior attorneys in an effort to locate the missing Box 1261. After searches proved fruitless, counsel asked the attorneys at Habeas Corpus Resource Center to please go look again. (Id. at ¶ 6.) Finally, in November 2023, Box 1261 was located and provided to LAIP. (Id.) Within the box were files, notes, and materials related to the investigation Carl Jensen conducted on behalf of the defense, which counsel had not found elsewhere in Mr. Peterson's case materials. (Id. at ¶ 7.) After reviewing the materials, counsel interviewed Mr. Jensen in late March 2024. (Id. at ¶ 8.)

- When Jensen interviewed Adam Tenbrink in late 2004, he stated that Adam told him no one from the MPD had spoken to him about the call with his brother Shawn that was reported to MPD by Lt. Aponte. (Exh. 2 at ¶ 52.)
- The prosecution does not refute the assertion that MPD Det. Stough told journalist Mike Gudgell that MPD did *not* verify Todd's alibi for December 24. (DNA Motion at pp. 44–45.) Instead, the prosecution object to that evidence as inadmissible hearsay. If the prosecution has evidence Todd's alibi was confirmed for December 24, it surely would have provided that evidence to the defense; but the defense has not been provided with that discovery.
- Medina burglar Steven Todd admitted to riding down Covena Avenue hundreds of times. (RT 20017.) Todd told MPD that he first noticed mail sticking out of the Medina mailbox on Christmas day, on December 25. (RT 20018.) Mr. Jensen interviewed the Medinas and the Medinas' mail carrier, Russell Graybill, and determined that the only time mail was sticking out of the Medina mailbox while the Medinas were gone that week, was the morning of December 24. (Exh. 2 at ¶ 29.) Mr. Jensen showed Todd photos of the Medinas' mailbox and asked him to confirm what the outgoing mail looked like and that the mail he saw was in the mailbox at the Medina home. (Id. at ¶ 31.)
- on December 25 Christmas Day when he noticed the Medina mail sticking out of the mailbox. (RT 20017.) However, when Mr. Jensen interviewed Todd's sister, Lisa Stringfellow, and she indicated she woke Todd up around 11 a.m. at Pearce's house on Christmas, then she drove them to their mother's house at about noon. (Exh. 2 at ¶ 32.) Stringfellow drove Todd back to Pearce's sometime after dark. (*Id.*) According to Stringfellow, Todd did not ride his bike down Covena on December 25 on this way to his mother's house, as he told police; she drove him there and back. Additionally, there was no mail sticking out of the Medina mailbox on December 25. (*Id.* at ¶ 30.)
- When Jensen interviewed Todd in 2004, he stated that when he was arrested by the police on January 2, 2003, "they said, [MPD Officer] Hicks, said they knew I didn't do

it; I'm just a burglar and dope, meth, weed. . . Hicks and a short cop, maybe Italian, said they knew Scott did it, they said they knew I didn't do it -- Laci. The evidence was pointing to Scott and they knew he did it and not me.' I asked Mr. Todd if the police told him what evidence they were referring to and he said, 'No.' Todd attributed those statements to Officer Hicks or the 'short cop, maybe Italian,' whom Todd stated may have been Det. Al Brocchini." (*Id.* at ¶ 84.)

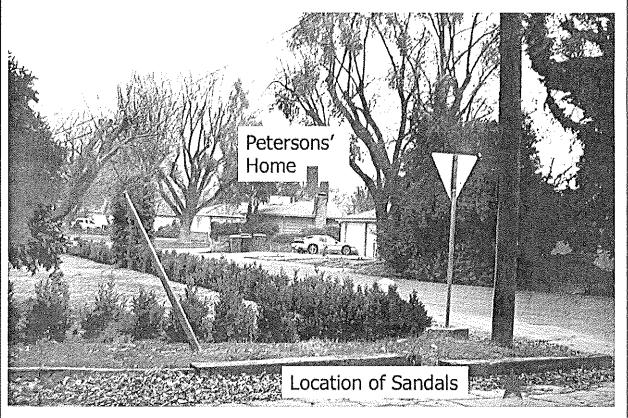
- On February 5, 2004, Jensen interviewed Mary Oakley, who was the grandmother of the children Steven Todd had with her daughter, Elizabeth Garcia. Ms. Oakley stated that Todd was physically abusive toward Elizabeth when she was pregnant and that his anger was very high when he could not control someone. Ms. Oakley stated that her daughter was slight in stature, only 5' 5'1" tall. (*Id.* at ¶ 89–90.)
- Ms. Oakley also stated to Jensen that after Elizabeth broke up with Todd, he began stalking her when she was at school and one time tried to run her over with his car while she was riding her bike. Ms. Oakley stated that there should be police reports reflecting those incidents because Elizabeth reported it and had to have security guards escort her at school for her safety. Ms. Oakley reported another incident Todd had with her granddaughter, when he had her in his arms and used her as a shield so police would not mace him and that her grandson, witnessed it. (*Id.* at ¶ 90.)
- Jensen located police reports confirming that on February 14, 1995, Elizabeth Garcia filed a statement with the court in support of a request for a restraining order, alleging that Todd was physically abusive and had been stalking her. He also obtained a report filed by Mary Oakley stating that Todd had hit her car with his fist creating a dent in the side panel and leaving blood on the car. Jensen also obtained other MPD and Ceres Police Department arrest reports for Todd from dates throughout the 1990s, wherein he admitted to lying to police, denying the possession of drugs, and fleeing the scene of more than one crime. In more than one report it is alleged that Todd refused to comply with police after they ordered him to stop and put his hands behind his back, causing the police to give chase to capture him. (*Id.* at ¶ 91, Exh. B.)

- O The prosecution did not provide the defense with any discovery indicating that MPD investigated Steven Todd's criminal record and history of violence before determining that Todd was just a "burglar and dope, meth, weed," i.e., not capable of violent behavior. (*Id.* at ¶ 90.)
- The prosecution cannot deny that the jury at Mr. Peterson's trial heard no evidence that Laci Peterson witnessed Steven Todd burglarizing the Medina home on the morning of December 24, 2002, as reported by Lt. Xavier Aponte, nor did the jury hear any evidence of a confrontation between Laci Peterson and Steven Todd, as reported by James Romano.
- The prosecution does not deny that in early 2003, MPD investigated the audio recorded conversation Lt. Aponte reported wherein, according to Lt. Aponte, inmate Shawn Tenbrink from Modesto was told in a monitored call with his brother, Adam Tenbrink, that Laci had confronted Steven Todd during the Medina burglary.
- The prosecution does not refute that, to date, Mr. Peterson has never been provided with (i) a copy of the tape Lt. Aponte made of the phone call between Shawn and Adam Tenbrink, (ii) a copy of the tape Lt. Aponte believes the unidentified MPD detective made of the phone call, (iii) the identity of the MPD detective who interviewed Shawn Tenbrink, or (iv) the notes and/or interview memorandum prepared by the MPD detective who interviewed Shawn Tenbrink. (DNA Motion at pp. 49–50.) None of that exculpatory evidence has ever been provided to the defense to this day.
  - O Mr. Jensen's investigation revealed that there was not just a hotline tip from Lt. Aponte, but further investigation by MPD, which was not disclosed to the defense at the time of trial. (DNA Motion, Exh. 29 [Lt. X. Aponte 12/1/2004 Interview].) (See 1054.9 Motion filed concurrently with this motion.)
  - When Mr. Jensen interviewed Adam Tenbrink, Adam said that Steven Todd called him on December 24, from inside the Medinas' house, to ask him to come help Todd with the burglary. (Exh. 2 at ¶ 52.)
- As the prosecution is aware, James Romano began calling MPD to report that he had information about the Medina burglary beginning in July 2004, while Mr. Peterson's trial

was in its second month. (Id. at ¶ 144.) Romano was interviewed by several members of law enforcement over the following months, but it was not until October 21, 2004, as the defense was about to rest, that the prosecution first informed the defense that Mr. Romano had reported having information about the Medina burglary and Laci witnessing the burglary. (Id. at ¶ 143.)

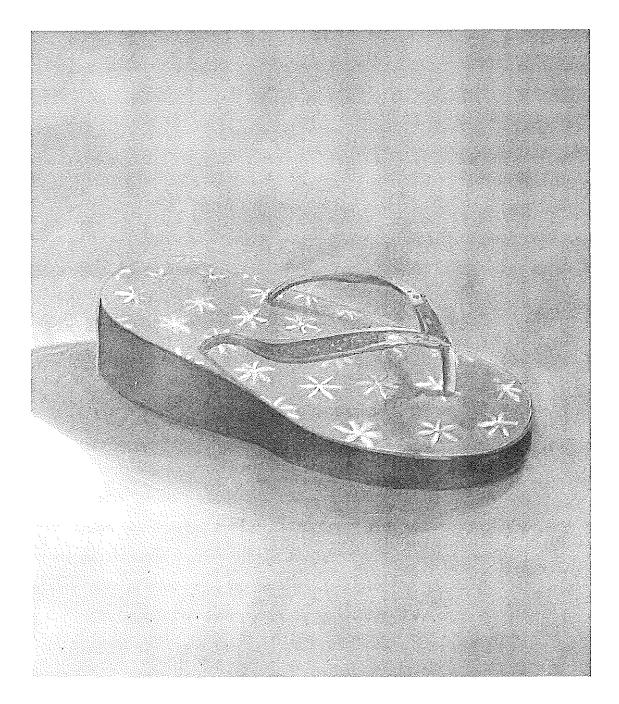
- When Jensen interviewed Romano, he stated that in February 2003, he overheard a conversation taking place in someone's garage about Laci confronting the burglars who were at the Medinas house robbing it. Romano stated that the conversation may have taken place in the garage of Michilene Potter. He heard several men talking about the Medina burglary and one man stated that there was a van parked in front of the Medinas' home with five or six people in it and that, as the house was being burglarized, "Laci was coming up from the park" and she confronted the driver who was sitting in the van and said, "get the hell out of here before I call the cops," or words to that effect. (Id. at ¶ 148.)
- In a recorded interview MPD Det. Hendee had with Michilene Potter, Potter did not recall the incident Romano described where there were several men talking in her garage, but she did recall that one day, Romano "had came over and I had to go to the store with my mother and when I got back there was a note sitting there. The note. I don't even have it anymore. But the note read something like 'I needed to tell you this in case something happens to me. You'll know what's going on, and I know that you won't rest until you find out.' I had no clue and he never explained it to me. . . That's what it said, it said, 'I'm basically just, I'm in fear for my life. If something ever happens to me, I know that you won't. . .' Like he knows I'm gonna find or I won't let it rest till I know who did it." Potter stated that it was "very unlike" Romano to be do something like that. Det. Hendee asked Potter whether she thought Romano would have made something like that up about having information about Laci's disappearance and the burglary that occurred across the street and Potter replied: "No, I don't think he would make it up. I mean, I've never known him to make stuff up like that. And he's always been pretty honest with me." (Id. at ¶ 157.)

- o The jury did not hear any evidence related to Romano or Potter; Mr. Jensen's investigation into the tip from Romano did not commence until the jury was about to begin deliberating in the guilt phase of the trial. Romano came forward with non-public information about the second pawn of a Croton watch, and non-public information about Laci witnessing the burglary. (*Id.* at ¶ 153.)
- o Romano told Mr. Jensen that he had been providing MPD with statements since July of 2004, right after Mr. Peterson's trial began, but he believed his information was not reaching the right people, i.e., the defense, so he tried other approaches, including contacting "Friends Outside," who provided information to MPD on Romano's behalf—information that has never bene turned over to the defense.
- Another significant investigative failure the MPD committed was its failure to collect into evidence a pair of flip-flop sandal the Petersons' neighbor, Judge Richard Cordova, pointed to MPD Det. Sebron Banks on the morning of December 25, 2002. (Exh. 2 at ¶ 118.) Judge Cordova told Jensen that Det. Banks told him he did not need to collect the sandals because Laci disappeared while she was walking and those are not shoes she would wear to go walking. If Laci were abducted by someone while she was out on the street, after finishing her walk and after changing out of her walking shoes, for example, her sandals could have come off as she confronted burglars, or in a scuffle, or as she was trying to out run someone who was chasing her, or for any other reason. There is simply no explanation for the police not collecting those sandals.
- Mr. Jensen asked Judge Cordova to show him where the sandals he saw were located and he took a photograph of the location. The photo below indicates the proximity of the shoes to the Peterson's home, as indicated to Mr. Jensen by Judge Cordova.



- Mr. Jensen interviewed Mr. Peterson to determine whether the sandals Judge Cordova found and pointed out to the police could have belonged to Laci. Jensen determined that a pair of Laci's sandals were missing from the Petersons' home after she disappeared. (*Id.* at ¶ 127.)
- Both Judge Cordova and Mr. Peterson indicated, separately, that they could describe and identify the flip flop sandals in question, so Jensen had an artist meet with Mr. Peterson and create a painting of Laci's missing flip-flops, based on Mr. Peterson's description of the sandals. (*Id.*) Jensen at no time disclosed to Mr. Peterson that Judge Cordova had found a pair of sandals, or the purpose of the exercise. (*Id.* at ¶ 126.)
- On March 12, 2004, Jensen showed the painting to Mr. Peterson, who stated that the sandal in the painting looked like the ones Laci usually kept on the back porch area, which had gone missing. The only difference was that Mr. Peterson said the color in the drawing was a little too red. When Jensen asked him on a scale of 1-10 how closely the image resembled Laci's sandals, Mr. Peterson said it was very close, an 8 on a 1 to

10 scale, the only difference being the color was off. (Id. at ¶ 127.) Mr. Peterson then signed and dated the painting, depicted below.



Myron Stephens / Completion of Arm werek / March, 11 2004

Willow 10:16 AM

Low March 15:101 3:30 M

Low March 31:501 M

- Jensen then showed the painting to Judge Cordova who similarly stated that the only difference between the picture of the flip-flops and the actual flip-flops he saw on the corner was that the painting was a little too red. (*Id.* at ¶ 128.) Judge Cordova signed and dated the back of the painting, depicted above. (*Ibid.*)
- In addition to failing to collect the sandals found on Covena Avenue, which Judge Cordova pointed out to police on December 25—sandals that it was later determined fit the description of Laci's missing sandals—the prosecution now admits that MPD did not collect any physical or forensic evidence from the Medinas' home. Susan Medina specifically pointed out to investigators a hammer and glove that were out of place and therefore likely handled by the burglars, which could have helped identify who committed the burglary, but the prosecution now states that police failed to collect those items and also admits police failed to collect fingerprints from the Medinas' safe, which contained guns, jewelry, and approximately \$50,000 in cash, before they destroyed that evidence. (Opp'n. at p. 193, 285, fn. 130.)
- The prosecution does not dispute that MPD failed to obtain information from Steven Todd and/or Glenn Pearce as to whether others participated in the burglary and, if so, who those

individuals were. (If MPD obtained that information it was not provided to the defense at the time of trial or since.)

- when MPD searched the location where Todd and Pearce had taken the Medinas' safe and failed to investigate whether any of that jewelry could have belonged to Laci Peterson. (If photos were taken, they do not appear to have been provided to the defense at the time of trial.)
- The prosecution does not deny that MPD failed to interview Linda Chilles and Niniv T. about a van they both reported seeing parked in front of the Medinas' home the morning of December 24, 2004. (DNA Motion at pp. 45–46.)
- The prosecution does not deny that MPD failed to interview witness Kim V., who called MPD on January 1, 2003, and reported that she had seen a two tone older van with three Hispanic men that was parked regularly, four to five days a week, at the corner of Yosemite and Santa Fe and that it appeared the men were selling stolen items, but after Laci's disappearance she did not see the van as often and after she called in the report on January 1, 2003, she never saw the van there again. (DNA Motion at p. 46, fn. 34.)
- The prosecution does not dispute that MPD failed to investigate the identities of the three men witnesses Diane Jackson, Linda Chilles, and Niniv T. described as dark-skinned or Hispanic, whom they saw standing near a suspicious looking van that was parked in front of the Medinas' home on December 24, 2002, other than asking Susan Medina whether she recognized the description of the men seen standing near the van. (Opp'n. at p. 172 ["Susan Medina was asked if she recognized the description of the van or the males and Susan Medina did not."].)
- The prosecution argues that no vans were involved in the Medina burglary because "the burglars used a small white Honda not an orange van or any van," and that, "[f]or a van to have any part in this tale, the defense must concede that Todd and Pearce were not involved since they had no van." (Opp'n. at p. 249.) The argument collapses on itself in view of the fact that the prosecution has now admitted that MPD failed to investigate: (i)

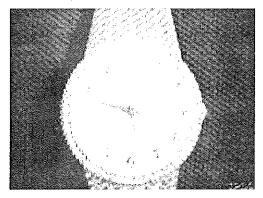
Todd's alibi for December 24; (ii) whether individuals other than Todd and Pearce were involved in the Medina burglary; (iii) whether Todd and/or Pearce had access to associates with vans; (iv) whether the burglary was carried out over a period of more than one day. If MPD investigated any of those issues, Mr. Peterson has not been provided with that discovery.

- The prosecution admits MPD improperly hypnotized Diane Jackson, so the jury was unable to hear directly from her about the van and three men she saw in front of the Medina home the morning Laci went missing. (RT 18528-18529.) In the prosecution's closing argument, the prosecution argued that the van Jackson saw was a Siemens companyowned van that belonged to the Medinas' next-door neighbor. (RT 20317, referring to People's Exh. 31.) As Ms. Jackson states in her declaration submitted in support of this motion, however, the van she saw was **not** the next-door neighbor's Siemens van. (DNA Motion, Exh. 14 at ¶ 21.)
- The prosecution's argument that none of the tips called in following the January 25, 2003 airing of Laci's disappearance on America's Most Wanted (AMW) "led to any information for the recovery of Laci or Conner" is misleading. (Opp'n. at p. 129.) An earlier episode of AMW that aired on January 6, 2003, prompted a tip from a caller who reported hearing an individual in the Airport District of Modesto, who was a known associate of Steven Todd, bragging about Laci Peterson's murder and "they did it." (Bates 4752.) The suspect identified in the AMW tip was interviewed by MPD and he told police he was in custody on December 24, 2002. (Bates 4749.) Once again, MPD failed to investigate the information called in by a concerned citizen. The Stanislaus County Jail Roster for that date was obtained by post-conviction counsel and shows that the suspect identified in the AMW tip was not in custody on that date. (Exh. 3 at ¶¶ 9–12.) He was in custody at the Stanislaus County Jail on November 14, 2002, but released prior to December 24, 2002.
- The jury heard from none of the witnesses discussed above in support of Mr. Peterson's third-party culpability defense. As Juror Six stated after trial, the jury did hear "evidence"

that Laci was a pretty bold person . . . Evidence that she may have confronted burglars would have been significant." (Habeas Exh. 50 at HCP-000986-000987.) "Any evidence that Laci was still alive when Scott was already at the marina would have been important to me as a juror." (*Ibid.*)

#### v. Croton Watch

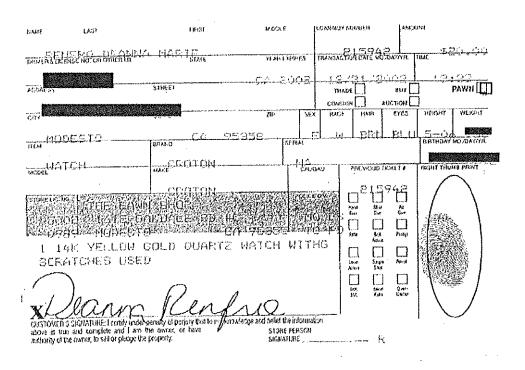
- The prosecution implies, incorrectly, in its Opposition that Laci's Croton watch, which Mr. Peterson reported was missing from her jewelry box, was not missing but was sold on eBay by Mr. Peterson. (Opp'n. at p. 24 ["forensic examination of the Peterson's [sic] computers reveal several email exchanges involving the email account 'slpetel@msn.com' and the sale of additional jewelry in December 2002 on eBay, including her inherited Croton watch, among other things." [emphasis added]; see also p. 97 "The [eBay] records did not indicate if the item was sold."].) Those statements are false and misleading.
- The investigation into the Croton watch began when Mr. Peterson told police that Laci was wearing a "wristwatch that had diamonds around the face," when he left home on the morning of December 24. (Bates 40; see also RT 15926.) MPD tried mightily to impeach Mr. Peterson's statement that Laci was wearing a diamond watch when he last saw her, so Det. Grogan "did a lot of investigation of the jewelry." (RT 17705.) All of Laci's watches were accounted for except the diamond Croton watch—it was never recovered. (RT18046.) People's Exh. 4 depicts the Croton watch and is pictured here:



• The MPD investigation into Laci's Croton watch spanned over at least three months. On December 27, 2002, officers confirmed the Croton watch was not pawned by Laci at

Brooks Pawn, where she had pawned some of her grandmother's jewelry. (RT 10462.) In February 2003, Det. Grogan confirmed the Croton watch did not sell on eBay, as noted above. On February 12, 2003, Det. Grogan checked with Laci's local jeweler and confirmed the Croton watch was not there. (Bates 361.) Also on February 12, 2003, Det. Grogan searched through family photos, matching jewelry in the photos to jewelry that had been recovered. (Bates 425.) Later that same day, Det. Grogan met with Laci's sister and his report notes that the Croton watch "at this time [has] not been located." (*Ibid.*)

• On March 6, 2003, with Laci's Croton watch still unaccounted for, Det. Grogan asked an officer to search pawn records for the word "Croton." (Bates 620.) The search turned up one pawn record from The Pawn Shop in Modesto. (*Ibid.*) Defense Exh. N is the pawn record dated December 31, 2002, depicted below:



• Det. Grogan's report states that the "pawn slip did not appear to match the description of the 'Croton' watch belonging to Laci Peterson." (Bates 620.) However, it does match the

description; Det. Grogan's report does not state the basis for his concluding the description did not match Laci's Croton watch. (*Ibid.*)

- The MPD's search for Laci's missing Croton watch came to a sudden halt at that point, and Det. Grogan's March 6, 2003 report marked the end of the MPD's investigation file that was given to Mr. Peterson's attorneys before his trial.<sup>10</sup>
- on October 23, 2004, Carl Jensen interviewed Anthony Scarlata who stated that he had never been interviewed by the police about the Croton watch he pawned with Deanna Renfro on February 14, 2003. (Exh. 2 at ¶ 138.) When Jensen showed Scarlata a photo of Laci's Croton watch, without telling Scarlata it was a photo of Laci's watch, to see if he could identify it as the same watch he pawned on February 14, 2003, Scarlata stated he could not say whether it was the watch he pawned; it was possibly the same watch but he could not say for certain one way or the other. (*Id.* at ¶ 139.)

#### vi. No Forensic Evidence Implicating Mr. Peterson

The prosecution admits there was no forensic evidence linking Mr. Peterson to the crimes at issue in this case. The only evidence the prosecution points to was hair consistent with Laci's found on a pair of pliers in the boat. (RT 12973.) The prosecution's expert testified at trial that the pliers were so rusted that based on their appearance, the pliers had *not* recently been used. (86 RT 16467–16468.)

In addition, while the prosecution asserts that the hair was "mashed" in the jaws of the pliers, that is simply false. (Opp'n. at p. 101, 208; p.102 [citing Det. Dodge Hendee's testimony describing

On this record, it appears that when the investigation into Laci's missing Croton watch led MPD away from Mr. Peterson as a suspect, they either failed to follow up or they failed to disclose the follow-up. Mr. Peterson's Discovery Motion, pending before this Court, requests items associated with the MPD investigation into Laci's Croton watch. In its Opposition, the prosecution argues, incorrectly, that in February or March of 2003 (the exact timeframe that Det. Grogan found the Croton pawn ticket), "two investigators hired by the defendant's family" interviewed Deanna Renfro. (Opp'n. at p. 98 fn. 63.) As the prosecution is aware, neither Mr. Peterson nor his defense team had any knowledge that a Croton watch had been pawned at a nearby pawn shop within days of his Laci's disappearance until after Mr. Peterson's arrest on April 18, 2003, when his attorneys began receiving discovery. Since the pawn slip with Deanna Renfro's name on it (Bates 628) was not provided to the defense until after April 25, 2003, there was no way for the defense to know a person named Deanna Renfro had pawned a watch that therefore had no reason to interview her. To the extent Deanna Renfro believed the investigators who visited her in February or early March of 2003 may have been hired by the Peterson family, she was mistaken. The only investigator working for Mr. Peterson's arrest. (See 1059.4 Motion Exh. 6 [Decl. of Gary Ermoian] ¶ 62.)

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Det. Hendee testified that when he found the pliers, the hair "didn't wrap around the pliers. It just went through" at one location." (RT 12556-12557.) There was also a two-centimeter blade of grass adhered to the pliers. (Id. ["vegie"]; RT 13481 [indicating the materials stuck to the pliers were the result of a secondary transfer]; see also RT 13688-13689.)

#### vii. Ralston Video

The prosecution does not dispute that MPD obtained a video or a partial video that underwater search expert Gene Ralston recorded showing an object lying at the bottom of the Richmond Shipping Channel on March 11, 2003, three miles north of where Mr. Peterson went fishing, which Gene Ralston believed was the body of Laci Peterson. (Opp'n. at p. 265 ["An attempt to rig a video camera to the video out of the ROV control to record the video image was not successful. I suggested that the video camera be used to tape the monitor output directly. The attempt was only partially successful due to the monitor scan rate being out of sync with the camera."].) The prosecution continues to suppress that videotape or partial videotape, which has never been provided to the defense.

The prosecution does not deny that the police believed Mr. Ralston had located the remains of Laci Peterson on March 11, 2003, and for that reason attempted to connect the red stain on Mr. Peterson's fishing boat to the buoy located near that location, but were unable to make a connection because the substance on Mr. Peterson's boat was consistent with the dock signage located at Berkeley Marina, where he put his boat in the water. (DNA Motion at pp. 88–95.)

This list of investigative failures is not all-inclusive; it only covers some of the more significant failures Mr. Peterson has alleged which the prosecution has not refuted. It is nevertheless a deeply concerning list that demands further investigation. Counsel for Mr. Peterson is now investigating the many leads the police ignored. The instant motion for DNA testing is supported by some of the evidence counsel's ongoing investigation has thus far uncovered, which appears to support Mr. Peterson's claim of innocence.

Mr. Peterson has met this pleading requirement.

#### 3. Section 1405(d)(1)(C): Type Of Testing To Be Conducted

The prosecution argues that Mr. Peterson has "failed to specify what specific types of testing should be done for each and every item." (Opp'n. at p. 226.) This is incorrect. Mr. Peterson has met the pleading requirement as he has identified both the evidence that should be tested and the specific type of DNA testing that should be done. (DNA Motion at pp. 120-123.) DNA Consultant, Mehul Anjaria, thoroughly explained in his declaration, submitted with the instant motion, the type of testing that would be conducted at the Serological Research Institute (SERI), the DNA testing laboratory where Mr. Peterson is requesting the testing take place. (DNA Motion, Exh. 13 at ¶ 8.) The type of testing requested consists of (i) the GlobalFiler<sup>TM</sup> amplification kit coupled with a 3500 series Genetic Analyzer to achieve state-of-the-art DNA detection and discrimination power; (ii) probabilistic genotyping; and, (iii) should any samples contain an excess of female DNA compared to male DNA, SERI can use the sensitive and male DNA specific YFiler<sup>TM</sup> typic kit to gain information on male contributor(s). (DNA Motion at p. 123.) Moreover, Mr. Peterson specified that on items of evidence where traditional DNA collection methods, such as swabbing, cutting, and tape lifting is likely to be unsatisfactory, he requests that the Court order the option for SERI to use M-Vac technology to collect the evidence. 11 The items of evidence sought to be tested have been identified to best of Mr. Peterson's ability with the information he has been provided to date.

Mr. Peterson is also requesting any previously extracted DNA on file in this case from Laci and Conner Peterson be provided to SERI so that an updated genetic profile can be obtained for the GlobalFiler loci without further sampling of evidence collected from remains.

#### Orange "Cal Trans" Vehicle: Items 1-4

The prosecution attempts to argue that Mr. Peterson failed to specify the type of testing to be done on the burned mattress because "his own expert states that the first item for which DNA testing is sought (the burned mattress) may not be testable using the best sampling method because the mattress cuttings are burned and possibly brittle, so it may not be feasible to use the M-Vac. [Defense Motion Exhibit 13, Declaration of Anjaria Mehul, paragraph 27.]" (Opp'n. at p. 226.) This is a

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As stated in the instant motion, Mr. Peterson respectfully requests that Mehul Anjaria, his DNA expert, be present for the testing so he can participate in the decision to which areas of the evidence are most suitable and relevant for testing.

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Evidence Recovered From the Bay: Items 5–12

motion and thus, he has met the pleading requirement.

The remainder of the prosecution's arguments appear to stem from a lack of basic understanding of the science behind DNA and how current collection and testing methods work. As stated by Mr. Anjaria, while items that have been submerged in water for a substantial period of time present challenges, the recovery of DNA from those items is still possible. (DNA Motion, Exh. 13 at ¶ 35.) While DNA may degrade, it does not necessarily mean there is a complete loss of DNA. The current methods employed by SERI for obtaining DNA profiles from extracted DNA are much more sensitive and more effective for compromised samples than the testing methods that were used in 2004. Mr. Peterson is requesting items 5, 6, and 8-12 be tested in the manner described in the instant motion and also above. (See DNA Motion at p. 126.)

be assessed. Mr. Peterson requests that items 1-4 be tested using the methods laid out in the instant

Mr. Peterson requests that Item 7 (the four packages of debris) be examined to determine whether any bone fragments and/or other biological materials that may have been deposited there, for example as a result of crab activity (which the forensic pathologist noted there was evidence of at autopsy) are present in the debris. The debris should also be examined for any items that may have value for blood and DNA testing.

#### Evidence Recovered From the Medinas' Home: Items 13-14

If items 13 and 14 (work glove and hammer, respectively) were recovered from the Medina home, Mr. Peterson is requesting they be sampled for DNA analysis. If samples were collected from these items, Mr. Peterson is requesting that the samples undergo DNA testing using the same testing methods as laid out above and in the instant motion. Any suitable DNA profiles foreign to the

Medinas could then be compared to results obtained on other tested items in this case and entered into CODIS. (See DNA Motion, Exh. 13 at ¶¶ 32–34.)

Mr. Peterson has met the pleading requirement under section 1405(d)(1)(C).

# 4. Section 1405(d)(1)(D): Reasonable Probability Favorable DNA Results Would Have Changed Outcome At Trial, Had The Jury Heard That Evidence

The prosecution argues that the requested DNA testing would not raise a reasonable probability that Mr. Peterson's verdict or sentence would have been more favorable if the results of DNA testing had been available at the time of conviction because: (i) the items related to the orange van "have no connection to this case" (Opp'n. at p. 226); (ii) "many" of the items from the bay were "eliminated as being connected to Laci's remains" (Opp'n. at p. 227); (iii) "the various segments of duct tape were the wrong thread count to match the tape on Laci's body" [id.]; (iv) "there was no way for anyone to place this twine around Conner's neck" [id.]; (v) the prosecution's argument about the duct tape from Laci's pants is incomprehensible; (vi) the prosecution contends that the glove and hammer Susan Medina pointed out to investigators were handled by the burglars in her home were not collected into evidence by MPD, but they have failed to provide evidence logs related to the investigation into the Medina burglary, nor have they provided a sworn affidavit by a custodian of records demonstrating that the items were searched for and not found, who searched for the evidence, and what locations were searched (Opp'n. at p. 193).

The prosecution's arguments fail because they are based on cherry-picked facts. Mr. Peterson has met this pleading requirement.

# Orange "Cal Trans" Vehicle: Items 1-4

The prosecution contends that the orange van is "completely unrelated" to this case, it has "no connection to this case," and that the "van has never been connected to anything related to this case," because "[n]o one ever saw an orange van." (Opp'n. at pp. 226, 259, 285.) Those assertions are incorrect and misleading; the argument based on those incorrect statements is pure sophistry. There is ample evidence before the Court that the police either failed to investigate whether the orange van fire was connected to the crimes in this case, or if the van was investigated and found to have some connection to this case, that evidence has been suppressed. The only thing that is certain is that the

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crime was not investigated and found to be "completely unrelated" to this case, as the prosecution maintains.

The record in this case is clear: evidence from the orange van was booked into evidence under Modesto Police Department arson case number 02–142687, cross-reference MPD case number 02– 142591 (the Peterson case). (DNA Motion at p. 124.) The prosecution has not refuted this fact in its Opposition. In addition, the prosecution stipulated to DNA testing of this evidence in 2019, after it was discovered that evidence related to this vehicle fire investigation was suppressed at the time of Mr. Peterson's trial in 2004.<sup>12</sup> Nor has the prosecution denied, or even addressed, the fact that the evidence envelopes for Item 1 and Item 2 that are the subject of this motion were marked: "HOLD -DO NOT DESTROY X-ref Peterson Case X 02-142591." (DNA Motion at p. 124.)

The prosecution cannot possibly establish that the bright orange former Cal Trans van that was found on fire in the Airport District on Christmas morning is unrelated to the disappearance and murder of Laci and Conner Peterson at this stage because, as the prosecution has and must concede, police failed to investigate whether that van was related to Laci's disappearance and death. Moreover, Det. Shipley's report concerning the vehicle fire investigation, dated January 1, 2003, is labeled "Missing Person Investigation," and it cross-references the MPD Case number for the investigation into Laci's disappearance, and the prosecution previously stipulated to testing of items associated with this van. (See Bates 3781 [fire investigation report includes Laci Peterson MPD Case No. 02-142591.)

The prosecution cannot refute the fact that orange van vehicle fire was related to Mr. Peterson's case because MPD's own files indicate as much. In addition, counsel for Mr. Peterson has presented this Court with declarations by former MPD Fire Investigator Bryan Spitulski and retired ABC News producer George Michael Gudgell, who explain how it came to pass that it took fifteen years for Mr. Peterson to learn that this evidence was suppressed by the prosecution at trial. (DNA Motion, Exh. 2 ¶ 46-47.) After Mr. Peterson's counsel learned of the suppressed evidence, on March 18, 2016, Det. Grogan prepared a more comprehensive Investigation Report prepared related to the van fire and provided it to the defense. (DNA Motion, Exh. 32 [Det. C. Grogan 3/18/2016 Vehicle Fire Investigation Report].) Even then, the prosecution still refused to turn over the six photos of the burned van and blood-stained mattress that was part of a "Missing Person Investigation." The prosecution has filed numerous objections to evidence described above, declarations by Spitulski, Gudgell, and the report by its own MPD Det. Grogan, which the prosecution contends is "irrelevant," among other objections, in its ongoing effort to prevent the truth from coming to light about the MPD's investigations into the Medina burglary, the orange vehicle hire, and the investigation into the disappearance and murder of Laci Peterson. Messrs. Spitulski and Gudgell both expressed sincere concerns in their declarations about the poor quality of the police investigations involved in this case and their concerns are well-founded.

Mr. Peterson seeks DNA testing on Items 1–4, which were collected from the crime scene in the Airport District where the orange van was parked and set on fire. Item 1 is a piece of cloth from a mattress found in the back of the van, Item 2 is a piece of partially burned mattress cloth from the same mattress, Item 3 is a cloth recovered that was sticking out of the van's fuel tank, and Item 4 is a metal fuel container that was found on top of the mattress, protecting the stained fabric underneath it from being burned in the fire and, therefore, possibly having blood transfer stains on the bottom of the container that could be DNA tested.

DNA testing on the items recovered from the orange van could help establish whether or not the van was related to the crimes in this case. Should Laci Peterson's DNA be found anywhere on any of Items 1, 2, or 4, that would be irrefutable exculpatory evidence supporting Mr. Peterson's claim of innocence. In addition, genetic profiles obtained from Item 3, if obtained, could be uploaded to CODIS and could identify a suspect or suspects involved in the theft of the van and it could be determined whether there was any connection between that individual or individuals and the Medina burglary or the disappearance of Laci. In sum, if Mr. Peterson obtains favorable DNA results from testing on any of these items, it is likely there would have been a more favorable result at trial.

In addition, it is possible DNA testing the items from the van could establish the identity of the perpetrator or perpetrators of the crimes in this case or in a number of crimes, including: who abducted and murdered Laci and Conner Peterson, who may have been an accomplice in the abduction and murder of Laci and Conner Peterson, whether there is DNA on the mattress that can be tied to a victim or victims of another crime or crimes, and, who stole the van and/or may have been an accomplice to the theft of the van, to name a few.<sup>13</sup>

Former MPD Fire Inspector Bryan Spitulski stated in his declaration that he personally took the stained mattress fabric to the DOJ lab in Rison for forensic testing in 2003, and that the forms associated with that testing contain errors, including that the samples were tested in front of him, which he states is false. (DNA Motion, Exh. 1 at ¶¶ 41–43.) The prosecution admits Mr. Spitulski examined the burned van and determined it was an incendiary fire but objects to the opinions Mr. Spitulski expressed in his declaration about the evidence he examined as improper and irrelevant. (Opp'n. at pp. 194–195, p. 288 [objecting to DNA Motion, Exh. 1, ¶¶ 44–45 [Spitulski declaration].) The Court should overrule those objections. Mr. Spitulski is a career fire investigator who has firsthand knowledge of the condition of the van he inspected and who is qualified to state his opinion about the evidence he examined. He was also a member of the prosecution team that investigated that van and its possible connection to the disappearance of Laci Peterson, a fact the prosecution continues to steadfastly deny. (See DNA Motion, Exh. 1.)

The prosecution has not refuted that the police failed to investigate the following leads concerning whether the bright orange former Cal Trans van fire that occurred on the morning of December 25, 2002, may have been related to Laci's disappearance and death:

- On December 26, 2002, Mike Chiavetta reported to MPD that on the morning of December 24, 2002, he saw both the Petersons' dog and a "bright orange Blazer type vehicle in East La Loma Park . . . at least 15 years old and had square headlights . . . noticeable because of the bright orange color, which reminded him of a Cal Trans vehicle." (DNA Motion at p. 60.)
  - o The prosecution does not deny that police failed to interview Mr. Chiavetta about whether the "bright orange" vehicle he reported seeing, "which reminded him of a Cal Trans vehicle," was the same or similar to the bright orange van found on fire in the Airport District the morning after Laci Peterson went missing and which police determined was, in fact, a former Cal Trans van registered to a man named Terry Borden, who used it as a company work van.
  - The prosecution does not deny that police failed to investigate Mr. Chiavetta's statement that he thought he saw Laci and the Petersons' dog walking in La Loma Park the morning of December 24, 2002; nor did police show him photos of Laci or the Peterson's dog to confirm that he had, in fact, seen them in the park.
- On December 26, 2002, Mr. Chaivetta also reported seeing "[a] 'gang banger' type hispanic male [getting] out of the vehicle." (*Id.*)
  - o The prosecution does not deny that police failed to interview Mr. Chiavetta about whether he would be able to identify the male he saw getting out of the bright

The prosecution attempts to justify MPD's failure to investigate Mr. Chaivetta's report about seeing a bright orange van parked in La Loma Park the morning of December 24, by pointing to the fact that he described it as an orange Blazer. (Opp'n. at p. 226.) That argument is weak and unpersuasive; it is also disingenuous. The police report clearly states that Mr. Chaivetta went on to describe the vehicle as "at least 15 years," with "square headlights," which was "noticeable because of the bright orange color, which reminded him of a Cal Trans vehicle," a description that precisely fits the description of the van that was burned. The prosecution's argument is misleading and emblematic of its refusal to investigate Mr. Peterson's claim of innocence, which continues to be driven by confirmation bias rather than by a search for the truth. The detailed description Mr. Chiavetta gave police of the van he saw, given the unique bright orange color and his description that it reminded him of a "Cal Trans vehicle," leads inexorably to the conclusion that the van he saw is almost certainly the same van that was burned early the next morning in the Airport District.

orange vehicle on the morning of December 24, 2002; nor did police ask him to provide a more detailed physical description of the man he saw getting out of the bright orange van.

- On December 26, 2002, the same day Mike Chiavetta reported to MPD that he saw both the Petersons' dog and the orange Cal Trans vehicle in La Loma Park, and that he thought he saw Laci in the park as well, eyewitness Diane Campos reported to MPD that she saw Laci Peterson walking her dog in La Loma Park with two white males, and she saw that the dog was "constantly barking" for "approximately five minutes while they walked the distance of approximately a football field, or a hundred yards."
  - The prosecution does not deny that the police failed to investigate whether the "'gang banger' type Hispanic male'' Mr. Chiavetta saw getting out of the orange van bore any resemblance to either one of the two men Ms. Campos saw trailing behind Laci in the park, one of whom was yelling at Laci: "Shut the fuckin' dog up." (DNA Mot. at pp. 32–33.) MPD also failed to investigate whether the "Hispanic" man Mr. Chiavetta saw near the orange van could be identified by the other witnesses who reported seeing dark-skinned or Hispanic men standing near the van seen parked in front of the Medinas' home on December 24, Diane Jackson, Linda Chilles, and Niniv T.

Furthermore, the prosecution has not refuted that:

- MPD failed to determine who stole the bright orange former "Cal Trans" van, that was set on fire in the Airport District, from its registered owner, Terry Borden.
- MPD failed to determine who burned or may have burned the orange "Cal Trans" van in the Airport District on December 25, 2002.
- MPD tested the stain on the mattress found in the back of the burned van and it tested presumptively positive for blood. (Opp'n. at p. 196.)
- MPD failed to investigate, and the prosecution continues to refuse to investigate to this day, whether it is possible to determine whose blood is on the stained mattress in the back

of Borden van, given the more sensitive and precise DNA testing technology that is available today.

• MPD failed to investigate whether any of the items they found at the home of Robert Smith, aka Bobby Riggs, the last known driver of the orange van who was on probation for burglary, belonged to the Medinas or Laci Peterson. (DNA Motion at p. 65.)

Mr. Peterson has established all of the above-described investigative failures supporting his request for DNA testing on Items 1–4 without relying on any statements the prosecution contends are objectionable as inadmissible hearsay.<sup>15</sup>

Mr. Peterson has made a prima facie showing that favorable results from testing of Item 1–4 would likely have resulted in a more favorable outcome at trial, had that evidence been available, and he has therefore met this pleading requirement.

#### Evidence Recovered From the Bay: Items 5-12

The prosecution admits that Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12, have never been subjected to DNA testing but argues, summarily and without citing to anything in the record, that "many" of these items from the bay were "eliminated as being connected to Laci's remains." (Opp'n. at p. 227.) To the extent the prosecution's arguments are comprehensible, they fail.

Duct Tape & Target Bag: Items 5, 6, 9, and 10

#### Item 9: Tape from Pants

The prosecution tried mightily to link the duct tape recovered from Laci's pants to the duct tape Mr. Peterson used when he was hanging up missing person flyers, to no avail. And the prosecution admits, as it must, that human DNA was recovered from two samples taken from the duct tape on Laci's pants (Item 9), "but there was not sufficient DNA or the DNA was not of acceptable

In addition, Mr. Peterson contends that MPD failed to investigate any connection between Steven Todd, who pleaded guilty to committing the burglary of the Medinas' home on December 24–26, 2002, and the location where the van was found parked and on fire on December 25, 2002—an alley behind the home of Todd's son's aunt, Telesia Koen. (DNA Mot. at p. 56; Opp'n. at pp. 289–290.) The information linking the location where the van was parked and burned in the Airport District and the location where Telesia Koen lived was uncovered by an investigative journalist. (*Id.*) The prosecution objects to information presented in the investigative journalist's declaration as hearsay, but they do not deny or refute the accuracy of that information. In any event, the Court need not rely on the information the prosecution asserts is objectionable to find that Mr. Peterson has met the pleading requirement in section 1405(d)(1)(D) with respect to Items 1–4.

quality to generate a profile." (Opp'n. at p. 181.) Additional testing using current, more sensitive methods, could provide a genetic profile which could, in turn, lead to the identification of a suspect other than Mr. Peterson, should a profile sufficient for a CODIS upload be obtained. That result would undeniably be favorable to Mr. Peterson and would likely have led to a more favorable outcome at trial, had that evidence been available. Mr. Peterson has made a prima facie showing as to Item 9 and has therefore met this pleading requirement.

#### Item 5, 6, 10: Target Bag, Duct Tape

The prosecution admits that Officer Phillips, who recovered the Target bag (Item 5) "smelled an odor and believed it was similar to the odor of the human remains [Laci] that were recovered earlier." (Opp'n. at p. 185.) The prosecution further admits that when the bodies of Laci and Conner were discovered, police investigators also recovered "severely rusty and brittle metal bar" with duct tape wrapped around it (Item 10), and that the metal bar was found wrapped inside the Target bag (Item 5), which also had duct tape wrapped around it (Item 6). (Opp'n. at pp. 183–184.) The prosecution further admits that investigators collected those items as possible evidence because they immediately suspected that the duct tape found on those items may be connected to the duct tape found adhered to Laci's pants. (Id.) The prosecution does not deny that Items 5, 6, and 10 have never been subjected to DNA testing but argues that "the various segments of duct tape were the wrong thread count to match the tape on Laci's body." (Opp'n. at p. 227.) The prosecution's argument fails because it is premised on the unsupported assumption that all of the duct tape at issue in this motion came from a single roll of tape.

Tom Phillips testified on October 19–20, 2004, that the odor emanating from the Target bag "had basically the same smell" as the body. (RT 19601.) Phillips mentioned his observation

The prosecution attempts to minimize the importance of Officer Phillips' observations concerning the similarity of the odors he detected on the Target bag and on Laci's remains, observations which were left out of police reports and not discovered by the defense until after trial started, by implying that he was the sole individual who noticed a possible connection between the Laci's remains that the Target bag. That is not accurate. (See DNA Mot. at p. 103 ["Captain Christine Dean of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office independently noticed that the Target bag smelled like the remains, and other EBRPDPD officers believed the Target bag may have been related to the remains because both had duct tape on them. (93 RT 17583; 105 RT 19558–19559, 19593.) The MPD detectives at the scene failed to make a note of the odor emanating from the Target being similar to the odor of decomposing remains in any report. (98 RT 18389, 18391."].)

regarding the similarity of the odors to Sergeant Iverson, and upon his arrival at the Coroner's Office, Captain Dean from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office also had, prior to Phillips mentioning it, made a comment that the odors seemed similar. (RT 19558-19559.)

Someone wrapped a considerable amount of duct tape around that Target bag, for some reason. Should there be a link between the Target bag and the remains of either Laci or Conner, the fact that there were numerous Target bags located further north at the base of the Richmond Bridge where a retrofit construction project was underway would support the inference that someone may have placed Laci and Conner into the bay near the Richmond Bridge, which is north of where Mr. Peterson went fishing and in the direction of the location where Gene Ralston believes he located Laci's remains.<sup>17</sup>

Mr. Peterson has also made a prima facie showing that it is possible to obtain human DNA from duct tape, even after it has been submerged in water for some period of time, because human DNA was recovered from the tape on Laci's pants. DNA test results that link the Target bag to Laci and/or Conner, or foreign DNA that links the tape on the Target bag and/or the tape around the metal bar found with the Target bag, to any foreign DNA recovered from Laci's pants, assuming those results are favorable and exclude Mr. Peterson which is required under the statute, would likely have resulted in a more favorable outcome at trial.

Mr. Peterson has made a prima facie showing as to Items 5, 6, and 10 (Target bag, duct tape wrapped around it, and duct tape associated with the metal bar found with the Target bag). Based on the odor Officer Phillips and Captain Dean both detected on the Target bag, which was that of decomposing human remains, and the established fact that it has already been shown that it is possible to obtain DNA from duct tape that has been in the water for some period of time because the prior

The prosecution mischaracterizes the trial testimony of Richard Atkinson, who was an employee of Target Products Limited. He testified that he had seen duct tape used "on the bottom of the poly cap to secure it in place." (Opp'n. at p. 187 ["Atkinson described how it was common for duct tape to be placed on the poly caps... the crew will frequently use duct tape, wrapping it around the bottom of the poly cap bag to secure it in place to weatherproof their materials."] [ citing RT 17249–17250].) But when Atkinson was asked whether he had seen duct tape at the Richmond Bridge site being used the way it appeared to be wrapped around the Target bag that was found near Laci's body, he said, "No." (RT "Q: Okay. And at that site have you ever seen duct tape being used on those Poly Cap bags? A: No, I have not."].)

testing on the duct tape from Laci's pants yielded DNA. Favorable results could lead to the identity of the perpetrator or perpetrators of these crimes. Further testing is warranted on these items. Indeed, that is the very reason the Target bag and related duct tape were collected as possible evidence by law enforcement in the first place.

#### Item 8: Twine

The prosecution does not deny that Item 8 was never forensically tested: the "50-inch long tape or twine, about 6 inches wide" recovered from the neck of Conner Peterson, found tied in a bow around his neck, with a "very tight overhand knot" remaining after the bow was loosened. The prosecution argues, summarily and without citing to anything in the record that "there was no way for anyone to place this twine around Conner's neck" because Dr. Peterson stated that "Conner died inside Laci's womb." (Opp'n. at p. 273.) The prosecution also states, again without citation to anything in the record: "It therefore stands unrefuted that the twine was postmortem debris." (Opp'n. at p. 275.) Those statements are, once again, misrepresentations of the record in this case.

The prosecution concedes that "<u>Dr. Peterson could not definitively rule out the chance that Conner was born alive and protected by something else in the marine environment</u>." (*Id.* at p. 153.) <u>Dr. Peterson agreed it was possible that Conner could have been removed from Laci's uterus through the damaged portion and protected from the marine environment by being placed in a bag. (PHT 1484, RT 17505.) He further agreed that if any incision had been made at the top of Laci's uterus it would no longer be observable due to decomposition.<sup>18</sup> (RT 17513-17514.)</u>

Dr. Peterson also testified that he had to cut tape from around Conner's neck because he feared pulling it off would damage the baby. (RT 17480.) While Dr. Peterson determined that this tape around Conner's neck was not the cause of death, <u>he would not speculate as to whether the twine could have been tied post mortem</u>. (RT 17481.) Given the absence of forensic evidence in this case, any evidence that Conner was handled outside of Laci's womb would exonerate Mr. Peterson.

On January 6, 2003, the teacher of Steven Todd's son, Steven Todd, Jr., called MPD and reported that the mother of Steven Todd, Jr., "has been a surrogate mother and sold babies twice before." (DNA Motion at p. 43, fn. 30 [citing Exh. 5 at ¶ 79].) Additional reports from this teacher included graphic suggestions from Todd's son about a violent incident involving a pregnant woman. Counsel is still investigating these accounts. (*Id.*).

There are simply too many unanswered questions around the cause and manner of Conner's death; further investigation is warranted. (See DNA Motion at pp. 99–100 ["Conner's body was found with a strip of packaging material or tape, later described as "twine," wrapped around his neck and tied in a knotted bow. Dr. Peterson testified that, from his evaluation at autopsy, there were two centimeters of space between the twine and Conner's neck and that he did not see any damage to Conner's neck from the twine. (92 RT 17445, 17481.) According to Dr. Peterson: (i) Conner had reached full term; (ii) Conner had no anatomical abnormalities that would have been incompatible with life; (iii) Conner was not born vaginally but came out through the fundus, the top of the uterus; (iv) there was no placenta or umbilical cord found on or near the body; (v) Dr. Peterson could not estimate the time the body had been in the water; (vi) the body appeared to have been in a protected environment because it was only partially decomposed; and, (vii) the trauma to the body was likely post-mortem. (92 RT 17447, 17473-17474, 17513, 17623-17624.) Dr. Peterson testified that he did not see evidence of animal feeding on Conner's body and concluded that Conner must not have spent substantial time in the water, or he would have been eaten or fed upon by marine life. (92 RT 17453.) Dr. Peterson ultimately concluded that Conner's cause of death was undetermined. 17457.)"].) The prosecution failed to address any of these unanswered questions in its Opposition.

If a person handled Conner's body outside the uterus and tied the twine and knotted the bow around his neck, that person may have transferred their own DNA to the twine, which may still be present and suitable for DNA testing, including in the crevices of the plastic that is folded in on itself. As with the duct tape, Mr. Peterson has made a prima facie showing that it is possible to obtain human DNA from items that have been submerged in water for some period of time, such as the twine found wrapped and tied in a knotted bow around Conner's neck, just as human DNA was recovered from the tape on Laci's pants. DNA test results that show foreign human DNA on the twine, assuming those results are favorable and exclude Mr. Peterson, which is required under the statute, would likely have resulted in a more favorable outcome at trial. Mr. Peterson has made a prima facie showing as to Item 8 and has therefore met this pleading requirement.

**Item 7: Debris from Target Bag** 

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Item 7 consists of four packages of debris collected from inside the Target bag. If Laci was wrapped inside the Target bag and weighed down with the metal bar or some other object, her DNA or that of Conner may be found on items mixed in with the debris. In addition, in light of Dr. Peterson's conclusion that he saw evidence of crab activity when he conducted the autopsy, the four packages of debris which were collected but never forensically tested should be examined to determine whether any bone fragments and/or other biological materials resulting from crab activity are present in the debris. Mr. Peterson has made a prima facie showing as to Item 7 and has therefore met this pleading requirement.

#### Items 11 & 12: Black Tarps

Items 11 and 12 are two black tarps found washed up on shore in the Point Isabel area, where Laci's remains were recovered. The prosecution admits that neither tarp has been forensically examined to determine whether either may be related to the case but argues, once again, that this evidence is "unrelated" to the case. (Opp'n. at pp. 282–283.) Dr. Peterson determined that it appeared Conner's body appeared to have been in a protected environment based on the condition of the body. Conducting DNA testing with the use of M-Vac technology could provide a definitive answer to the question whether with Laci or Conner were in contact with either tarp, and if so, whether there is additional foreign DNA present pointing to a suspect other than Mr. Peterson. Mr. Peterson has made a prima facie showing as to Items 11 and 12 and has therefore met this pleading requirement.

#### Items 13-14: Evidence Recovered From the Medinas' Home

The prosecution contends that Items 13 and 14, the glove and hammer Susan Medina pointed out to investigators were handled by the burglars inside her master bedroom, were not collected into evidence by MPD. The prosecution has not provided Mr. Peterson with any evidence logs related to the investigation into the Medina burglary, nor have they provided a sworn affidavit by a custodian of records demonstrating that the items were searched for and not found, who searched for the evidence, and what locations were searched. (Opp'n. at p. 193.) If those items were collected, they should be DNA tested to determine whether individuals other than Steven Todd and Donald Glenn Pearce may have been involved with the Medina Burglary. Mr. Peterson has made a prima facie showing as to Items 13 and 14 and has therefore met this pleading requirement.

# 6. Section 1405(d)(1)(F): Prior DNA Motions

#### 5. Section 1405(d)(1)(E): Results from Prior DNA Testing

Three items were previously DNA tested, for which Mr. Peterson seeks further testing: the duct tape from Laci's pant (Item 9) and the bloodstained fabric from the mattress found in the orange van (Items 1 and 2). The prior testing revealed the presence of human DNA on those items of evidence but the results were insufficient to provide a genetic profile.

Regarding the tape from the pants, the prosecution contends that because a profile was not obtained in 2003, one cannot be obtained now, without citing to any legal or scientific authority. (Opp'n. at p. 229.) The Court should reject that argument outright. The prosecution's argument that Mr. Peterson's DNA expert's opinion that testing using current technology "may reveal" results is "hardly sufficient to meet the burden required here," should also be dismissed by the Court. No one can state with certainty what DNA testing will reveal, as the prosecution knows; that is the whole point of conducting the testing. No credible expert would pretend to know with certainty whether DNA testing will provide favorable results, or any results at all. In addition, Mr. Peterson's burden is to make a prima facie showing, which he has done with respect to Item 9.

The prosecution's argument that "the prior DNA testing has eliminated any possibility of any connection" between the mattress in the van and this case is wrong. (Opp'n. at p. 228.) The prosecution misstates the DNA test results related to the "cloth from the mattress" that was found in the stolen orange van. While the DNA quantitation results suggest that the DNA obtained was male, the samplings represented only a small percentage of the surface area of the items. The analyst concluded that "it cannot be determined whether blood is present . . . nor can it be determined whether the trace amounts of recovered male DNA come from the staining on the fabric specimen." (Exh. 13F.) The prior testing involved only very small samples cut from the fabric, and as explained in the DNA Motion, no DNA "profile" was obtained. (DNA Motion at pp. 22, 132–133.) A profile is obtained when DNA is subjected to DNA typing procedures. No typing was performed during the prior testing. Mr. Peterson is requesting that the entire surface area of both the fabric samples be examined for the presence of DNA. If any DNA from Laci or male baby Conner is found on those cuttings, an irrefutable connection will be made.

The prosecution correctly notes that Mr. Peterson filed a motion for DNA testing in 2013 pursuant to section 1405. The evidence tested in 2013 is not at issue in this motion. Mr. Peterson has met this pleading requirement.

#### II. MR. PETERSON HAS COMPLIED WITH SECTION 1405(g)

For the Court's ease of reference, the table below summarizes the parties' positions as to section 1405(g)'s proof requirements.

Pleading Standard	Prosecution's Position	Peterson Reply	
1405(g)(1)-(2) Availability; Chain of Custody	Standard met. (Opp'n. at pp. 229–232.)	Court should Order discovery, section 1405(c).	
1405(g)(3) Identity of Perpetrator	<b>Position is unclear.</b> See 1405(d)(1)(B) ( <i>Id.</i> at p. 232)	Standard met: defense at trial was third party culpability; the evidence was not "overwhelming"; and, prosecution has not refuted the numerous investigative failures counsel has identified supporting third party culpability.	
1405(g)(4)-(5) Reasonable Probability	Standard not met (Id.at 226.)  No "new evidence"  Richardson  D.M.  Hearsay	New evidence not required under the statute.  Richardson supports granting this motion,  Evidence is admissible.	
1405(g)(6) Reasonable Probability	Standard not met. ( <i>Id.</i> at 283.)  Admits most items not previously tested.  Items 1-4: not related to this case.  Item 9: "required proof has not been submitted by the defense."	Items 1-4 are related: prosecution stipulated to testing in 2019; MPD case files show the investigation was related to Peterson case Item 9: foreign DNA on the tape from Laci's pants would result in a more favorable outcome	
1405(g)(7) 1405(g)(8) Prior motions	Standard met. (Id.) Standard met. (Id.)	Standard met. Standard met.	

A. 1405(g)(1)-(2): The Court Should Direct the Prosecution to Provide the Requested Discovery Related to the Chain of Custody and Status of Evidence pursuant to Penal Code 1405(c)

Under 1405(g)(1)-(2), the Court shall grant the motion if the evidence to be tested is available and in a condition that would permit the DNA testing requested in the motion and has been subject

altered in any material aspect.

to a chain of custody sufficient to establish it has not been substituted, tampered with, replaced, or

In the instant DNA Motion, Mr. Peterson asked the Court to order the prosecution to provide evidence and chain of custody logs specifically for the fourteen items that are the subject of this motion, which is provided for under Pen. Code section 1405(c). (DNA Motion at pp. 119–120.) As the Court is aware, Mr. Peterson also asked the prosecution to provide all current evidence and chain of custody logs in a formal discovery motion filed on January 17, 2024. That motion has not yet been briefed or argued.

The prosecution argues in its opposition that the Court should deny this motion because "[t]he defense fails to establish by competent evidence that these items actually even exist much less that they are still available and in a condition that would allow DNA testing." (Opp'n. at p. 230.) The prosecution also argues, summarily, that the Court should not order that discovery be provided because "there is no valid reason for DNA testing of any of the requested items." (Opp'n. at pp. 283–284.) The Court should reject those disingenuous arguments, which are unsupported by any authorities, and order the prosecution to provide the discovery requested in the DNA Motion.

The prosecution *knows* Mr. Peterson does not have access to current evidence and chain of custody logs; that is why he is requesting copies of those items in the two motions before the Court. The prosecution has also admittedly already searched its evidence and chain of custody logs and determined that Items 13 and 14 in the motion are *not* in evidence, because they were never collected by police. <sup>19</sup> (Opp'n. at p. 193 ["The Modesto Police Department property and evidence logs from the case do not indicate that the glove or hammer was collected during the investigation."].) Therefore, the prosecution knows and could easily state which items are in evidence and may be available for testing. Presumably, Items 1 through 12 are available as it is difficult to believe the prosecution searched the MPD property and evidence logs *only* for Items 13 and 14, and found they were never collected, and did not *also* review those logs for Items 1 through 12 to determine whether

Items 13 and 14 are the work glove and hammer found in the Medinas' master bedroom at 516 Covena Avenue, which Susan Medina pointed out to MPD investigators were items of evidence that should be collected because they were handled by whoever burglarized their home on December 24–26, 2002.

those items are in custody and available for testing as well. If any of Items 1 through 12 are not in evidence, the prosecution would undoubtedly have included that information in its Opposition, as it did with Items 13 and 14.

The assertion that Mr. Peterson "has the ability to locate, document and establish the circumstances required to be proved by this code section when they so choose" and that "the failure of [Mr. Peterson] to do so with the other remaining items must be taken as an admission that they cannot meet their burden for this point," is wrong. (Opp'n. at p. 231, fn 123.) As stated *supra*, the *only* reason Mr. Peterson knows anything at all about the chain of custody for the mattress fabric from the former Cal Trans orange van is because after years of suppressing that evidence from the defense, Mr. Peterson was finally able to get the prosecution to produce that evidence in 2016, after an investigative journalist discovered there was evidence that was not provided to the defense and after defense counsel made multiple requests that the discovery be turned over.

The burden on the prosecution to provide the requested discovery, which concerns no more than 14 items, is *de minimus*, particularly given that it has already undertaken the exercise of searching for those records as evidenced in its own Opposition.

The prosecution's contention that the Court should not direct them to provide Mr. Peterson with the discovery he seeks under Pen. Code section 1405(c) is untenable. Mr. Peterson has no access to law enforcement files; there is no avenue for him to learn about the availability of evidence other than for the prosecution to provide him with that information. The prosecution knows this. And yet, they contend that Mr. Peterson has the burden of knowing what the current chain of custody is for these items of evidence. The Court should order the prosecution to provide the requested discovery. A proposed order is filed concurrently herewith.

Finally, the prosecution's statement that "[t]he defense has known since 2002/2003 that the evidence in this unrelated case [referring to the Medina burglary case] was not kept," could not be further from the truth. (Opp'n. at p. 286.) The only destruction notification the defense has been provided with is for the destruction of the Medinas' safe.

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(Bates 38941.) Mr. Peterson cannot account for the current status of the remaining evidence collected during the investigation of the Medina burglary.

#### B. 1405(g)(3): The Identity Of The Perpetrator

Mr. Peterson has met this standard. In addition to the arguments set forth above under section 1405(d)(1)(B), Mr. Peterson offers the following proof that the identity of the perpetrator was in question and in response to the prosecution's argument that the circumstantial evidence against him at trial was "overwhelming."

#### 1. The Boat was Not a "Secret"; Laci Knew About It

Mr. Peterson told police that Laci knew about the boat. (RT 18415.) Supporting his statement, Det. Brocchini learned on August 13, 2003, from a business owner whose warehouse was near Mr. Peterson's, that Laci had been at Scott's warehouse office where their boat was stored just

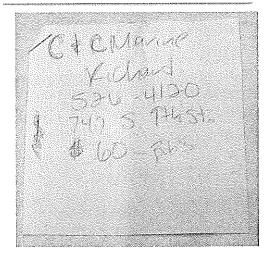
narrative that Laci did not know about the boat, to support the theory that Mr. Peterson was carefully planning to murder his wife and put her body in the bay. Prosecutor Rick Distaso told the jury in his opening statement, "You're also going to hear that not a single soul knew the defendant bought a boat." (RT 8496.)

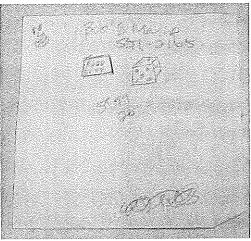
At trial, however, Det. Brocchini got caught on cross-examination and had to admit that he excised information from his police report that Laci had been at the warehouse where the boat was stored the week before she went missing. (RT 11195.) After that, Det. Grogan testified that, based on the evidence, Laci possibly knew about the boat. (RT 18415.) DDA Distaso nevertheless told the jury again in his closing argument that the boat was a "secret purchase." (RT 20295.) It is a narrative the prosecution continues to push, citing to this closing argument in their Opposition by stating that "the boat was a secret," and then asserting with no citation that "Laci had never seen it." (Opp'n at p. 208.) They also state that "[t]he boat had been secretly purchased and was kept at his warehouse and the victim did not know about it." (Opp'n. at p. 225, again with no citation.)

And, "Peterson reported he had been fishing in a recently purchased boat, the existence of which he had hidden from everyone." (Opp'n. at p. 2, again with no citation.) These are false statements.

When Mr. Peterson bought the boat from Bruce Peterson (unrelated), Bruce kept his anchors. (RT 12155.) Mr. Peterson told detectives he made the small concrete anchor in his boat out of cement because cement is only \$3 as opposed to spending \$30 for an anchor from a store. (RT 17710-17711.) Det. Grogan confirmed that cement was less than \$3 a bag. (*Ibid.*)

During the December 27, 2002 search of the Peterson home, detectives found handwritten notes in the desk area of the guest room that they labeled "Miscellaneous papers containing phone numbers to C&C Marine and Bob's Marine." (Bates 2129, 2133.)



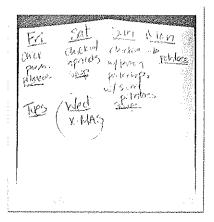


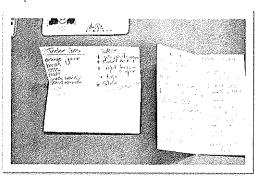
Det. Owen contacted Bob's Maine on December 30, 2002 and asked what they carried that was 20" and cost \$59.99, as indicated by the handwritten note. The employee told Det. Owen that they carried a boat anchor that weighted 20 pounds and would come in right around \$58:

HENDERSON said that he is employed at Bob's Marine. He told me that he didn't know PETERSON. He did see his photo in the news and thinks he has possibly been in the shop before, however unknown when. I asked HENDERSON if he would know what item in his shop would run about \$59.99 and was 20 inches long. HENDERSON had two recommendations:

- #1: A boat anchor that weighed 20 pounds that would come in right around \$58.00.
- #2. A motor toter, which additionally goes for \$56 to \$60. A motor toter is an item that locks the engine in an upward position.

(Bates 1814.) The Petersons had priced out anchors, together, as Mr. Peterson had indicated to Det. Grogan, and Laci had participated in the process, as evidenced by the notes MPD found in their home. Notes written on the same paper, with the same color pen, and with the same handwriting as the shopping lists found in Laci's purse.





(Opp'n. at p. 74.) As the evidence has always indicated, Laci knew about the boat. It was not a secret. It was not until the prosecution filed its Opposition and included a graphic of the notes from Laci's purse that counsel was able to show that the handwriting on the notes related to calling around to price out anchors, was Laci's handwriting.

### 2. Mr. Peterson Never Hid the Fact that he Went Fishing

The prosecution falsely accuses Mr. Peterson of lying, over and over, throughout the Opposition. The prosecution contends that Mr. Peterson said "he had been golfing all day," when the record is clear that he told police immediately when they arrived to help search for his wife that he had gone fishing. (Opp'n. at p. 53 [citing to Harvey Kemple testimony at RT 9362].) The first mention of Mr. Peterson playing golf on December 24, 2002, came when Laci's stepfather, Ron Grantski, called 911 at 5:47 p.m. to report Laci as missing and, in that call, Ron twice states that Mr. Peterson had played golf that day. (Bates 36725-36739.) Ron Grantski then called his cousin, Harvey Kemple, and told him Laci was missing and asked Kemple to meet him at the park. Kemple gathered all the flashlights he had and drove to the tennis courts. (RT 9354-9355.) After talking with Scott and seeing he was distraught, neighbor Amie Krigbaum and her partner Terra Venable, drove to the tennis courts where Amie saw Sharon Rocha and gave her a flashlight. (RT 9523, 9513-9514.)

As another example, they state that when Mr. Peterson told Capt. Boyer that he reported Laci missing around 6:00 p.m. after he called her parents, "This was a lie. The defendant never called 911 to report Laci was missing." (Opp'n at p. 89, fn. 59.) Mr. Peterson in fact *did* call 911 at 6:10 p.m. PST, just as he told Capt. Boyer, just before officers arrived at the tennis courts in the park. (RT 15043, 9999.)

Officer Letsinger testified that when he arrived at the park, he saw "Scott Peterson with a flashlight looking" around park, [RT 9833-9834], and yet the prosecution falsely states in its Opposition that "the defendant remained at the house and did not attempt to search for Laci in the park." (Opp'n. At p. 53.) It was not until around 8:00 p.m., over two hours after Ron Grantski called 911, that he learned from Mr. Peterson that he had not golfed that day, but that he had in fact, been fishing. (RT 9845-9846.) Sharon Rocha would later tell the police that she assumed Scott was golfing and she relayed that information to Ron. (Bates 27154-27155.)

Sharon said that when Scott Peterson called her on 12/24/03 to tell her that Laci was missing, he told Sharon that he had just gotten home. Scott didn't say where he had been, however Sharon assumed he had been golfing because that would be normal for him. Sharon can't remember at this time whether Scott said he had been gone all day or not.

It was during these initial hours of confusion that three people, Harvey Kemple, Amie Krigbaum, and Terra Venable, all of whom had early interactions with Ron and Sharon, describe being told that Mr. Peterson had played golf that day. As evidenced by what MPD collected the evening of December 24, Mr. Peterson never lied about going fishing, he told police immediately exactly where he had been all day.

The prosecution's case only holds water if they are permitted to mischaracterize and overstate the evidence in the record. It is unfortunate that the prosecution continues to push its false narrative that Mr. Peterson bought a "secret boat," and that he lied to police throughout the investigation about his activities on December 24, the day his wife disappeared. There simply was not "overwhelming

circumstantial evidence" presented to the jury at trial as to whether the identity of the perpetrator was an issue in the case.

C. 1405(g)(4): Mr. Peterson Has Made A Prima Facie Showing That The Evidence Sought To Be Tested Is Material To The Issue Of The Convicted Person's Identity As The Perpetrator

Mr. Peterson has met this standard. See above.

D. 1405(g)(5): The requested DNA testing results would raise a reasonable probability that, in light of all the evidence, the convicted person's verdict or sentence would have been more favorable if the results of DNA testing had been available at the time of conviction.

The prosecution contends that the instant motion should be denied because Mr. Peterson "cannot show that, in light of all of the evidence, any results coming from further testing would yield or raise a 'reasonable probability that...the convicted person's verdict or sentence would have been more favorable if the results of the DNA testing had been available at the time of the conviction." (Opp'n at p. 223 [quoting *Superior Court*, *supra*, at pp. 1049-1050].) For the reasons laid out *infra*, the prosecution misreads the law.

As discussed in depth in the instant motion, trial courts should liberally apply the "reasonable probability" standard to permit testing in questionable cases. (DNA Motion at p. 129.) The court's task is not to speculate about what the results of DNA testing would be but instead to decide whether a result favorable to defendant could reasonably have impacted the outcome. (*Jointer v. Superior Court* (2013) 217 Cal. App. 4th 759.) "In an entirely circumstantial case in which no murder weapon was found, no time or even date of death was established, the cause and manner of death were never established, and there were no eyewitnesses implicating Mr. Peterson, the jury convicted him almost entirely on conjecture over a possible motive." (DNA Motion at p. 130.)

The DNA testing requested herein could provide evidence that (i) Laci Peterson was present in the back of the van and identify the genetic profile of the individual or individuals who abducted and killed her; (ii) reveals DNA belonging to a third party on items of evidence collected on or near Laci and Conner showing that Mr. Peterson was not the person who handled or disposed of their

bodies in the bay; or (iii) establishes that there were more than two participants (Todd and Pearce) in the Medina burglary, supporting the evidence presented in the instant motion that the burglars encountered Laci Peterson and had motive to ensure she did not report their crimes to the police. Had the results of DNA testing on any of the requested items of evidence been available at the time of conviction, there is more than a reasonable chance that Mr. Peterson's verdict or sentence would have been more favorable. Mr. Peterson has met this standard; he is entitled to develop this potentially exculpatory evidence.

### E. 1405(g)(6)

- (A) The prosecution concedes that "most of the items have not been previously tested." (Opp'n, at p. 283.) Mr. Peterson has met this requirement.
- (B) The prosecution contends that "this section controls only the tape found on Laci's pants since the People have demonstrated that the items in the orange van have no connection with this case." (Id.) The prosecution further asserts that "[t]he required proof has not been submitted by the defense as articulated above." Mr. Peterson has shown that as to the items that have been previously tested (Items 1, 2 and 9), "the requested DNA test would provide results that are reasonably more discriminating and probative of the identity of the perpetrator or accomplice or have a reasonable probability of contradicting prior test results" as to those items. Mr. Peterson has met this requirement.

#### F. 1405(g)(7)

The prosecution agrees that Mr. Peterson's "expert has generally identified the requested DNA testing methods that might be used." (*Id.*) To the extent the prosecution asserts Mr. Peterson's expert is vague because he cannot predict the outcome of DNA testing, that argument is unavailing. Mr. Peterson has met this requirement.

#### G. 1405(g)(8)

The prosecution does not contend that Mr. Peterson has brought this motion for the purpose of delay. Mr. Peterson has met this requirement. (*Id.*)

\* \* \*

Mr. Peterson has met the proof requirements of section 1405(g). The Court must grant the motion.

# III. THE PROSECUTION'S ARGUMENTS ARE UNSUPPORTED BY THE AUTHORITIES

Penal Code section 1405 does not have a statute of limitations.

# A. Mr. Peterson Has a Statutory Right to Request DNA Testing Under Section 1405

The prosecution's argument that "there is no constitutional entitlement to post-conviction DNA testing because no substantive constitutional right is implicated," does not require much in the way of a response because Mr. Peterson is requesting DNA testing of physical items of evidence pursuant to his statutory right under section 1405; he has not asserted that the instant motion is brought pursuant to a constitutional right.

The prosecution's attempt to raise the specter of "contamination" of the evidence occurring, should the Court grant this motion, is unavailing. (Opp'n. at p. 202 ["Justice Alito also identified the State's 'important interests in maintaining the integrity of its evidence and the risks associated with evidence contamination increase every time someone attempts to extract DNA from a sample." ] [citing District Attorney's Office for Third Judicial Dist. V. Osborne (2009) 557 U.S. 52, 82].) The sentence from the J. Butler textbook the prosecution cites is actually followed in that textbook by an important sentence that gives context: "For this reason, laboratories usually process the evidence samples at separate times and sometimes even different locations from the reference samples." (Osborne, supra, 557 U.S. at p. 82.) Justice Alito's example is actually then referring to the possibility of contaminating DNA from questioned samples with DNA from reference samples. That concern goes away if they are extracted separately, which is how SERI, the lab Mr. Peterson will use, conducts extractions. Moreover, even if a DNA extract were to become contaminated during the extraction process, that would occur after the evidence is sampled, so original evidence itself is not contaminated.

# B. Marsy's Law Does Not Apply to Post-Conviction Motions For DNA Testing

The prosecution argues that Marsy's Law provides a constitutional guarantee of "finality" to victims and their family members, which trumps Mr. Peterson's statutory right to seek post-

conviction discovery and DNA testing by way of the motions pending before the Court. (Opp'n. at pp. 213–217.) The prosecution misreads the law and has provided no authorities supporting its position.<sup>20</sup>

The prosecution's argument boils down to this: Marsy's Law should be read as prohibiting a post-conviction investigation into a claim of actual innocence because the "finality" of a conviction is of paramount importance—more important than an investigation into a claim of actual innocence—because it provides "some measure of finality to the trauma inflicted upon the [victims' families] by their wrongdoers." (Opp'n. at p. 215.) Apart from the fact that there are no legal authorities supporting that argument, there is the troubling fact that, to date, 3,512 individuals have been exonerated in the United States, with 597 of those documented cases involving individuals who were exonerated through post-conviction DNA testing. In all but a handful of those cases, the convictions were affirmed on appeal and deemed "final." But they were only "final" right up until the point where they were overturned. See National Registry of Exonerations, A Project of the University Of California Irvine Newkirk Center For Science & Society, University Of Michigan Law School & Michigan State University College Of Law (hereafter "National Registry"), available at: https://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Pages/about.aspx (last checked April 25, 2024.)

Relying on *Santos v. Brown* (2015) 238 Cal.App.4th 398, the prosecution argues that "Marsy's Law clearly demands a broad interpretation protective of victims' rights," [*id.* at p. 418] and that "an individual right of the victim provided by Marsy's Law guarantees, inter alia, 'a prompt and final conclusion of the case and any related post-judgment proceedings." (Cal. Const. art. I, § 28(b)(9).) That argument is unavailing.

As the court explained in *People v. Lamoureux* (2019) 42 Cal. App. 5th 241, 264: "Marsy's Law amended article I, section 28 of the California Constitution and provisions of the Penal Code to strengthen a 'broad spectrum of victims' rights . . . .' (*People v. Gross* (2015) 238 Cal.App.4th 1313, 1317, 1318.) To name a few illustrative examples, it guaranteed victims a right to seek and secure restitution from convicted defendants (Cal. Const., art. I, § 28, subd. (b)(13)); increased the amount of time between parole hearings for convicted defendants (Pen. Code, § 3041.5); and afforded victims a right to prevent the disclosure to the defendant, or persons acting on the defendant's behalf, of privileged or confidential information (Cal. Const., art. I, § 28, subd. (b)(4))."

Had the Stanislaus County District Attorney agreed to provide the requested discovery informally and stipulated to the requested DNA testing, the Rocha and Peterson families would both have been spared further publicity surrounding these proceedings. Given the prosecution's certainty that Mr. Peterson is guilty, they should have no reason to oppose his efforts to conduct further investigation and provide him with the discovery and further DNA testing he seeks.

In Santos, the San Diego County District Attorney (SDCDA) and others filed suit to challenge Governor Schwarzenegger's commutation of a prison sentence of defendant Esteban Nunez from 16 years to seven years under the Governor's executive clemency authority. (Santos, 238 Cal.App.4th at p. 404.) The SDCDA argued that the commutation was unconstitutional because "Marsy's Law broadly mandates notice to victims and an opportunity to be heard at 'parole or other post-conviction release proceedings' before prisoners obtain early release from prison," and the victims were not notified about the commutation. (Id. [citing Cal. Const., art. I, § 28, subd. (b)(7)].) The Court of Appeal upheld the trial court's ruling and rejected the prosecutors' argument that Marsy's Law prohibits a Governor from granting a commutation under their executive clemency power because Marsy's Law amended parole statutes to specify notice to victims and opportunity to be heard; it did not amend executive elemency statutes.<sup>22</sup> (Id.; see also In re Vicks (2013) 56 Cal. 4th 274, 282 [holding that the parole board's determination not to hold a new parole hearing within five years of denying parole, pursuant to Marsy's Law, was not a "critical stage of criminal proceedings"].) Vicks is yet another "parole" case the prosecution incorrectly relies on to support of its argument that Marsy's Law prohibits post-conviction DNA testing pursuant to Pen Code section 1405. Neither Santos nor Vicks offers any support to the prosecution's argument.

Moreover, the prosecution fails to address *Lamoureux*, a more recent case in which the Court of Appeal rejected the same argument the prosecution raises here, i.e., that Marsy's Law is intended to promote "finality" and therefore impedes or prohibits any number of post-conviction motions, even those unrelated to early release from prison. (*Lamoureux*, 42 Cal. App. 5th at pp. 264-265.) The Court of Appeal upheld the constitutionality of S.B 1437 and further held that the "resentencing provision of Senate Bill 1437 does not contravene separation of powers principles or violate the rights of crime victims," i.e., Marsy's Law. (*Id.*) While "Marsy's Law established a victim's right to a 'prompt and final conclusion' to post-judgment proceedings. . . it did not foreclose post-judgment proceedings altogether. On the contrary, it expressly contemplated the availability of such post-

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After Nunez's sentence was commuted, the Legislature enacted section 4805, mandating notice to the district attorney of "commutation" applications and reasonable effort by the district attorney to notify victims, who may submit to the Governor a recommendation for or against commutation. (*Id.*)

judgment proceedings, including in section 28, subdivision (b)(7) of the Constitution, which affords victims a right to reasonable notice of 'parole [and] other post-conviction release proceedings,' and in subdivision (b)(8), which grants victims a right to be heard at 'post-conviction release decision[s] ...." (Id.)

The prosecution also relies on *Edwards v. Vannoy* (2021) 593 U.S. 255, *Prost v. Anderson* (10th Cir. 2011) 636 F.3d 578, and *Herrera v. Collins* (1993) 506 U.S. 390, as support for the proposition that this Court should deny Mr. Peterson's motion for DNA testing because "at *some* point a criminal conviction reaches an end, a conclusion, a termination." (Opp'n. at pp. 213–214.) But none of those cases stands for that proposition, nor do their holdings apply to the issue before this Court.

In Edwards v. Vannoy (2021) 593 U.S. 255 [cited at Opp'n. pp. 213–214], the issue was whether the Supreme Court's decision a year earlier, in Ramos v. Louisiana (2020) 140 S.Ct. 1390, applied retroactively to create a cognizable federal habeas claim by a petitioner challenging a state criminal conviction in federal court on collateral review, under the federal habeas statutes. In Ramos, the Court held that Louisiana's criminal procedural rule allowing convictions in serious felony cases by non-unanimous jury verdicts violated the Sixth Amendment right to a trial by an impartial jury. In Edwards, the Court held that the ruling in Ramos applied to all cases pending in trial courts and on direct appeal, but it did not apply retroactively to state convictions that were already final, where a petitioner is seeking federal habeas review. (Edwards, 593 U.S. at p. 276.)

In *Herrera v. Collins* (1993) 506 U.S. 390, the Supreme Court explained that federal habeas jurisprudence does not cast "a blind eye toward innocence," and that even a petitioner who raises a claim in a successive writ "may have his federal constitutional claim considered on the merits if he makes a proper showing of actual innocence. This rule, or fundamental miscarriage of justice exception, is grounded in the 'equitable discretion' of habeas courts to see that federal constitutional errors do not result in the incarceration of innocent persons." (*Id.* at p. 404.)

These proceedings are not federal habeas proceedings. The authorities the prosecution relies on are inapposite. Mr. Peterson has filed a motion for DNA testing of certain items of physical evidence and a post-conviction discovery motion pending in this trial court. These motions are

 integral to his counsel's investigation into the claims he has raised in the pro se petition for a writ of habeas corpus he filed, which is pending in the California court of Appeal. Penal Code section 1473 (a) provides that individuals "unlawfully imprisoned or restrained of their liberty, under any pretense, may prosecute a writ of habeas corpus to inquire into the cause of the imprisonment or restraint." (Pen. Code §1473, subd. (a).)

To the extent the prosecution blames Mr. Peterson for the fact that his case is still in litigation twenty years after he was convicted in 2004, that argument has no merit. (Opp'n at p. 216.) Mr. Peterson spent fifteen years wrongfully incarcerated on California's death row serving an unconstitutional death sentence, while he waited for the California Supreme Court to decide his appeal. Finally, in 2020, the Court overturned the death sentence on the ground that it was based on jury selection procedures that did not comport with the U.S. Constitution.<sup>23</sup> The fact that the Supreme Court required decades to resolve direct appeals and habeas petitions in capital cases at the time Mr. Peterson's appeal and petition were pending has been the subject of extensive study and debate.<sup>24</sup> It is absurd to suggest that Mr. Peterson is responsible for the decades-long delay he experienced while waiting for the courts to address and resolve his direct appeal and concurrently filed habeas petition. If anyone would like the wheels of justice to turn faster than they are, it is Mr. Peterson.

The prosecution's reliance on *In re Kinnamon* (2005) 133 Cal.App.4th 316, also misses the mark. In that case, the Court of Appeal vacated the trial court's order denying the petitioner's request for appointment of counsel under section 1405 because the petitioner he had met the criteria under the statute as it was amended in 2001 by Senate Bill No. 83. (*Id.* at pp. 320–321.) Prior to the

Mr. Geragos cautioned the trial judge repeatedly throughout jury selection that he was not following the law when he excused jurors based on their views concerning the death penalty without first attempting to rehabilitate them; the prosecutors sat there and let it happen.

See e.g., Judge Arthur L. Alarcón & Paula M. Mitchell, Executing the Will of the Voters?: A Roadmap to Mend or End the California Legislature's Multi-Billion-Dollar Death Penalty Debacle, 44 Loy. L.A. L. Rev. S41, S82–S85 (2011) [explaining that, as of October 26, 2010, there were 356 direct appeals from judgments of death pending before the California Supreme Court, of which 80 had been fully briefed and were awaiting oral argument while the Court issued final opinions in only 23 such cases in 2010, and that "[d]espite the best efforts of the California Supreme Court, there is no indication that it will see an end to the backlog in post-conviction proceedings in capital cases in the near future [because] [t]he influx of new death sentences handed down each year outpaces the rate at which appellate counsel is appointed to represent inmates already on death row]; available at: https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/llr/vol44/iss0/1.

amendment in 2001, section 1405 required the court to "appoint counsel for the convicted person who brings a motion under this section if that person is indigent." (*Id.*, former subd. (c).) In other words, prior to the amendment, the indigent person had to file the DNA motion pro se, and then request counsel, whereas after the 2001 amendment, the statute provided that an indigent convicted person is entitled to the appointment of counsel to assist in preparing a motion for DNA testing. (*Id.* at pp. 320–322 [explaining that "the staff of the Senate Committee on Public Safety state[d]: "The purpose of this bill is to allow for the appointment of counsel prior to the filing of a motion for post-conviction DNA testing ... [citations omitted] because it 'has become apparent since the bill took effect on January 1, 2001 is that it would be more efficient and equitable to appoint counsel at an earlier point in the process since many inmates do not have the ability to adequately file motions" and "appointment of counsel before during and after the motion is filed [would help ensure] valid claims are not dismissed because an indigent person did not have the ability to file a proper motion" and "also help reduce the court's time because it is less likely that incomplete or frivolous motions will be filed."].)

The lengthy quote lifted from *Kinnamon* that is on pages 216–217 of the Opposition, is not part of the Court of Appeal's ruling; it is dicta. (Opp'n. at pp. 216–217.) In a section entitled: "A Suggestion to the Legislature," the Court of Appeal expressed a concern that the language of the amended statute was "too broad," in the sense that even a person convicted of forgery, for example, or another crime that had "nothing to do with blood, hair, or the like," would be entitled to the appointment of counsel and "[t]he lax statutory standard will result in a wasteful expenditure of time and money where appointed counsel does not file a motion because it is not 'appropriate.'" (*Kinnamon*, at pp. 323–324.) The legislature did not take the court up on its "Suggestion," nor are the concerns articulated in the court's dicta relevant to this motion.

Finally, the prosecution asserts that Mr. Peterson's motions for DNA testing and discovery constitute "harassment" and are "a violation of finality in judgment." (Opp'n at p. 217.) Those arguments are not supported by any legal authorities and none have been cited.

## C. Richardson Does Not Support the Prosecution's Position

The prosecution contends that Mr. Peterson's motion should be denied because "he cannot show that, in light of all of the evidence, any results coming from further testing would yield or raise a 'reasonable probability that. . . the convicted person's verdict or sentence would have been more favorable if the results of the DNA testing had been available at the time of the conviction." (Opp'n at p. 223 [quoting *Superior Court*, *supra*, at pp. 1049-1050].) Once again, the prosecution misreads the law.

On April 11, 1992, Charles Richardson was convicted of forcible rape, lewd and lascivious acts on a child under 14, sodomy, and the murder of April Holley. The jury found true felony-murder special circumstances for burglary, rape, sodomy and lewd and lascivious acts on a child under the age of 14. (*People v. Richardson* (2008) 43 Cal. 4th 959, 970–971.) The jury also convicted defendant of residential burglary. The trial court found true additional allegations that defendant had suffered prior convictions for a serious felony and a sex offense. (*Id.*) On September 8, 1992, the jury returned a death verdict for the murder and the trial court sentenced Richardson to death. (*Id.*)

The prosecution's theory was that Richardson and another man, Steven Brown, raped and sodomized 11-year-old April Holley and then drowned her in the bathtub of the trailer where she lived with her mother and older sister, both of whom were absent the night of the murder, and was based on the following evidence:

- (1) Richardson's statement to a witness that April Holley, whom he knew, was alone on the night she was murdered [id. at p. 971];
- (2) Richardson's statements in the immediate aftermath of the murder admitting that he killed the victim [id.];
- (3) Richardson's statements in the immediate aftermath of the murder revealing that he had details about the murder that had not been released to the public [id.];
  - (4) Richardson fled the scene the day after the murder [id.];
- (5) Richardson repeatedly changed his story in statements he made to the police culminating in an admission that he had committed the murder, which he quickly retracted [id.];
  - (6) Richardson's statement to a fellow inmate that he had murdered Holley [id.];

- (7) Evidence that four pubic hairs were found at the crime scene and two were consistent with Richardson's hair [id.]; and,
- (8) Drawings Holley had made for Richardson, identifying him by a nickname she had given him and which were at the Holley's home earlier in the morning on the day she was killed, were recovered from Richardson's bedroom four days after Holley was killed [id.; p. 977];
- (9) Steven Brown's subsequent attempt to commit a similar crime against another victim [id. at p. 971].

On May 24, 2004, after Richardson's conviction was affirmed on appeal, he filed a motion pursuant to Penal Code section 1405 seeking DNA testing of the four pubic hairs that were admitted at trial and about which there was conflicting expert testimony as to whether any of the hairs were consistent with Richardson's hair. (*Richardson v. Superior Court* (2008) 43 Cal. 4th 1040, 1045 [hereafter "Superior Court"] [citing Richardson, supra, 43 Cal.4th at p. 981].)

Richardson argued that he was entitled to an analysis of the four hair samples at issue because the hairs were the only physical evidence connecting him to the crime. (Superior Court, supra, 43 Cal. 4th at p. 1045 [explaining that he argued the testing would "raise a reasonable probability that [his] verdict or sentence would have been more favorable" had such testing been available at the time of his trial].)

The prosecution argued that Richardson failed to satisfy section 1405's requirements that the movant make a prima facie showing of the materiality of the evidence sought to be tested, and had also failed to meet the threshold for reasonable probability. (*Id.* [citing § 1405, subd. (f)(4), (5)].) The prosecution contended that the prima facie case of materiality had not been made because there was "a vast array of other evidence linking him to the murder" and that, even if DNA testing excluded Richardson as a donor, there was no reasonable probability that he would have obtained a more favorable result had the testing been available at the time of his trial. (*Id.*)

The trial court agreed with the prosecution and denied the motion. Richardson filed a petition for writ of mandate or prohibition and the California Supreme Court issued an order to show cause to decide the applicable standard of review of the trial court's ruling on a motion for DNA testing and

to "determine the meaning of the materiality requirement in subdivision (f)(4) and what constitutes a 'reasonable probability' for purposes of subdivision (f)(5) of section 1405." (*Id.* at p. 1046.)

The court upheld the trial court's finding that the hair evidence was, at most, simply one piece of evidence tending to show guilt in a case where the evidence that petitioner was the perpetrator was strong. (*Id.*)

The Supreme Court cautioned, however, that "it is important for the trial court to bear in mind that the question before it is whether the defendant is entitled to develop potentially exculpatory evidence and not whether he or she is entitled to some form of ultimate relief such as the granting of a petition for habeas corpus based on that evidence. As the Ninth Circuit observed in an analogous decision, 'Obtaining post-conviction access to evidence is not habeas relief.' [Citation.] Therefore, the trial court does not, and should not, decide whether, assuming a DNA test result favorable to the defendant, that evidence in and of itself would ultimately require some form of relief from the conviction." (*Id.* at p. 1051.

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The authorities the prosecution relies on are inapposite and unavailing; they do not support the argument that Mr. Peterson has failed to meet the statutory requirements to entitle him to the testing he is requested. The Court must grant the motion.

#### IV. THE PROSECUTION'S EVIDENTIARY OBJECTIONS ARE WITHOUT MERIT

This Court has broad discretion to determine whether the requested DNA testing should be ordered. The statute expressly provides that the court in its discretion may consider any evidence whether or not it was introduced at trial. The statute does not require a movant to present "new" evidence in support of a motion under section 1405, the Court need not make factual findings on the record supporting a decision to grant the instant motion, and any ruling is reviewed under an abuse of discretion standard. (Superior Court, supra, 43 Cal. 4th at 1045, 1053.)

The prosecution has lodged *hundreds* of objections to the declarations Mr. Peterson filed in support of the instant motion. Most of the numerous evidentiary objections the prosecution raises in its Opposition are not supported by any legal authorities. The Court should overrule the prosecution's

objections as set forth below and find that Mr. Peterson has met the statutory requirements and grant this motion.

### A. The Prosecution's "Collateral Estoppel" Objections Must Be Overruled

Citing no legal authorities, the prosecution contends that that Mr. Peterson is "collaterally estopped" from relying on the following evidence filed with the DNA Motion: Exh. 10 [Declaration of Frank Aguilar], Exh. 11 [Declaration of William Mitchell], Exh. 12 [Declaration of Diane Campos], Exh. 20 [Declaration of Dr. Phillipe Jeanty], Exh. 22 [Declaration of Dr. Rusty Feagin], Exh. 23 [Declaration of Mark Geragos], Exh. 24 [Declaration of Grace Wolf], Exh. 28 [Declaration of Carl Jensen], Exh. 31 [Declaration of Shawn Tenbrink], and Exh. 33 [Declaration of Dr. Ralph Cheng].

The prosecution asserts summarily that these declarations were filed in support of a claim or claims raised in "different" proceedings that have "been litigated with a determination against the defendant," so "he is collaterally estopped from using the same materials." That argument has no support in the authorities and the prosecution has cited none.

Once again, the prosecution is wrong on the law.

First, there is no prohibition on a petitioner relying on the same evidence in post-conviction proceedings filed in different courts, raising different issues, in an effort to prove one's innocence.

Second, as the court explained in *People v. Sims* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 468, 485, the doctrine of collateral estoppel does not apply where two proceedings have differing burdens of proof. The prosecution contends that because Mr. Peterson relied on some of these witness declarations in support of the claims he raised in this initial petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the California Supreme Court, he is estopped from relying on them in support of the instant motion. That argument has no merit or support in the authorities. Moreover, the burden a movant has to meet under section 1405, is to make a prima facie showing that the evidence sought to be DNA tested is material to the issue of the convicted person's identity as the perpetrator of the crime. Whereas, to collaterally attack a presumptively final criminal judgment and overturn a conviction by way of a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, a petitioner bears a heavy burden initially to plead sufficient grounds for relief, and then later to prove them. "For purposes of collateral attack, all presumptions favor the truth,

 accuracy, and fairness of the conviction and sentence; defendant thus must undertake the burden of overturning them. Society's interest in the finality of criminal proceedings so demands, and due process is not thereby offended." (*People v. Gonzalez* (1990) 51 Cal.3d 1179, 1260.)

Third, the prosecution has failed to meet its burden of establishing the threshold requirements the California Supreme Court has set forth by showing: (1) the issue sought to be precluded from relitigation must be identical to that decided in a former proceeding; (2) this issue must have been actually litigated in the former proceeding; (3) the issue was necessarily decided in the former proceeding; (4) the decision in the former proceeding must be final and on the merits; and, (5) the party against whom preclusion is sought must be the same as, or in privity with, me party to the former proceeding. (Lucido v. Superior Court (1990) 51 Cal.3d 335, Hernandez v. City of Pomona (2009) 46 Cal. 4th 501, 511.)

The Court must deny all of the prosecution's evidentiary objections based on its novel "collateral estoppel" theory as baseless and without merit.

# B. The Prosecution's "Due Process" Evidentiary Objections are Without Merit

The prosecution next lodges objections to Mr. Peterson's declarations Exhs. 2, 5, 16, 17 and Exh. 19, and evidence submitted therewith on "due process" grounds. The guarantee of the federal due process exists to protect citizens and prevent potential governmental overreach in cases involving fundamental liberty interests. (See *Troxel v. Granville* (2000) 530 U.S. 57, 65 ["We have long recognized that the [Fourteenth] Amendment's Due Process Clause, like its Fifth Amendment counterpart, 'guarantees more than fair process.' The Clause also includes a substantive component that 'provides heightened protection against government interference with certain fundamental rights and liberty interests.""].)

The prosecution's arguments are without merit. The Court must overrule all of those objections.

The ongoing post-conviction investigation in this case has uncovered seven people who have heard admissions about the Medina burglary and Laci's abduction and murder from the same man ("D.M."), over the last ten years. A few of those individuals have signed statements but expressed fear and concern over having their names revealed to law enforcement. (DNA Motion, Exh. 2 [Dec.

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of George Michael Gudgell at ¶33]; DNA Motion, Exh. 16 [Dec. of Jason DeWitt (April 2023) at ¶5]; DNA Motion, Exh. 17 [Dec. of S.T.]; DNA Motion, Exh. 19 [Dec. of K.M.].) Post-conviction counsel's investigation is ongoing.

D.M. has never been named publicly or in any of the discovery provided to Mr. Peterson by the prosecution, increasing the legitimacy of the information that these witnesses have come forward and provided. The ongoing investigation has revealed another witness who recently came forward , whose information may also have originated with D.M. and signed a statement, D first contacted defense investigator (Exh. 4 [Declaration of D Gary Ermoian in 2017, with the information he learned from a co-worker, who told him he had been in county jail with a man who told him that Scott Peterson was innocent and that he was involved in robbing the house across the street from the Petersons. (Id. at  $\P 9$ .) The information D learned from his co-worker is that there were five men who burglarized Medinas' house, three were outside and two were the house. One of the guys was the brother of the guy on the recorded jailhouse learned is that Laci saw them robbing the house and yelled at them call. (Id.) What D and threatened to call the police. As she walked away, one of the men grabbed her from behind and put their hand over her mouth and threw her in the back of a white van. He said they hit her over the head with a rock and the van was later burned. (Id.)

Not only has D.M. made admissions to friends and acquaintances, he has admitted to three additional people, a journalist and a defense investigator, that he not only knows Steven Todd, but that Steven Todd called him from inside the Medina home during the commissioning of the Medina burglary asking for help removing a safe. (Exh. 2 [Dec. of George Michael Gudgell at ¶33]; Exh. 16 [Dec. of Jason DeWitt (December 2023) at ¶12-16].)

D.M.'s name is not necessary to assess the reasonableness of the ongoing investigation, only the circumstances are. Likewise, the actual names of the witnesses are not relevant to the proceedings in this court. Mr. Peterson has a pending Petition before the First District Court of Appeal. It is there that the exhibits with witness names and the identity of D.M. will be considered for the truth of the matter. Currently, that court docket shows an exhibit has "Portions Redacted Under Seal." Removing redactions to the exhibits in this court will result in sealed information becoming known in the other

court, as the exhibits cross reference each other. It is the Court of Appeal that needs to address the disclosure of this information. Here, it is being offered to show the breadth and depth of our ongoing investigation into Mr. Peterson's innocence.

Additionally, the People assert that withholding the names of a suspect or witnesses in Exhibits 17 and 18 "violates the People's Due Process rights" and move to strike the exhibits. The prosecution cites Cal. Const., art. I, § 29 as grounds for its objections, but that article has never been held by any court to be grounds for an evidentiary objection, and the prosecution has cited no authorities in support of its argument.

The criminal justice system, according to the California Constitution, is to "view criminal acts as serious threats to the safety and welfare of the people of California." (Cal. Const. art. I §28(a)(2).) The prosecution concedes that the human DNA on the blood-stained mattress is part of an "unsolved crime," yet contrary to public safety, they are opposing testing. The prosecution opposes DNA testing by arguing finality of justice under §28 of our Constitution (Opp'n at p. 275.), but for the victim in the back of that van, justice has not even begun.

If the prosecution truly cared about rights they would stipulate to the DNA testing.

# C. The Prosecution's Hearsay & Hypnosis Objections are Without Merit

While Mr. Peterson is not required to support this motion with new evidence to be entitled to relief, he presented the Court with information that has been uncovered in his post-conviction investigation thus far, including sworn declarations of witnesses whose evidence he believes supports his claim of innocence, to demonstrate to the Court that this post-conviction investigation is bearing fruit, and that there are additional new leads that are under investigation now which appear to support Mr. Peterson's claim that he did not kill his wife and son.

New exculpatory evidence that was not presented to the jury at Mr. Peterson's trial, including sworn statements by some of the neighborhood eyewitnesses who reported seeing Laci walking in the neighborhood and a suspicious-looking van parked in front of the Medinas' home were submitted in support of the instant motion. The jury did not hear from *any* of the witnesses who reported seeing Laci Peterson walking her dog the morning of December 24, 2002, many of whom have since passed away, including Martha Aguilar, Frank Aguilar, Vivian Mitchell, and William Mitchell. Other

witnesses are still living but they have never provided sworn testimony as to what they observed: Homer Maldonado, Helen Maldonado, Tony Freitas, Diane Jackson. Those witness are living and have provided new evidence that was not presented to the jury. Those witnesses have firsthand knowledge of what they saw and what they reported.

The prosecution's motion to strike Diane Jackson's declaration in its entirety must also be overruled because it is admissible. The prosecution asserts that "it relates to her statement regarding her observation in 2002," and the "trial judge ruled all her post-hypnosis statements are inadmissible pursuant to Evidence Code section 795." The prosecution misreads Ms. Jackson's declaration. It is limited to statements she provided to the police and to a defense investigator prior to the MPD improperly hypnotizing her; she reviewed her prior statements and confirmed that they were accurate in her sworn declaration.

In addition, in an effort to demonstrate the comprehensive and thorough nature of counsel's ongoing investigation, counsel also submitted declarations by George Michael Gudgell, Paige McGrail, Gary Ermoian, Matt Dalton, Carl Jensen, and Jason DeWitt, who have collectively spent decades investigating what went wrong in the original investigation in this case, documenting the various information and evidence uncovered in the course of their investigations, which supports Mr. Peterson's claim that he did not harm his or kill his wife and son and setting forth additional support for Mr. Peterson's contention that additional investigation is needed to determine what happened to Laci and Conner Peterson. (DNA Motion, Exhs. 2, 5, 9, 16, 21, 28, 30.)

The Court should overrule the prosecution's objections to those witnesses' declaration on hearsay grounds because the statements the prosecution objects to as hearsay are admissible, if the Court considers them not for the truth of the matter asserted but as evidence showing the comprehensive nature and reasonableness of post-conviction counsel's investigation into Mr. Peterson's claim of innocence.

As the prosecution has stated, hearsay statements may be admitted for reasons other than for the truth of the matter asserted. In fact, the prosecution's Opposition cites to numerous instances in the trial record where the trial court permitted the prosecution to introduce hearsay statements for purposes of showing the "reasonableness of the officers' conduct and investigation." (Opp'n. at p. 169 [court permitted the jury to hear "a large number of hearsay statements"... "[t]hroughout the course of the prosecution's case-in-chief' since the stated objective was to enable the jury to assess the reasonableness of the police investigation; p. 171 [court permitted Det. Grogan to testify about hearsay statements by Diane Jackson because police had hypnotized her, making her unavailable to testify]; p. 177, fn. 100 ["court permitted Steven Todd's and Glenn Pearce's hearsay statements to come in"].) The Court should overrule the prosecution's objections because the declarations Mr. Peterson presented in support of this motion are admissible if offered to show the Court the comprehensive nature of the post-conviction investigation counsel has undertaken thus far. The Court should overrule the prosecution's objections.<sup>25</sup>

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As Justice Chin explained in his dissent in *Richardson v. Superior Court*, 43 Cal. 4th 1040, 1056–57, the Court should grant the motion and decline to indulge the prosecution's attempt to drag these proceedings out with specious and just plain wrong legal arguments and evidentiary objections that are unsupported by the authorities and based on mischaracterizations of the record:

The Legislature certainly did not intend to require DNA testing routinely in all cases. This is understandable and explains the purpose behind the materiality and reasonable probability requirements. But I also believe the Legislature did not intend to make litigation over whether to conduct testing more time consuming and costly than the testing itself. It must have intended courts to interpret the reasonable probability test in a way that avoids such an absurd result. We should interpret section 1405 in context. As the majority correctly notes (maj. opn., ante, at p. 1051), that section does not involve a determination whether to grant relief on some hypothetical habeas corpus petition after testing, which would require rigorous examination of all the evidence and all the relevant facts, but merely whether to order testing in the first place. Section 1405, subdivision (f)(5)'s reasonable probability test should be interpreted with this in mind.

Moreover, under section 1405 (g)(4), the burden is on the movant to make a prima facie showing that the evidence sought to be DNA tested is material to the issue of the convicted person's identity as the perpetrator of the crime. Prima facie means "simply a sufficient showing of possible merit to warrant a fuller exploration by the [trial] court." (Cooper v. Woodford (9th Cir. 2004) 358 F.3d 1117, 1119 (en banc) [holding that "petitioner made a 'prima facie' case, that is, a sufficient showing of possible merit to warrant a trial court's fuller exploration"] [citing Woratzeck v. Stewart (9th Cir. 1997) 118 F.3d 648, 650 [quoting Bennett v. United States (7th Cir. 1997) 119 F.3d 468, 469].)

The Court can grant the motion based on the evidence and arguments before it without resorting to protracted litigation over the prosecution's hundreds of evidentiary objections. The Court should not permit "litigation over whether to conduct testing [become] more time consuming and costly than the testing itself" and grant the motion without delay. **CONCLUSION** Mr. Peterson respectfully requests that the Court grant this motion without delay and order that the DNA testing he seeks be conducted so that further investigation into the claims set forth in the Petition pending in the Court of Appeal can be conducted. Respectfully sub/mitted, Dated: May 6, 2024 Attorney for Scott Peterson 

# EXHIBIT 1





# Declaration of C He

- I, C H , hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge:
  - 1. I currently reside in Stockton, California. I am married and employed full-time.
- 2. In March 2024, attorneys representing Scott Peterson contacted me and asked if I would speak to them about an event that occurred in 2002, around the time Laci Peterson was reported missing. I agreed to speak with them.
- 3. In December 2002 and early January 2003, I was property years old and living in Modesto, attending high school. I was a senior in high school at the time and I was living with my friend Miguel Management and his grandmother at Tenaya Avenue, in the Airport District.

  Before I started staying with Miguel and his grandmother, I was in the foster care system.
- 4. December 24, 2002 was a school holiday. I rode my bike that morning from Tenaya where I was staying to go see a friend who lived on Scenic Avenue north of La Loma Park. I believe the friend was living at Scenic Drive, Apt. It was mid-morning when I went to go see my friend, probably between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m.
- 5. I rode my bike north toward Covena Avenue so I could cut through the park to get to Scenic. The trail that goes down into the park is at the end of Covena where the street dead ends. When I got to the trail that leads down into the park, I saw a woman wearing black leggings or maybe they were sweats and a white blouse or smock. She was walking a golden retriever toward the park. I believe the woman I saw was Laci Peterson.
- 6. She was heading into the park at the same entrance where I was headed on the north end of Covena. As I was riding my bike down the hill into the park, I passed the woman I believe was Laci and the dog from behind and I startled the dog, causing it to start barking at me.
- 7. I got to my friend's apartment at Scenic Drive, Apt. but I only stayed a short time because one of her parents came back home unexpectedly, I think it was her dad. I wasn't supposed to be there so I left through the backdoor that led to a patio, hopped a small fence, and got back onto my bike that was parked right there against the fence. Exh. A.

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I rode back through the park and came up the same trial from the park that let me 8. out on Covena. I rode my bike south on Covena and saw a white van parked on the street. Exh.

- The van was parked on the east side of Covena facing north toward the park entrance. The rear doors of the van were open and I could see through the van's windshield and through the opened back doors.
- 10. I saw a white man inside the back of the van hitting on or pushing down on something. The man had long hair, I saw two other men standing near the back of the van, one was a tall White man and the other was a shorter Hispanic man, he could have been Mexican. I saw one of the men slam the van door in the back of the van. I didn't think anything of it at the time.
- Three or four days later, I went back to visit the same girl at her apartment at 11. Scenic. I got to her apartment later than usual and she asked me what took me so long. I told her that Covena was blocked off so I couldn't cut across the park and had to take another route that was longer. At that point, I told her about the van I had seen on Covena the morning when Laci went missing. I told her that I thought I saw Laci walking her dog that morning heading into the park. We also talked about news reports saying the house across the street from the Petersons was robbed around the same time Laci disappeared. I told my friend I remembered seeing a white van parked across the street from the Petersons' house that morning and that there were some men standing around it, maybe putting things into the van.
- My friend immediately told her parents about what I had seen and her dad drove 12. both of us to the Modesto Police station so I could report that I saw Laci walking the dog the morning she went missing and also tell the police about the white van I saw.
- I recall that at the time we went to the police station, the cops were still looking for the people responsible for robbing the house across the street from Laci Peterson's house
- because that burglary had not been solved yet. I reall the police announced they

  14. When we arrived at the police station, it was late afternoon or evening. There were caught numerous officers and reporters outside the police station. I got out of the car and approached a the detective or an officer who was heavyset and had a moustache and slicked back hair. I told him, buglars a day or

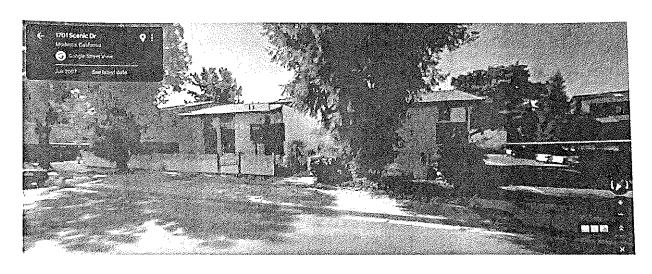
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"Hey, I don't know if this is going to help the search for Laci at all but I remember seeing Laci walking her dog in the park the morning when she went missing," and I also told him about seeing the white van. The officer told me "we got our guy, but thank you," or something to that effect, so we left. He didn't write down any of my information and he didn't give me a card. No one ever contacted me.  $E \times C$ .

- 15. A few weeks later, in early 2003, I moved away from Modesto because a relative who lived out of town was able to take me in. After I moved, I did not follow the coverage of the Laci Peterson case too much because I was focusing on other things.
- 16. I don't remember the name of the girl I visited that morning whose father took me to the police station, or the name of her father. I recall that she had an older sister who was also in high school. I think their father may have worked as a garbage collector.

I have reviewed this declaration in its entirety, and it is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.

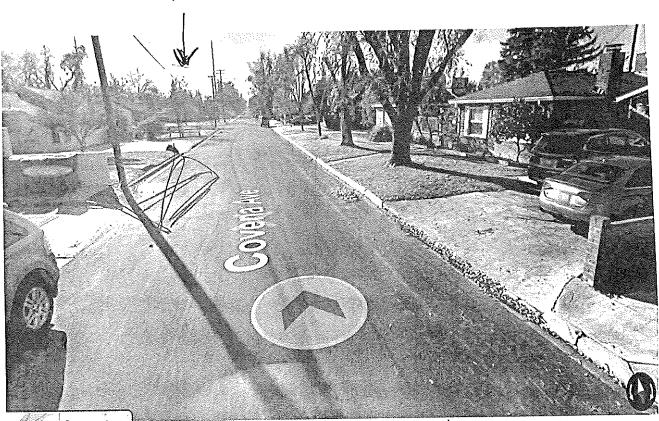
Date



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This is the MPO detective

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# EXHIBIT 2

Declaration of Carl Jensen

### **Declaration of Carl Jensen**

- I, Carl Jensen, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge:
- 1. I am a career criminal investigator with experience working for the U.S. Naval Investigative Service (1979-1983) doing felony investigations for the Department of Navy, with an assignment to a Marine Corps Air Station in El Toro and in Naples, Italy. When I left the U.S. Naval Investigative Service, I worked for Visa International (1983-1988) in the Risk Management Security Division doing world-wide investigations on counterfeit cards and Visa Travelers Checks. In 1988, I left that position and began working for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a Special Agent doing Foreign Counterintelligence. In 1995, following a medical retirement, I worked as a private investigator licensed in the State of California, doing criminal investigations, research and writing.
  - 2. In addition to my own background working in law enforcement, many of my family members, colleagues, and friends also work in law enforcement: one of my brothers worked for the FBI and then retired from the San Jose Police Department for 28 years of service; his son, my nephew, served as an officer in the Oakland Police Department until his retirement; my older brother has a son who currently serves as a lieutenant with the Rockland Police Department; and, my wife has an uncle who served as an officer with the Fullerton Police Department. In 2018, I myself ran for election as Sheriff for Cleveland County, North Carolina, where I currently reside.
    - 3. My curriculum vitae is attached hereto as Exh. A.
  - 4. In January 2004, I was retained by defense counsel Mark Geragos to investigate evidence related to the disappearance and murder of Laci and Conner Peterson and to assist the defense in preparing for the capital trial in the matter of *People v. Scott Peterson*.
  - 5. As part of my investigation, I reviewed discovery the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office provided to the defense at the time of trial, including police reports, tip sheets documenting information called into the Modesto Police Department (MPD) by the public and concerned citizens, and other discovery. I reviewed eyewitness reports and interviews and I also

- examined and photographed items of physical and other evidence collected during the investigation into the disappearance of Laci Petersons.
- 6. In 2004 and 2005, over the course of my investigation into what happened to Laci
  Peterson, I personally interviewed over one hundred witnesses. Some of the individuals I
  interviewed had information that was material to the disappearance and murder of Laci and
  Conner Peterson, but had never been interviewed by the police, based on my review of the police
  reports.
  - 7. I initially focused my investigation on individuals who may have been responsible for or involved in committing the burglary at the home of Rudy and Susan Medina, located at 516 Covena Avenue in Modesto, which I determined occurred beginning on December 24, the day Laci Peterson went missing.

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- 8. In an effort to learn more about when, how, and by whom the Medina burglary 12 was carried out, I interviewed a number of witnesses, including: Susan Medina, Judge Ricardo 13 Cordova, Albert Urquidez, Katie Heinze, Ted Rowlands, Russell Graybill, Donald Glenn Pearce, 14 Gayle Van Zant (mother of Pearce's children), Mary Oakley (grandmother of Steven Todd's 15 children), Melissa McDaniels (the mother of Steven Todd's son, Steven Todd, Jr.), Cliff Koen 16 (Steven Todd, Jr.'s grandfather and Todd's alibi for December 24), Lisa Stringfellow (Steven 17 Todd's sister), Adam Tenbrink, Rayborn Smith, James Romano, Scott Seidel, Aaron T 18 Mindy S, Phyllis Hawkins, Lillian V, Anthony Scarlata, and Lt. Xavier Aponte-. I also 19 interviewed Steven Todd on three separate occasions in 2004, while he was in custody. 20
  - 9. In February 2024, I was contacted by lawyers with the Los Angeles Innocence Project, who informed me that they were investigating the case of *People v. Scott Peterson*. I agreed to speak with them about my involvement with the case.
  - 10. I was asked to provide Mr. Peterson's attorneys with a summary of the evidence I uncovered in my investigation, as well as my views and opinions, based on my training and experience, about the evidence in the case. I was also asked to provide my views and opinions about the Modesto Police Department's investigation into the disappearance of Laci Peterson and the murder of Laci and Conner Peterson, based on my decades of experience as an investigator

and law enforcement officer, and my years as a private investigator working on criminal cases in a variety of contexts. I agreed to do so.

#### SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS BASED ON INVESTIGATION

- My investigation revealed that the Medinas' home was burglarized beginning on December 24, 2002, the day Laci Peterson went missing, and continued into the following day.
- The Modesto Police Department failed to conduct a meaningful investigation into whether the men who pleaded guilty to burglarizing the Medinas' home, or any of their associates, saw Laci Peterson or were involved in her disappearance, or had information about others being involved in her disappearance, or whether anyone involved in the burglary encountered Laci Peterson on that day.
  - 13. Investigators failed to look into Steven Todd's criminal history which included violent acts against women in his life, including assaulting his partner when she was pregnant with their child.
  - 14. According to Steven Todd, MPD investigators who interviewed him on January 2, 2003, when he was arrested for the burglary of the Medinas' home, told him that "they knew [he] didn't do it ... they knew Scott did it, they said they knew [he] didn't do it -- Laci. The evidence was pointing to Scott and they knew he did it and not me." That exchange, if true, indicates the police had already decided that Mr. Peterson was guilty by January 2, 2003, before any forensic testing had been done and before witnesses could be interviewed and the case investigated. That indicates MPD's investigation was driven by confirmation bias or tunnel vision, which results in numerous leads being ignored and overlooked because police are myopically focusing only on one suspect. In this case that suspect was Mr. Peterson.
  - 15. Based on my review of the police reports and my own independent investigation, it is my opinion that throughout the area commonly referred to as the Airport District in Modesto, which is located less than a mile from the Petersons' and Medinas' homes, there was a dangerous, criminal, network of drug dealers, methamphetamine manufacturers, burglars, and others who were regularly arrested for committing serious felonies.

16. Based on eyewitness reports I reviewed, several witnesses reported seeing a van parked in front of the Medinas' home the morning and afternoon of December 24, with three men who were dark-skinned or Hispanic looking, standing near the van. Steven Todd and Donald Glenn Pearce, who pleaded guilty to the burglary, do not fit the physical description provided by the eyewitnesses. I was unable to locate anything in the police reports indicating that the police investigated the other three suspects witnesses reported seeing on December 24.

- 17. Based on my review of the discovery in this case, there were numerous items of evidence that were missing from the materials provided to the defense at the time of trial that appeared to be exculpatory. For example, I found nothing indicating the police investigated the alibi of Steven Todd for December 24, or that they ever looked into his criminal history, which included an assault on his pregnant wife and attempting to run her over with a car, among other violent acts, based on the court records I obtained and reviewed.
  - 18. Based on my investigation, it was my conclusion that the evidence showed that more than two people committed the Medina burglary, that it occurred over December 24 and 25, 2002, and more than two vehicles were used.
- 19. I also found nothing indicating the police collected a pair of sandals that were found lying on Covena Avenue, not far from the Petersons' and Medinas' homes, which fit the description of a pair of Laci's sandals that were missing from her home after she disappeared and which Judge Cordova pointed out to MPD Det. Sebron Banks the morning after Laci disappeared.
- 20. The watch Anthony Scarlata and Deanna Renfro pawned at The Pawn Shop on February 14, 2003, may have been Laci Peterson's missing Croton watch, which the police claim was never located; Anthony Scarlata was not able to rule out the possibility that it was the same watch when I showed him a photo of Laci's missing watch.
- 21. James Romano contacted law enforcement in the summer of 2004, while Mr. Peterson's trial was underway, and provided information he had concerning Laci interrupting and/or confronting the men who committed the Medina burglary. He continued to contact law enforcement over the next few months when felt his information was being ignored, as Mr. Peterson's trial was underway. Romano stated he had made five or six attempts to reach law

- enforcement so he could pass on his information. Mr. Romano's information was not passed on
- to the defense until Mr. Peterson's trial was almost over, on October 21, 2004, so there was no
- time to investigate the information he provided before the defense rested its case.

#### LACI PETERSON DISAPPEARANCE INVESTIGATION: 2004–2005

22. In early 2004, I began searching for evidence that would shed light on what happened to Laci Peterson. After reviewing hundreds of pages of police reports, I located and interviewed numerous witnesses who appeared to have information about the disappearance of Laci Peterson, most of whom police had never interviewed or investigated.

### **Medina Burglary**

- 23. I reviewed the police reports provided to the defense concerning the investigation of the Medina burglary that occurred across the street from the Petersons' home sometime between December 24 and December 26, 2002, and determined that a more in-depth investigation was needed into exactly when that burglary occurred and who may have been involved.
- 24. I reviewed an MPD press release, dated January 3, 2003, telling the public that on January 2, 2003, two men—Steven Todd and Donald Glenn Pearce—had been arrested for committing the Medina burglary, that they cooperated fully, and that the "[i]nvestigation revealed that the burglary occurred on December 26, two days after the disappearance of Laci Peterson." The police also stated: "We have been able to verify the truthfulness of their statements." The press release issued on January 3, 2003, is depicted below.

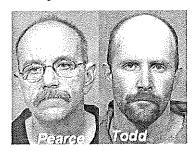




Date Issued: 1/3/2003 Time Issued: 5:00:00 PM Importance: Information Author: Ridenour, Doug Division: Office of the Chief of Police Location: Modesto, CA

#### Covena Burglars Arrested

Modesto, CA - Police Detectives announced that they had two men in custody for the burglary that occurred across the street from Laci Peterson's residence on Covena Avenue in Modesto. On Wednesday, January 2, police received an anonymous tip regarding the burglary that occurred at 516 Covena Avenue. Modesto Police officers and parole agents with the Department of Corrections were able to locate Steven Wayne Todd, 35 years and Donald Glen Pearce, 44 years, both of Modesto. Both men have been arrested and charged with the burglary that occurred at the Covena Avenue address. Modesto Police offered a \$1000 reward to anyone who had information that would lead them to suspects in the burglary that occurred across the street from the home of Laci Peterson. Modesto Police needed to rule out, or link, any connection to the burglary with the disappearance of Laci. Todd and Pearce have both cooperated fully in the burglary investigation and police do not have any reason to believe they are connected to the disappearance of Laci Peterson. "We have been able to verify the truthfulness of their statements," said Detective George Stough, Investigation revealed that the burglary occurred on December 26, two days after the disappearance of Laci Peterson. Police continue their search of Leci and continue to follow-up on all credible leads. Sgt. Ron Cloward, who is leading the search teams stated, "We are continuing to look for Laci and have expanded out search area to outside of Stanislaus County and into adjoining counties." Todd and Pierce are pictured below, with Todd being on the left.



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25. I was unable to locate any police reports in the discovery provided to the defense at the time of trial indicating that police investigated and verified the alibis of Steven Todd and Glen Pearce for December 24, 2002, as the MPD press release stated, so I conducted my own independent investigation into the date the burglary occurred, as well as the alibis and other statements Todd and Pearce gave to police.

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26. My investigation showed that the statements Steven Todd provided to the police on January 2–3, 2003, had false information about material facts and were riddled with inconsistencies. For example, in Todd's initial statement to police upon his arrest on January 2, 2003, he stated that (i) he first noticed that the Medinas' home appeared to be empty on December 25, 2002, (ii) when he was riding his bike home from mother's house after spending Christmas

- with her and (iii) he saw mail sticking out of the mailbox, and, (iv) he returned later to burglarize
- the Medinas' home on December 27, 2002.
- My investigation revealed that all of the above statements Todd provided to the police were false.

# The only day mail was sticking out of the Medina mailbox was the morning of

### December 24

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- On March 27, 2004, I interviewed Susan Medina at her residence. She explained that as they were pulling out of the driveway to go out of town at about 10:30 a.m. on December 24, 2002, her husband Rudy got out of the car and walked over to adjust the outgoing mail because she had set it on top of the mailbox and Rudy told her it had to be placed into the slot with the mail still sticking out of the slot. Mrs. Medina stated that Rudy placed the large manila envelopes she was sending out as part of her business mail into the slot for their mail carrier Russell Graybill to pick up.
- 29. I interviewed USPS letter carrier Russell Graybill, who confirmed that on 14 December 24, 2002, he had the mail route on the Covena Avenue block where the Petersons and 15 the Medinas lived. He recalled the Medinas' had outgoing mail that morning, which he picked 16 up from their security mailbox between 10:35 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.. Mr. Graybill confirmed that 17 the mail sticking out of the Medinas' mailbox was not incoming mail waiting to be collected by 18 residents, but was outgoing mail that the Medinas' customarily left sticking out of the mail slot 19 for pick-up. The letter carrier's electronic data and scans documenting delivery times for the 20 morning of December 24, which I reviewed, show that the Medinas' mail was collected between 21 10:35 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. 22
  - 30. Susan Medina stated that when she returned home on December 26, there was no mail sticking out of their mailbox. In other words, the mail the Medinas left sticking out of their mailbox the morning of December 24 was collected that same day and would not have been visible to Steven Todd, or anyone else riding down Covena Avenue, on December 25, 2002.
- When I interviewed Susan Medina, I asked her to show me what the mailbox looked like when there was outgoing mail sticking out of it. Mrs. Medina showed me the mailbox

which had an outgoing letter sticking out, waiting to be collected by the letter carrier. I photographed the Medinas' mailbox. On August 27, 2004, I interviewed Steven Todd and showed him the photograph of the Medinas' mailbox and asked him if he could identify it as the mailbox he saw at the Medinas' home, albeit with fewer outgoing letters than what he described seeing sticking out of the mailbox when he determined the Medinas were not home. Todd identified the mailbox in the photo I showed him as the same as the Medinas' mailbox. It is picture below.

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# Todd did not ride his bike to his mother's house on Christmas Day

- 32. I interviewed Steven Todd's sister, Lisa Stringfellow, about the events of December 25, 2002, and she stated that on December 25, Christmas Day, she woke Todd up at Glenn Pearce's house at 11 a.m. and drove him to his mother's place at 1905 Hagstrom about noon and that she later took him back and dropped him off later back at Pearce's house sometime after dark.
- 33. According to Stringfellow, Todd did not ride his bike to and from his mother's house on Christmas Day, as he told police. Todd did not see mail sticking out of the Medinas' box while riding his bike on Covena after spending Christmas day at his mother's house, as he told police, because he did not ride his bike down Covena that day as he was going to his mother's

- house, according to Stringfellow. Stringfellow also stated that Todd and Pearce did a lot of burglaries together and that Pearce told her "he would tell police anything just so he won't do time."
- 34. It was my opinion, based on my experience as a criminal investigator, that Ms.

  Stringfellow was forthcoming during her interview and had no reason to lie about having given

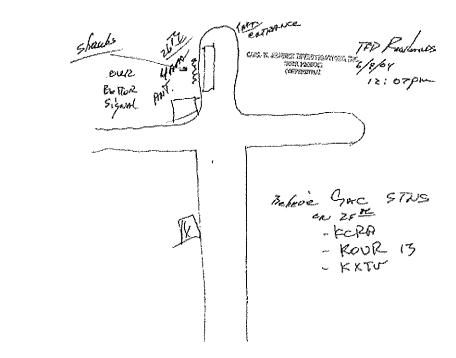
  Todd rides to and from his mother's house on Christmas Day, or about the statement she

  attributed to Mr. Pearce.

#### Todd could not have burglarized the Medinas' home on December 27

- 35. Todd initially told the police he burglarized the Medinas' home on December 27, but the Medinas returned home from their out-of-town holiday trip on December 26, at which time they discovered their home had been burglarized and immediately called the police.
- 36. Todd then changed the date of the burglary and told police that the burglary occurred early in the morning on December 26, i.e., while the Medinas were still out of town and two days after Laci disappeared. According to the police report I reviewed, Pearce told police on January 2, when he was arrested, that Todd woke him up early in the morning on December 26 and asked Pearce to use his mother's car to help him carry away a heavy safe from the Medinas' home and he complied. By January 3, Todd had changed his story and confirmed the date of the burglary to match Pearce's story.
- 37. I interviewed journalist Ted Rowlands on June 9, 2004. He worked for KTVU in San Francisco and was assigned to cover Laci's disappearance. He stated that his equipment was set up at the north end of Covena and the camera was facing south, with the Medina home on the left side of the shot. Rowlands said he was on Covena Avenue by 4:00 a.m. on the morning of December 26, 2002. Rowlands was not on Covena on December 25, but believed there were at least three other television stations out of Sacramento that arrived on Christmas Day. Depicted below is a diagram I drew of the location of Ted Rowland's news van parked at the north end of Covena Avenue near the entrance to the park, with the Peterson's residence

indicated where there is a box with an X in the middle, and some of the notes from my interview with Mr. Rowlands.



38. In my opinion, based on my investigation, the information Todd provided to the police about the date of the burglary occurring on December 26, 2002, was false.

# Todd and Others Burglarized the Medina Home beginning on December 24, 2002

- 39. My investigation revealed that Steven Todd began burglarizing the Medinas' home on December 24, 2002, the day Laci went missing.
- 40. In 2004, I interviewed both Donald Glenn Pearce and Adam Tenbrink. Both men stated to me that that Todd burglarized the Medina home beginning on December 24, 2002.
- 41. When I interviewed Glenn Pearce at his home in Modesto on March 25, 2004, he had already been convicted for his role in the Medina burglary and any sentence he was ordered to serve was finished. He stated that he drove Todd over the Medinas' early in the morning on December 25, not on December 26, as he told police.

- 42. Pearce further stated that, beginning on December 24, Todd had made three or four trips to the Medinas' before seeking Pearce's assistance and that Todd had been bringing tools and other things he was stealing from the Medinas' home into Pearce's house. Pearce did not explain why he told police that he went to the Medinas' home with Todd on December 26, but he did state that when he reported to the Stanislaus County Jail to serve the sentence imposed on him for committing the burglary, he was told he did not need to serve any time.
- 43. It is my opinion, based on my experience as a criminal investigator, that Pearce was forthcoming during his interview with me. Pearce had nothing to gain by stating that the date Todd began burglarizing the Medina home was December 24, and not on December 26, as he told police. Instead, changing the date of the burglary to December 24 was actually a statement against Pearce's penal interests because it contradicted the information police claim he gave to them.
- 44. On April 22, 2004, I interviewed Gayle Van Zant, who informed me that in December 2002, she resided at 1402 Tenaya Drive in Modesto, California, and that Donald Glenn Pearce ("Glenn") was the father of two of her children. She stated that she was aware that in January 2003, Glenn was arrested and charged with being involved with a burglary that occurred on Covena Avenue at the end of December 2002. She recalled that there was a lot of media coverage around that burglary because it happened across the street from where Laci Peterson lived and was reported missing on December 24, 2002.
- 45. Ms. Van Zant stated that in December 2002, Steve Todd was staying at Glenn's place on Tenaya Drive and that she and Steve did not get along because he was "a very violent person." She stated that she had been present when Todd threatened to beat up Glenn and she also saw him grab his own sister, Lisa Stringfellow, by the hair and pull her out the back door of Glenn's house into the alley and beat her. She stated that "nobody gets anything over on Steve. If he is confronted he's going to hurt them." Ms. Van Zant also stated that she heard that Todd beat up his own son's uncle, Melissa McDaniel's brother, and left him in the middle of Yosemite Blvd.

46. Ms. Van Zant stated that Glenn was at her place on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2002, during the early afternoon and that he left around dark. Ms. Van Zant stated that Steve Todd got Glenn out of bed sometime early Christmas morning and got him to help with the burglary at the Medinas' house. Ms. Van Zant stated that Steve Todd ran the burglary and had been inside the house prior to getting Glenn to help him.

- 47. Ms. Van Zant stated that in her opinion, Steve Todd was a bully and "he ran everything" over at Glenn's house when he was staying there. She stated that she believed Todd bullied Glenn into helping him with the burglary of the Medinas' house on Covena Avenue.
- 48. On December 3, 2004, I interviewed Adam Tenbrink. I was aware at the time I interviewed Adam that in January 2003, Adam Tenbrink reportedly had a conversation with his brother, Shawn Tenbrink, while Shawn was incarcerated at Norco State Prison and that the call was recorded, according to Lt. Xavier Aponte, who called the police to report the contents of the conversation. According to Lt. Aponte, in the January 2003 recorded phone call, Adam told Shawn that Steven Todd encountered Laci Peterson while he was committing the burglary.
- 49. In the course of my investigation, I learned that in early 2003, while Laci Peterson was still missing, the MPD investigated the recorded phone call between Shawn and Adam Tenbrink about Laci seeing Todd while he was committing the burglary of the Medinas' home, but did not disclose any police reports to the defense about their investigation. The audiotape recording of the conversation between Shawn and Adam Tenbrink then went missing and it has never been disclosed to the defense, to my knowledge, discussed further below.
- 50. When I interviewed Adam Tenbrink and asked him whether the police had ever interviewed him about the phone call he had with his brother Shawn, I was stunned when Adam told me that no one from the MPD had spoken to him about the call, especially given the relevance and exculpatory nature of the information that was conveyed.
- 51. I later learned that Lt. Aponte reported a second recorded phone call between Shawn Tenbrink and his mother, during which Shawn told his mother to tell Adam to "keep his mouth shut because he didn't know who he was dealing with," or words to that effect. Despite extensive efforts to obtain both of those recorded phone calls between Shawn Tenbrink and his

- brother and mother, and the MPD's investigation into the substance of those calls, neither I nor
   anyone else on the defense team was able to obtain the recordings of the phone calls Lt. Aponte
   reported hearing.
- When I interviewed Adam Tenbrink in December 2004, I asked him what information he had about the Medina burglary. Adam stated that on December 24, 2002, about the time it was getting dark, Todd called and asked him help him "get some stuff out of the house" he was burglarizing and that Adam understood Todd was referring to the Medinas' house.

  Adam stated that he did not go to assist Todd.

- 53. Adam stated that Todd had already burglarized the house several times before he called Adam the evening of December 24, meaning that Todd had entered the Medinas' home earlier in the day on December 24. Adam stated that the following day, December 25, is when Todd asked Pearce to help him with the safe, not on December 26. The information Adam Tenbrink provided me was consistent with what Glenn Pearce stated to me; Todd asked Pearce to help him with the burglary in the early morning hours of December 25, not December 26.
- 54. Adam explained that Todd usually did burglaries by going back and forth on his bike, carrying what he could and sometimes pulling a cart behind the bike. Adam stated that Steven Todd told him he was seen by someone when he was doing the burglary. I provided this information to Mr. Peterson's defense team.
- 55. Further corroborating the information I received from Glenn Pearce and Adam Tenbrink about the burglary occurring on December 24, are the eyewitnesses who reported seeing a suspicious-looking van parked in front of the Medinas' home on December 24, 2002.
- 56. It was my understanding that the police initially believed the burglary was related to Laci's disappearance. Eyewitnesses Diane Jackson, Linda Chilles, and Niniv T. all reported seeing a suspicious-looking van parked in front of the Medinas' home on Covena on December 24.
- 57. My review of the police reports indicated that on December 27, 2002, Ms. Jackson told police she saw "three dark skinned males (not African American) short in stature" standing near an older white van parked in front of the Medinas' home on the morning of December 24,

2002. On December 28, 2002, Ms. Chilles also reported seeing a suspicious looking van parked 1 in front of the Medinas' home with three men standing around it the morning of December 24. 2 Also on December 28, 2002, Niniv T. reported seeing an older white van parked in front of the 3 Medinas' later in the afternoon on December 24, around 2:45 p.m., with three Hispanic males in 4 their 20s or 30s standing near the vehicle. 5 It was further my understanding that, based on those eyewitness reports, on 58. 6 December 31, 2002, the police announced a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the 7 identification of the persons described by the eyewitnesses. The reward flyer was Exhibit NN 8 at trial and is depicted below. 9 10 \$1,000 REWARD 11 for information leading to the 12 identification of the persons who 13 burglarized a residence 14 in the 500 block of Covena between 12-24 and 12-26-2002 15 Guspects: three dark skinned males (not African American) thort in stature 16 an older model full size van tan or light brown in color one or possibly two doors that open at the rear 17 Fec 9mm semi automatic handgun Bezetta ,360 handgun Ryobi drill - bluish green in color Campbell - Hausfeld Pneumatic Tool Yd Canon AE-1 35mm Camern 18

Anyone with information, immediately

Canon men damin canoni Guoci woman's watch Louis Vulton purso Firefyter sad - model FF2600 Numerous items of Jewelry Inc large carats rubles and diamonds

NN

call Modesto PD - 342-6166

- 59. Todd and Pearce were both white males of average height; neither fit the description of the dark skinned males who were short in stature that the witnesses described seeing at the Medina home on December 24.
- 60. After Todd and Pearce admitted to committing the burglary on December 26, the police claimed the burglary was unrelated to Laci Peterson's disappearance and immediately

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- abandoned any search for other possible suspects, including the three men eyewitnesses reported seeing standing near the suspicious looking van that was parked in front of the Medinas' home.
- 61. Based on my investigation, it was my conclusion that the evidence showed that more than two people committed the Medina burglary and more than two vehicles were used.

# Todd Had No Verified Alibi for December 24, 2002, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

- 62. In the January 3, 2003 press release, MPD stated that "the burglary occurred on December 26, two days after the disappearance of Laci Peterson" and that the police were "able to verify the truthfulness of their statements." My investigation found no support for either of those statements.
- 63. It appeared to me that the defense was not being provided with important items of discovery related to the burglary investigation. There were references in the police reports to videotaped interviews with both Todd and Pearce being logged into evidence but I was unable to locate those recorded police interviews to determine whether they contained additional information the two men provided about the burglary.
- 64. I was only able to locate the videotaped polygraph interviews conducted with Todd at approximately 11:30 a.m. on January 3, 2003, and with Pearce at approximately 2:30 p.m., later that day. In my experience, given the high profile nature of the search for Laci Peterson, it is highly unlikely that police failed to record interviews with Todd or Pearce until 18 to 20 hours after they were arrested. And it appears that police did, in fact, conduct recorded interviews of Todd and Pearce on January 2, 2003, which Officer Hicks checked into evidence but, to my knowledge, the defense was not provided with the January 2, 2003 recorded interviews.
- 65. According to the police report I reviewed, when Todd was arrested on January 2, 2003, he immediately stated that "he had nothing to do with 'the woman'," apparently before the police mentioned anything to him about Laci Peterson, An excerpt from the police report I reviewed is below.

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I asked TODD to tell me about a burglary that occurred on Covena Avenue. TODD immediately stated that he would tell me about the burglary, but he had nothing to do with "the woman." When I asked TODD what woman he was talking about, he stated that it was the missing woman with the baby. I again asked TODD to tell me about the burglary and he told me the following.

- 66. I also noted that Todd initially told police, according to the police report I reviewed, that the burglary was on December 27, and Pearce told police it was on December 26. The fact that the two men who pleaded guilty to committing the Medina burglary on or about December 24–26, 2002, could not get their stories straight and agree on which date the burglary occurred prompted me to thoroughly investigate the alibi Todd provided to the police for December 24, 2002, the date Laci went missing.
- 67. Based on the police reports I reviewed, Todd told police he was not on Covena Avenue at all on December 23 or 24, and that "on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2002, he was with Cliff Koen, and went to Christmas shop at Payless about 5:00 p.m." buying shoes for his son, according to the police report I reviewed.
- 68. After interviewing numerous witnesses, I was unable to confirm an alibi for Todd or confirm his whereabouts on December 24, 2002 between the hours of approximately 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- 69. When I interviewed both Steven Todd and Melissa McDaniel (mother of Steven Todd, Jr.), I learned that on the evening of December 23 or morning of December 24, 2002, or both, Todd and McDaniel argued because Todd did not have any money to buy Christmas gifts for their son.
- 70. I reviewed police reports and independently interviewed witnesses who lived near the Petersons' and Medinas' and who reported that on the evening of December 23, a man or men were knocking on doors after 10 p.m., asking for money or casing homes, or both. The man or men these witnesses described generally fit that of Todd and Pearce. I have seen no police

- report establishing the whereabouts of Todd on December 23, 2002, nor was I able to establish
  Todd's whereabouts for the evening of December 23.
- 71. I interviewed Judge Ricardo Cordova and his wife, who lived around the corner from the Petersons and the Medinas. Judge Cordova stated that on December 23, 2002, at about 10:15 or 10:20 p.m., they heard a knock on the door. By the time Cordova answered the door, he saw a man walking away heading toward Covena. The man turned and walked back and told Cordova a story about wanting money to give to his girlfriend or wife whose car had broken down.
  - 72. Cordova told me the event was memorable because in twenty years, he had never had someone come to the door like that, asking for money. The man told Cordova he lived down the street where there was a white station wagon parked. Cordova described the man as being in his late 30s, 5'10", "slight crank looking," wearing a plaid shirt, brown hair. Cordova spoke to the man for two or three minutes. The Cordovas did not give the man any money.
  - 73. I interviewed Albert Urquidez and his friend, Katie Heinze, who also stated that a man had come to their door the night of December 23, 2002, with a story about looking for a lost dog. The man was 5'9", with brownish hair, in his 40s. Urquidez stated that the man said he had just moved in and pointed down the street to the Medinas' house. Urquidez stated that a few days earlier, he caught a man trying to break in to his brother's car. He chased the man away and called the police. When I showed Urquidez and Heinze a photo of Steven Todd, Heinze stated: "that guy looks just like the guy you chased down." Urquidez said that the police had interviewed him but had not shown him any photos.
  - 74. In my interview with Melissa McDaniel, the mother of Todd's son, she stated that on the morning of December 24, 2002, between about 8 a.m. and 9 a.m., Todd was at her home and he again told her he didn't have any money to buy Christmas gifts for their son. McDaniel did not see Todd again until around 3 p.m. that afternoon.
  - 75. I interviewed Lillian V, who called the MPD to report seeing a man riding a bike on Covena Avenue, in front of the Medinas' home, on December 24, 2002, around 10:20

a.m. She described the bike as having saddle bags and stated that the man covered his face and turned away when he passed by her.

- 76. Susan and Rudy Medina stated to me when I interviewed them that at about 10:30 a.m., as they were leaving their driveway and driving away to head out of town, Rudy pointed out a suspicious looking man to Susan, who was slowly riding a bike past their home on the east side of Covena.
- 77. In my opinion, the descriptions given by the all of the residents who reported seeing a suspicious man or men in the neighborhood late on the night of December 23 and after 9 a.m. on December 24 all roughly fit the description of Todd or Pearce. The behavior those witnesses described is consistent with a burglar casing homes to see if anyone is around. And Todd, in fact, told police he was on his bike when he committed the burglary and he pleaded guilty to committing the burglary at the Medinas' home between December 24 and December 26, 2002.
- 78. Based on my review of the police investigation into the Medina burglary, it is my opinion that no effort was made to determine whether Steven Todd or Glenn Pearce were casing the neighborhood where the Medinas lived on the evening of December 23, 2002—the night before Laci Peterson went missing. None of the witnesses I spoke to had been shown photos by police to see if they could identify the suspicious-looking man or men Cordova and Urquidez reported seeing on Covena and Edgebrook Avenues late on the night of December 23, 2002.
- 79. Melissa McDaniel stated that she saw Todd in the morning on December 24 but did not see him again until the evening of December 24, around 3 p.m. She stated that when she saw him he had "tears coming down his face because he didn't have gifts for their son."
- 80. According to Glenn Pearce and Adam Tenbrink, by the afternoon or evening of December 24, Todd had already located the safe the Medinas kept in their home, but he had not yet been able to remove it from the home. Both Pearce and Adam Tenbrink stated that Todd went back to collect the safe the following morning, December 25, using Pearce's mother's car.
- 81. Todd stated in his interviews with me on April 23, 2004, and May 7, 2004, that on December 24, he went to buy a pair of shoes at Wal-Mart or K-Mart in Ceres on Hatch Street,

- and then he changed the story and said he bought shoes at Payless in the evening as "they were
- 2 closing." Cliff Koen stated in my interview with him that he took Todd to buy a three-wheeler
- at K-Mart the day after Christmas, December 26, not on December 24. While reports indicated
- that Todd told police he went to Payless Shoes with Cliff Koen at about 5:00 p.m. on Christmas
- 5 Eve, I could find no reports showing that MPD interviewed Cliff Koen.
  - 82. McDaniel stated that Todd came over Christmas morning, before he went to his mother's house. She stated that he rode over to her house on his bike. I was unable to confirm Todd's whereabouts between the time his reported shopping trip with Koen ended on the night of December 24, and the time he showed up at Melissa McDaniel's on Christmas morning.

# Steven Todd Had a History of Committing Violent Acts Against Women

- 83. During my investigation in 2004, I interviewed Steven Todd three times about his interviews with police related to his arrest for the Medina burglary.
- 84. Todd stated that when he was arrested by the police on January 2, 2003, "they said, [MPD Officer] Hicks, said they knew I didn't do it; I'm just a burglar and dope, meth, weed. . . Hicks and a short cop, maybe Italian, said they knew Scott did it, they said they knew I didn't do it -- Laci. The evidence was pointing to Scott and they knew he did it and not me." I asked Mr. Todd if the police told him what evidence they were referring to and he said, "No." Todd attributed those statements to Officer Hicks or the "short cop, maybe Italian," whom Todd stated may have been Det. Al Brocchini.
  - 85. To my knowledge, the defense was not provided with any audio or video recordings documenting the interview Todd described taking place when he was arrested on January 2, 2003, even though there is a reference to at least one such recording being made and checked into evidence by Officer Hicks.
  - 86. According to Todd, whom the police apparently deemed to be a truthful individual, MPD investigators had concluded as early as January 2, 2003, that Scott Peterson was guilty and responsible for the disappearance of his wife. In other words, before any forensic testing had been conducted and despite the fact that numerous eyewitnesses were calling in and reporting

- seeing Laci walking the dog in the park and in the neighborhood the morning of December 24, at times that were after the time Scott left home for the day.
- 87. In my opinion, Todd's statement, if true, indicates that police had already determined Mr. Peterson's guilt and were letting their hunch about his guilt drive their investigation.
- 88. In addition to the information I received from Ms. Van Zant, who described Todd as "a very violent person," and who witnessed Todd grab his own sister, Lisa Stringfellow, by the hair and pull her out the back door of the house into the alley and beat her, I uncovered additional evidence that flatly contradicted the MPD's assessment that Todd did not have a violent history and therefore, in their opinion, was not involved in Laci's disappearance because he was "just a burglar and dope, meth, weed,"
- 89. On February 5, 2004, as part of my investigation into Steven Todd's background and criminal history, I interviewed Mary Oakley, who explained to me that she was the grandmother of the children Steven Todd had with her daughter, Elizabeth Garcia. Her grandchildren's names are M. Todd and C. Todd. Ms. Oakley confirmed that at the time Todd was living with or near Elizabeth in the 1990s, Todd regularly stole things to buy drugs because he could not hold down a job.
- 90. When I asked Ms. Oakley whether she was aware of any incidents indicating that Todd was capable of physical violence or abuse, she stated that Todd was physically abusive toward Elizabeth when she was pregnant and that his anger was very high when he could not control someone. Ms. Oakley stated that her daughter was slight in stature, only 5' 5'1" tall. Ms. Oakley also stated that after Elizabeth broke up with Todd, he began stalking her when she was at school and one time tried to run her over with his car while she was riding her bike. Ms. Oakley stated that there should be police reports reflecting those incidents because Elizabeth reported it and had to have security guards escort her at school for her safety. Ms. Oakley reported another incident when Todd had Cecily in his arms and used her as a shield so police would not mace him and that her grandson, Michael, witnessed it.

91. I located police reports confirming that on February 14, 1995, Elizabeth Garcia filed a statement with the court in support of a request for a restraining order, alleging that Todd was physically abusive and had been stalking her. I also obtained a report filed by Mary Oakley stating that Todd had hit her car with his fist creating a dent in the side panel and leaving blood on the car. I obtained other MPD and Ceres Police Department arrest reports for Todd from dates throughout the 1990s, wherein he admitted to lying to police, denying the possession of drugs, and fleeing the scene of more than one crime. In more than one report it is alleged that Todd refused to comply with police after they ordered him to stop and put his hands behind his back, causing the police to give chase to capture him. Those reports are attached hereto as Exh. B.

92. I have seen no police reports in this case indicating that MPD investigated Steven Todd's criminal record and history of violence before determining, if Todd is to be believed, that he was not capable of violent behavior, including the reports of Todd assaulting Elizabeth when she was pregnant, or stalking her and trying to run her over with his car, which Ms. Oakley believed were reported to police.

# MPD Failed to Investigate Reports that Laci Peterson was Kidnapped

- 93. On February 16, 2004, after reviewing police reports concerning a witness who claimed to have information that Scott Peterson was innocent, that Laci Peterson was kidnapped by others, and that the witness who had the information feared for his life, I interviewed witnesses Aaron T and Mindy S, who shared further information.
- 94. Mindy S stated that she and T met a man named Allen "Scott" Seidel in 2001 or 2002. Around December 30, 2002, S and T picked Seidel up at the bus station when he arrived in California after being in Pennsylvania. S and T stated that Seidel stayed with them for a few months in early 2003 and worked with them in their carpet installation business.
- 95. S stated that one day, Seidel was at their home reading the newspaper and he asked her if she'd heard of a man called Donald Pearce. She told him she had not and Seidel stated that he was an old friend of his from Modesto.

- 96. T stated he was afraid to discuss with me the information Seidel had told him because there was no way he could protect his family if it got out that he talked about what Seidel told him. T finally agreed to discuss what Seidel told him.
- 97. T stated that the day before Easter 2003, he and Seidel had finished a job and stopped for a beer. At that time, Seidel told T that he had gotten mixed up with the wrong people and he wished he hadn't gotten involved with them. T stated that Seidel told him he feared for his life because he had information about the people who had kidnapped Laci Peterson. T stated that the people were planning to sell the baby and were going to frame Scott Peterson for it by putting her body in the same place he said he was fishing. T stated that Seidel told him Laci wasn't supposed to die and that Seidel told him he knew of this information when Laci was still alive.
- 98. T stated that Seidel was "really frightened and afraid" of some people and that it was his opinion that Seidel used him and S to hide from certain people. T said Seidel was also afraid for his girlfriend and child, who were living in Jamestown at the time.
- 99. The stated that after Seidel shared this information with him "some weird things" started happening to him and Sa and Ta finally told Seidel to leave. Both Tand Sa stated that Seidel would have had to get involved with these people between the time they picked him up at the bus station at the end of December 2002 and the day before Easter 2003, when Seidel left town again.
- 100. T stated that Seidel had been telling others in early 2003 that he knew what happened to Laci and someone called MPD, so Jon Buehler with Modesto Police Department and Kevin Bertalotto, an investigator with the District Attorney's Office, came to the house and spoke to S. S. told them that Seidel had never told her the things he shared with T., so she could only tell them what she knew from T.
- 101. The stated that the detectives spoke to him for about five minutes over the telephone. The told the investigators that Seidel stated he had information about the people involved in the Laci Peterson's disappearance case and that this information had come to him

1	when he had spoken with these people, and that he was fearful for his safety for having this
2	information.
3	102. T stated that Seidel would not go to the police. T was not happy about
4	hearing this information and did not want any part of it, for fear of his family's safety and did
5	not notify Modesto Police about this information because he could not confirm if it was true.
6	103. T stated that he told the police he struggled with whether or not to notify
7	Modesto Police, and that he was glad the police finally contacted him. T told police he did
8	not want Seidel to know that he was talking to them about this incident. T did not know if
9	Seidel had actually talked to people involved in Laci's disappearance and murder, but that the
1.0	information Seidel had was, according to T, convincing enough to Seidel that he was fearful.
11	104. T said the detectives did not listen to him and said, "your story doesn't fit in
12	with what we have." T and S both said the detectives brushed it all off by saying it was
13	"a bunch of tweekers" that got together and made it up.
14	105. I interviewed another witness, Phyllis Hawkins, who stated that Seidel gave her
15	the same information and stated that he was afraid for his life because he knew something about
16	Laci's disappearance and believed that Scott Peterson was innocent.
17	106. According to the police reports I reviewed, on June 24, 2003, DAI Kevin
18	Bertalotto interviewed Seidel when he was in custody at Mariposa County Adult Detention
19	Facility and asked him if he had any information about the disappearance of Laci Peterson and
20	Seidel denied having any information. Seidel was asked if he would agree to submit to a
21	polygraph examination and he reportedly stated that he would. I have seen no reports indicating
22	that Seidel was ever given a polygraph examination.
23	107. On February 23, 2004, I interviewed Scott Seidel at Folsom State Prison.
24	108. Seidel confirmed he met Mindy S and Aaron T when they lived in Don
25	Pedro "a year before this all started". While in Don Pedro, Seidel worked for T
26	became friends.
27	109. Seidel confirmed he showed up in Modesto on December 30 or 31, 2002 and began
28	working for S and T 's carpet company as a freelancer in February 2003.

- 110. Seidel confirmed he stayed with S and T sometime in February or March 2003 before he left for Reno.
- Seidel denied having any conversations with Sisk and Triller about the Peterson case.
  - 112. Seidel stated that neither S nor T did did do drugs.

## MPD INVESTIGATION

- 113. Based on my experience as a criminal investigator and my review of the police investigation into the disappearance of Laci Peterson, the investigation by others working on behalf of the defense, and my own independent investigation, it is my opinion that the MPD failed to follow the basic, standard procedures employed by law enforcement at the time they conducted the Missing Person Investigation for Laci Peterson.
- 114. Based on my review of the police reports provided to the defense, it appears MPD conducted some canvassing of the neighborhood after Laci was reported missing, but the investigation overall was disorganized and scattered, with no systematic processes in place to ensure that all potentially material tips and leads were investigated and followed up on. There was no officer assigned to follow up on sightings of Laci in the neighborhood. In my opinion, critical potential crime scene information and eyewitness accounts that were being reported to MPD and which may have assisted law enforcement in finding Laci Peterson, possibly while she was still alive, were never gathered or investigated by the police.
- 115. Based on my review of the police reports in this case, MPD had no system in place to ensure that witness reports concerning potential crime scene information and other material information about Laci's last known whereabouts were channeled to the lead investigators in a timely manner, so that credible information and evidence could be thoroughly investigated.
- 116. A prime example of the MPD's disorganized and incompetent investigation is the manner in which MPD handled the reports made by Judge Ricardo Cordova and Albert Urquidez, who lived right around the corner from the home of the Petersons and the Medinas, whose house was burglarized around the same time Laci was reported missing.

disgust over the MPD's disorganized approach to investigating Laci's disappearance. Judge Cordova explained that on the morning of December 25 between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m., he reported to Det. Sebron Banks that a man had come to his door late at night on December 23, who appeared to be casing his house and perhaps the neighborhood. Judge Cordova stated that he had been a criminal defense attorney before taking the bench, he had experience with proper police procedures, and he immediately reported the information he had to MPD so they could investigate because he believed it may have been related to Laci Peterson's disappearance. From the reports I have reviewed, the information Judge Cordova provided was never investigated by police.

#### Laci's Sandals

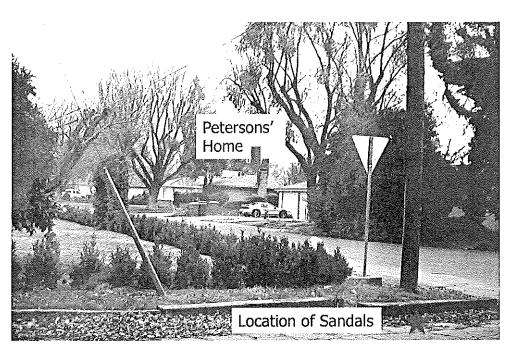
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- 118. Judge Cordova stated that he pointed out to MPD Det. Sebron Banks a pair of women's sandals or flip flops lying on the side of the street on Covena Avenue not far from the Petersons' home, and he told Det. Banks that the sandals may have belonged to Laci Peterson and may be evidence. Det. Banks told Judge Cordova that he did not think the flip flops were related to Laci's disappearance because "she was out walking the dog" when she disappeared and would not have been wearing flip flops. Det. Banks did not collect the sandals, nor did he take any notes or write anything down that Judge Cordova was telling him. Judge Cordova stated that based on his experience with the MPD as a criminal defense lawyer, Det. Banks was well known for not taking notes or writing down information in the cases he was investigating.
- 119. The next day, December 26, Judge Cordova saw Det. Doug Ridenour in the neighborhood and told him he wanted to report some information that may be helpful to the investigation. Judge Cordova waited 10 to 15 minutes and finally spoke to a sergeant and repeated what he had told Det. Banks. On December 27, 2002, the very next day, MPD Det. Reed knocked on Judge Cordova's door during a canvas and asked him if he had any information about the Peterson or Medina cases. When I interviewed Judge Cordova, he stated that it was like he was telling his story over again for the very first time and it was clear to Judge Cordova that there was no communication between the officers working on the case. No one from the

police department ever returned to show Judge Cordova photos of possible suspects to determine whether he could identify the man who came to his door at 10:30 p.m. the night before Laci was reported missing.

- 120. Since the sandals Judge Cordova pointed out to Det. Banks on Covena Avenue were never collected by police, I interviewed Judge Cordova to obtain more information about the sandals he saw. Judge Cordova stated that he recalls walking towards the corner of Covena Avenue and Edgebrook Avenue with Det. Banks and pointing out to him a pair of women's platform sandals with a flower pattern that were lying beside the curb.
- 121. Det. Banks did not pick up the sandals. Judge Cordova stated that he continued to see the sandals along the curb over the next few days, even after the Medina burglary became front page news.
- even after it was discovered that the Medinas' home had been burglarized between December 24 and December 26.
- 123. I asked Judge Cordova to point out to me the location where he observed the sandals and he agreed to do so. I took the photo below and have indicated the location where Judge Cordova indicated to me that he saw the sandals and the proximity of the sandals to the Petersons' home.

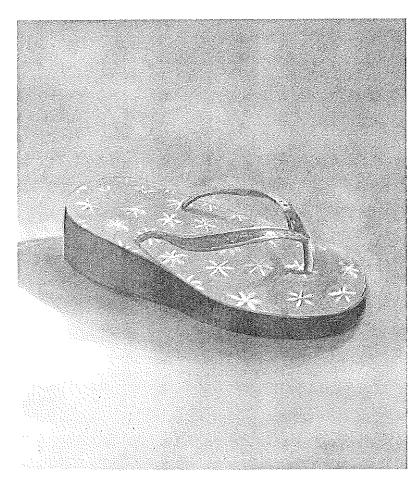


- 124. Based on my experience, the reports from Urquidez and Cordova that men were casing homes on that same block late at night on December 23, warranted further investigation, which was not done based on my review of the police reports. After the discovery on December 25 of the sandals and the Medinas' burglary on December 26, the entire block should have been heavily investigated and any evidence in the vicinity should have been collected and analyzed, including the women's sandals lying in the street near the Peterson and Medina homes—sandals which may have belonged to Laci and fallen off while she was being assaulted or running away from someone who chased her or in some other manner.
- 125. To further investigate whether the flip-flop sandals Judge Cordova pointed out to the MPD lying near the curb at the corner of Covena and Edgebrook may have belonged to Laci Peterson, I met with Scott Peterson at the San Mateo County Jail in early 2004. Defense counsel Pat Harris was also present. The purpose of the meeting was to ask Mr. Peterson if knew whether Laci owned any flip-flops and, if so, whether he was aware if any were missing. I did not provide Mr. Peterson with any information about the sandals Judge Cordova described seeing on the street.
- was a pair she usually kept on the back porch area that was not there after she went missing. I asked Mr. Peterson to describe the missing sandals to me. He described the missing flip-flops as pinkish-red with a curved platform heel and a decorative white floral pattern. To further capture the description of the flip-flops, I contacted several freelance forensic artists to seek their assistance in creating a likeness of the sandal Scott described. One of the artists I contacted was told by the County Sheriff's Department not to do anything that could assist with the defense of Scott Peterson. Having no luck with artists who worked with law enforcement, I then contacted Myron Stephens, an art instructor at Granite Bay High School. After discussing the process with Mr. Stephens, he was confident he could complete a likeness of the sandals. I accompanied Mr. Stephens to the Redwood City jail, where we spent three and half hours with Mr. Peterson, who assisted Mr. Stephens in creating the image by describing Laci's missing flip-flops, while Mr.

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Stephens sketched. At no time did I share with either Mr. Peterson or Mr. Stephens the details of the flip-flops described by Judge Cordova.

127. After Mr. Stephens got the basic information he needed from Mr. Peterson, he worked on the painting in his studio over the next week or so to complete the image. On March 11, 2004, I saw the painting he created and the following day, I met with Mr. Peterson and showed it to him. Mr. Peterson stated that the sandal in the painting looked like the ones Laci usually kept on the back porch area, which had gone missing. The only difference was that Mr. Peterson said the color in the drawing was a little too red. When I asked him on a scale of 1-10 how closely the image resembled Laci's sandals, Mr. Peterson said it was very close, an 8 on a 1 to 10 scale, the only difference being the color was off. I had Mr. Peterson sign and date the back of the painting (see image below).



1	128. On March 15, 2004, I met with Judge Cordova at the Stanislaus County Superior
2	Court, showed him the painting of Laci's sandal, and asked him if it looked like the sandal he
3	pointed out to Det. Banks. Judge Cordova stated that the shape and type of the flip-flop
4	were consistent with the scandal he had seen on Christmas day on Edgebrook Drive. He stated
5	that the flip-flop he observed was not as red as the one in the painting, it was more of a subdued
6	orange and may have had more flowers on the sole, but he was not sure about that. When I asked
7	him on a scale of 1-10 how closely the sandal in the painting resembled the flip-
8	flops he saw on Edgebrook Drive, Judge Cordova said it was a 7, due to the color being off.
9	129. The color being off was entirely attributable to the artist's interpretation of the
10	color as it was described to him by Scott; in my opinion, it was not an indication that that sandals
11	did not belong to Laci, especially since both Scott and Judge Cordova agreed that the only
12	notable difference between the sandals they were describing and the sandal in the painting was
13	that the color was too red.
14	130. The back of the painting Mr. Stephens has the signatures on the back of the
15	painting indicating that it was shown to Scott Peterson and Judge Cordova and is depicted below.
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- 131. To my knowledge, the jury was not provided with the evidence described above, other than hearing Judge Cordova testify that he found a pair of women's sandals and pointed them out to police on Christmas morning.
- out to police and which he stated to me look very similar to the sandals Mr. Peterson described as belonging to his wife which were missing after she disappeared, and they should have been collected and further analyzed. DNA could potentially have been collected from the sandals to determine whether they belonged to Laci Peterson, which would have provided further critical information about what may have happened to her the day she went missing and may have assisted investigators in learning more information about what happened to Laci and assisted their efforts to find her while she was still alive.
- 133. It is my opinion that the information Judge Cordova immediately reported to the police the morning of December 25, and again on December 26, and again on December 27, 2002, should have been immediately investigated to determine whether the individuals who were casing his home could be identified and questioned about whether they or any of their associates may have had any involvement in or information about the burglary of the Medina home and/or the disappearance of Laci Petersons.
- 134. It is especially alarming that MPD failed to contact either Cordova and Urquidez to see if they could identify the men who were casing their homes on December 23, even after MPD learned on December 26 that the Medinas' home had been burglarized sometime between December 24 and December 26, and that thousands of dollars' worth of cash, jewelry, guns, and other property had been stolen.

## **CROTON WATCH**

135. Another item of critical exculpatory evidence the MPD failed to investigate involves Laci Peterson's missing Croton watch and the jewelry she was wearing when she went missing. Based on reports I have read, Mr. Peterson immediately informed the police when his wife went missing that she had recently inherited a Croton brand watch from her grandmother, and the watch was missing from her jewelry box and was nowhere in their home. Mr. Peterson

also told police that his wife was wearing diamond earrings and a diamond necklace when he last saw her on the morning of December 24.

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- 136. In my experience, it was at the time and still is routine police procedure to conduct searches of area pawn shops when guns and items of jewelry turn up missing following a mugging or burglary.
- 137. Based on my review of the records in this case, however, it was not until March 2003, that anyone from MPD ran a search of the state's database of pawn shop records for any Croton watches that may have been pawned, records that pawn shops are statutorily required to regularly update. When the search was finally run in March 2003, it revealed that one Croton watch had been pawned at a local shop on December 31, 2002, less than three miles from the Petersons' home, seven days after her disappearance by a woman named Deanna Renfro. There are no MPD reports detailing any follow up with Ms. Renfro or the pawn shop when they found this pawn ticket while Laci was missing.
- 138. Later reports revealed that the watch was picked up from the pawn shop by Ms. Renfro on January 9, 2003, and pawned again on February 14, 2003. While Ms. Renfro was present, the second pawn was under the name Anthony Scarlata. To my knowledge, Mr. Scarlata was never interviewed by the police, the Croton watch has gone missing, and there are no photos in existence of the Croton watch Mr. Scarlata pawned.
- 139. When I interviewed Anthony Scarlata on October 23, 2004, I asked him if he recalled what that watch he pawned on February 14, 2003 looked like and he said he was not sure. I showed him a photo of Laci Peterson's missing Croton watch, without telling him it was her watch, and asked him if the watch in the photo could be the watch he pawned. Scarlata stated to me that he could not say whether it was the watch he pawned; it was possibly the same watch but he could not say for certain one way or the other.
- 140. MPD's failure to investigate the whereabouts of Laci Peterson's Croton watch and other jewelry by searching state pawn shop database records immediately upon her disappearance—a routine police procedure—is further evidence, in my opinion, of a sloppy and disorganized investigation. The pawn shop was located a few miles from the Petersons' home,

- based on the reports I reviewed, only one Croton watch had been pawned in the prior six months based on pawn shop records maintained by the state, and that occurred on December 31, 2002.
- 141. I have also seen no photos in the discovery of any of the jewelry recovered by police when they raided the homes of Todd and Pearce, who pleaded guilty to the burglary of the Medinas' home and who had in their possession multiple items of stolen jewelry. It was basic, rudimentary procedure at the time for the police to photograph and otherwise document the items of jewelry recovered from a suspect's home following a burglary.
- 142. In what had already become a highly publicized case where countless volunteers were out searching for Laci Peterson, it is difficult to understand why police did not investigate whether the burglars had in their possession the diamond neckless and/or the diamond earrings, and/or the Croton watch Laci was reportedly wearing when her husband last saw her.

### **JAMES ROMANO**

- 143. On Thursday, October 21, 2004, less than two court days before the close of evidence at trial, the prosecution provided the defense with a report stating that an inmate named James Romano had information that Laci Peterson "came out during the burglary and yelled at them while the burglary was in progress."
- 144. My investigation into Mr. Romano's report showed that the police had been interviewing him and looking into the information he was providing beginning in July 2004, not long after trial began in Mr. Peterson's case, but the defense was not aware of any of the information Mr. Romano was providing until the defense's case was nearly finished in late October 2004.
- 145. The October 21, 2004 report documented recent MPD interviews with James Romano that occurred on October 18 and 19, 2004, with James Broyer, on October 19, 2004, and with Michilene Potter on October 20, 2004. The information in the report was exculpatory and related to the Medina burglary and the Croton watch.
- 146. The report stated that the witness interviews were recorded but those interviews were not immediately provided to the defense, not until October 25, 2004, or sometime after

that. I know that the defense was not provided with MPD's taped interview prior to the date I interviewed him on October 23, 2005.

- 147. Because the trial was coming to a close, interviewing Romano was an urgent matter since it appeared he had potentially exculpatory information, based on the police report I reviewed. On Saturday, October 23, 2004, I traveled to Modesto to interview Mr. Romano where he was in custody at Stanislaus County Jail.
- 148. During our interview, Romano explained that on December 25, 2002, he had emergency surgery and was hospitalized for several weeks. Once he got out, he was staying close to home, riding his bike around the neighborhood, trying to heal from the surgery. Romano stated that sometime after his surgery, probably in February 2003, he overheard a conversation taking place in someone's garage about Laci confronting the burglars who were at the Medinas house robbing it. Romano stated that the conversation may have taken place in the garage of Michilene Potter. He heard several men talking about the Medina burglary and one man stated that there was a van parked in front of the Medinas' home with five or six people in it and that, as the house was being burglarized, "Laci was coming up from the park" and she confronted the driver who was sitting in the van and said, "get the hell out of here before I call the cops," or words to that effect.
- 149. Romano stated in our interview that when Laci was missing, he was asked by a friend of the Rocha family, Tim Spencer, to use his street contacts to look into what happened to Laci and he agreed to do so as a favor to Spencer. He stated that when he heard the conversation about Laci confronting the burglars, he was not sure what to do with it because he did not recall the names of the men he heard talking about Laci.
- 150. Romano stated that after he was arrested on a drug-related charge and was in custody at the Stanislaus County Jail, sometime between June 2004 and August 2004, he had a cellmate named Rayborn Smith, who told Romano he had a lot of information about the men involved in the Medina burglary. Smith's information was that there were three, or four, or five people in the van who were present during the Medina burglary. Rayborn Smith told Romano that the guns and jewelry that were stolen from the Medinas' home were distributed to others in

the community following the burglary. Smith also told Romano that some of the jewelry distributed from the Medina burglary may have belonged to Laci Peterson.

saw a report about a watch being pawned in the neighborhood that might have belonged to Laci. That prompted Romano to recall another incident that occurred in mid-February 2003, when a friend named Deanna Harbin Renfro came by his house with a friend named Anthony Scarlata and asked Romano if he wanted to buy a watch. Romano stated that he used to work at his brother's jewelry shop, Romano's Jewelers in the 1990s, and he described the watch Renfro wanted him to buy as being medium size with a lot of diamonds. In Romano's recorded interview with MPD, which was not provided to the defense prior to time I interviewed him, Romano described the watch as heavily faceted with 1 ct. diamonds with a medium round or oval face, not petite. Romano declined to buy it from Renfro and believes she and a man named Tony Scarlata pawned it at a pawn shop. The fact that Anthony Scarlata had pawned the watch on Valentine's Day was not known to the defense and was not publicly known prior to Romano calling to provide police with the information he had. The watch Romano described is similar to the Croton watch that Mr. Peterson told police Laci was wearing when he left home the morning of December 24. It is pictured below.

152. Romano stated that when he heard that Renfro left town and moved to Oklahoma soon after she pawned the watch with Scarlata in early 2003, he started thinking about the watch and how it may have been related to Laci Peterson's disappearance. Romano told police in the

recorded interview that he was coming forward with the information he provided because he "couldn't keep this under [his] hat."

- 153. In my opinion, based on my experience as a career criminal investigator, James Romano appeared to be a credible witness who was attempting to provide the information he had as clearly and accurately as he could, and for the right reasons. Romano corroborated non-public information about a Croton watch being pawned on Valentine's Day by Anthony Scarlata and non-public information that Laci had witnessed the burglary across the street.
- 154. Additionally, Romano stated in his recorded interview that he wanted to help the Rochas find out what happened to Laci. Romano had no open cases pending and did not have any expectation for consideration. Romano explained that after his surgery, he had trouble recalling details of certain events, but he was forthcoming when he had trouble recalling events and details; he did not appear to me to be making up facts to fill in gaps where he had trouble recalling information.
- 155. During our interview, Romano provided me with the names of several people from his neighborhood he felt would be of interest for us to contact to look into the watch and the Medina burglary. Romano was familiar with a number of people in the drug community in Modesto, who may have had information about what happened to Laci, and it was my impression he was providing me with as much information about how and where I could locate those individuals as he could.
- at Michilene Potter's house, out in her garage, about Laci confronting the burglars, I attempted to contact and interview Potter but was unable to reach her. I later learned that Potter provided important information to MPD Det. Hendee that corroborated what Romano reported, which Hendee did not include in his written report that was given to the defense on October 21, 2004. Because I did not have MPD's taped interview with Potter, I did not have the information she provided to the police when I interviewed Romano two days later, on October 23, 2004.
- 157. In Det. Hendee's recorded interview with Ms. Potter, he told her that Romano reported having information about Laci's disappearance and the burglary that occurred across

- the street and that Romano believed he learned this information from a conversation he overheard 1 that took place in Potter's garage. Potter did not recall the incident Romano described where 2 there were several men talking in her garage, other than possibly repairmen or plumbers, but she 3 provided the following information, which was not included in the written police report provided 4 to the defense. She stated that one day, Romano "had came over and I had to go to the store with 5 my mother and when I got back there was a note sitting there. The note. I don't even have it 6 anymore. But the note read something like 'I needed to tell you this in case something happens 7 to me. You'll know what's going on, and I know that you won't rest until you find out.' I had 8 no clue and he never explained it to me. . . That's what it said, it said, 'I'm basically just, I'm in 9 fear for my life. If something ever happens to me, I know that you won't. . .' Like he knows I'm 10 gonna find or I won't let it rest till I know who did it." Potter stated that it was "very unlike" 11 Romano to be do something like that. Det. Hendee asked Potter whether she thought Romano 12 would have made something like that up about having information about Laci's disappearance 13 and the burglary that occurred across the street and Potter replied: "No, I don't think he would 14 make it up. I mean, I've never known him to make stuff up like that. And he's always been 15 pretty honest with me." 16
  - 158. If I had known about that information when I interviewed Romano on October 23, 2004, I would have asked him about it. It may have jogged his memory and helped him to remember more details about the conversation he reported hearing take place in Potter's garage. At trial, the defense rested three days after I interviewed Romano. Mr. Peterson was found guilty on November 12, 2004.
- 159. Romano stated that over the last two or three months, while Mr. Peterson's trial was underway, he had made five or six attempts to reach law enforcement so he could pass on his information.
  - 160. I later learned that on July 22, 2004, Deputy Kevin Stafford called the MPD tip line to report that inmate Romano had information.

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1	161. Romano was interviewed by Stanislaus County Sheriff's Deputy Campbell at
2	some point but, to my knowledge, the defense was not provided with any information about
3	when that interview occurred, nor was the defense provided any report documenting that
4	interview.
5	162. After speaking to Dep. Campbell, Romano stated that he felt his information was
6	still being ignored so he then wrote to "Friends Outside." I located in the discovery an MPD
7	call-in sheet dated August 19, 2004, stating that "Friends Outside" called to report that it had
8	"information regarding the Peterson case, with the name "James Romano," listed with the entry
9	This tip was given to the defense September 9, 2004, over three weeks after it was received.
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L 4	163. Romano stated that when he did not receive a response, he passed a letter to his
L 5	Public Defender, Graylin Bryant.
L 6	164. Romano pressed on and next passed the information to Stanislaus County Sheriff's
L7	Deputy Terry Johnson PSC, who finally reported the information to the Modesto Police
L8	Department on October 15, 2004. This tip was not given to the defense until after October 21,
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24	2004.
25	165. In my opinion, law enforcement's refusal to respond to Mr. Romano's information
26	or investigate it was part of a continuing pattern of systematically turning a blind eye to any
27	exculpatory evidence in this case that did not support its theory that Mr. Peterson was guilty.

166. But for Mr. Romano's persistence and unwillingness to keep quiet, the information Romano reported would never have come to light at all. It appears to me that MPD only interviewed Mr. Romano and turned over those interview reports to the defense because it became apparent that Mr. Romano was not going to go away.

- 2004,he corroborated the information I heard from Romano, including that he knew Deanna Renfro and had known her for about two and a half years. He recalled that on Valentine's Day in 2003, he "wanted to get laid." Deanna had this watch, they pawned it for \$20, they bought cigarettes and a bottle of Jack Daniels or tequila, and went to Romano's house. He stated that James Broyer, a man Deanna she had been seeing, showed up and they got into a fight yelling and screaming at each other. Scarlata stated that Renfro told him it was the second time she had pawned the watch. Scarlata had the pawn slip but stated that he gave it to Renfro because she told him she wanted to get it back and pawn it a third time. He described the watch as gold or silver. As previously noted, I showed him a photo of Laci's Croton watch and he stated that he couldn't say for certain whether it was the same watch but he could not exclude it or say that it was definitely not the same watch Deanna Renfro had. Scarlata stated that he believes Renfro and Broyer took off to Oklahoma not long after the watch was pawned. He stated that no one from the police department had ever interviewed him about the watch.
- 168. On November 1, 2004, while the prosecution was giving its closing argument to the jury, I interviewed Romano's cell mate, Rayborn Smith, who confirmed that he told Romano he knew a lot about the people involved in the Medina burglary.
- Todd for about nine years and had known Glenn Pearce since he (Rayborn) was 16 years old. Smith also stated that Pearce was the father of his niece and nephew. Smith said that both Todd and Pearce can be violent and that "the same day Laci came up missing they hit the house." He stated, "I won't put nothing past Steve and Glenn. Won't put it past them." Smith stated that he had seen Todd go after someone with a knife and a pellet gun. He also stated that Pearce used to carry guns and "done stuff but never got caught." Talking about Todd and Pearce possibly

being involved in Laci's disappearance, Smith stated, "I know what they can do," but he would not elaborate.

## LT. APONTE & SHAWN TENBRINK

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- 170. In June of 2004, after the start of Mr. Peterson's trial, I came across a call that
  MPD received from a Lt. Aponte at CDC Norco. The hotline call came in on January 22, 2003,
  roughly one month after Laci went missing. The tip said Lt. Aponte had information that inmate
  Shawn Tenbrink spoke to his brother Adam who said Steve Todd said Laci witnessed him
  breaking in. There was no follow up on this tip in the roughly 40,000 pages of case discovery
  that the defense had received.
- 10 1/22/03 1059 3745 LT. APONTE
- 909-273-2901 CRC NORCO RECEIVED INFO FROM SHAWN TENBRINK (INMATE) HE SPOKE TO BROTHER ADAM WHO SAID STEVE TODD SAID LACI WITNESSED HIM BREAKING IN. COULD NOT GIVE DATES OR TIME. APONTE HAS FURTHER INFO.
  - 171. On June 25, 2004, I contacted NORCO. I was unsuccessful in having NORCO send a copy of the recorded call between inmate Shawn and his brother Adam, so I went to CDC NORCO in southern California. I met with Lt. Xavier Aponte on December 1, 2004. By this time the jury had returned a guilty verdict and on this day the jury was hearing opening arguments in the penalty phase of Mr. Peterson's trial.
    - 172. Lt. Aponte told me he was notified by housing staff that inmate Shawn Tenbrink was talking about Laci Peterson in his housing unit, so he immediately called the MPD Laci Peterson hotline with the information.
- 22 173. Lt. Aponte stated that he called the MPD a second time within the same week because he did not receive a call back.
- 174. Lt. Aponte said an MPD detective then called him back and made arrangements
  to interview Shawn. Lt. Aponte did not remember the name of the detective, but he thought
  "Grogan" sounded familiar.
  - 175. Lt. Aponte said he listened to a 3-4 minute recorded call between Shawn Tenbrink and his brother Adam. He stated that he heard Adam tell Shawn on the recording that Laci

- walked up while Steve Todd was doing the burglary and Todd made some type of verbal threat to Laci.
- 176. Lt. Aponte said the MPD detective came to NORCO and interviewed Shawn
  Tenbrink.
- While Lt. Aponte did not recall the date of this interview, he thought it occurred within a couple weeks of his first phone call to the MPD hotline. Lt. Aponte said Shawn was brought to his office for the interview, and Shawn appeared fearful. During the interview, Shawn denied having a conversation with his brother and denied knowing Steven Todd.

- 178. Lt. Aponte said the detective listened to the recorded call between Shawn and his brother, Adam, and Lt. Aponte was 99% positive he made a separate recording onto a cassette tape of the call between Shawn and Adam. He could not recall whether the detective took a copy that day or whether Aponte sent the tape at a later date.
- 179. The detective then asked Lt. Aponte if there was any way Shawn's activities could be monitored, and Lt. Aponte told the detective they would more closely monitor Shawn's mail and calls.
- 180. Immediately following the interview with the MPD detective, Shawn returned to his housing unit and called his home to get in touch with his brother Adam but Adam was not home so Shawn spoke to his mother. It was also a short 3-4 minute call, according to Aponte. On the recording, Aponte said he heard Shawn tell his mother to tell Adam that the police had just interviewed him and he was to "keep his mouth shut because he doesn't know who he is dealing with."
- 181. My interview with Lt. Aponte was almost two years after the events in question and his office had been relocated. Lt. Aponte stated that he was unable to find his notes associated with these events.
- 182. Lt. Aponte initialed and signed a statement detailing these events. That statement was submitted with the Mr. Peterson's motion for new trial on February 25, 2005. In that motion, the defense asked the court to admonish the prosecution to turn over all investigative materials related to this tip from Lt. Aponte.

- 183. The prosecution opposed the motion for a new trial and submitted another signed declaration from Lt. Aponte, dated March 2, 2005. The only statement that differed in the prosecution's version and the statement Aponte provided to me was that in the prosecution's statement, Lt. Aponte indicated that he arranged "a telephonic interview" between Shawn and the MPD detective—not a face to face interview, which is what Aponte stated to me. Also submitted to the court was a declaration from Det. Grogan stating that the only thing he could find related MPDs interaction with Lt. Aponte was the first hotline call from January 22, 2003.
- 184. To my knowledge, the defense never received any tapes or reports from MPD about their interviews and interactions with Lt. Aponte, Shawn Tenbrink, Adam Tenbrink, or the Tenbrink mother.
- 185. It is my opinion, based on my years as a criminal investigator, that MPD's response to Lt. Aponte's information was a critical failure. They either failed to follow up on critical information from a fellow law enforcement officer in a missing persons case, as indicated by Det. Grogan's declaration, or they failed to turn over their investigative materials in violation of *Brady* as indicated by Lt. Aponte.

#### **BRIAN ULLRICH**

- 186. When the police searched Mr. Peterson's warehouse, they noticed cement debris on his trailer and speculated that the debris was evidence that Mr. Peterson had made five anchors and used them to weigh down Laci's body in the bay to cover up his crimes, which was their theory at trial.
- 187. This theory and the fact that there was cement residue on Mr. Peterson's flatbed trailer became publicly known while Laci was still missing, so there was much speculation in the media about the cement. I dedicated significant time investigating the prosecution's theory and was unable to find any evidence supporting that theory.
- 188. I reviewed a report stating that a business competitor of Mr. Peterson made a call to the Modesto police in February of 2003, and told MPD that he was curious to see who his competition was so he drove by Mr. Peterson's office/warehouse in September of 2002. He stated that he saw Mr. Peterson driving an F150 and towing a flatbed trailer. The flatbed trailer

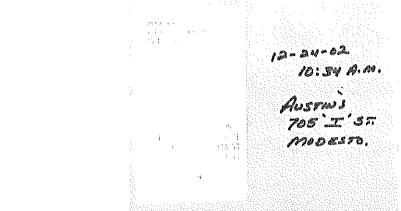
was loaded with 4 x 4 posts, fence boards and at least four sacks of Ready Mix concrete. It looked like Mr. Peterson was in the process of a building project.

I also interviewed Mr. Peterson's friend Brian Ullrich and he stated that he recalled helping Scott with a fence building project he was working on in his backyard sometime in October 2002, and he also recalled seeing fence posts and several bags of cement mix stack on Scott's trailer. I asked Ullrich to describe how the trailer was loaded and he guided me as I made the sketch, depicted below.

190. I noticed that the area where the cement mix was loaded onto the trailer appeared to be consistent with the area where there was cement mix debris was found on Scott's trailer, which the prosecution was arguing from left there after Mr. Peterson made anchors to use to cover up the murder of his wife.

#### KAREN SERVAS' AUSTIN'S RECEIPT

- 191. It was my understanding that the timeline the prosecution relied heavily on was based off of Ms. Karen Servas' account of when she found the Petersons' dog, McKenzi, outside the Petersons' backyard. Ms. Servas originally told Mr. Peterson and the police that she thought that occurred around 10:30 a.m. and Mr. Peterson asked Ms. Servas if she could be anymore precise with her timeline.
- 192. Ms. Servas stated that she used the time stamp on a receipt from a purchase she made at Austin's Christmas Store the morning of December 24 and worked backward to come up with the time she believed she found and put McKenzi back into the Petersons' yard, before heading out to run errands. This receipt played an important role in the prosecution's theory.
- 193. In my effort to confirm the accuracy of the time stamp on the receipt, I met with Mr. William Austin, owner of Austins Pool and Patio Furniture. On February 6, 2004, I showed Mr. Austin the receipt, People's Exhibit 125, Karen Servas' receipt. Mr. Austin informed me that he does not use the term "store" or "705 I" when referring to the address. Mr. Austin stated that he owned both buildings 702 and 705 on I Street but only uses 702 as his business address. He stated that he did not believe the receipt I showed him came from his store. Below is People's Exhibit 125, Karen Servas' receipt.



- 194. It was my impression that Mr. Austin was not entirely forthcoming when I interviewed him.
- 195. On February 9, 2004, I interviewed Mr. Jared Jensen, a seasonal employee at
  Austin's Christmas [store] during the 2001/2002 and 2003/2004 holiday seasons. Mr. Jensen
  stated that he recalled programming the "Header" and "Footer" for the 2003/2004 Christmas
  Season. Header: Austins Christmas, and Footer: Happy Holidays All Sales Are Final. I noted
  that neither Mr. Austin nor Mr. Jensen ever used the word store when referring to Austin's
  Christmas.
- 9 196. Mr. Jensen stated that the memory would erase when the register is unplugged for extended periods of time.
  - 197. Mr. Jensen also stated that he did not program the date/time for the 2002 Christmas Season. He recalls going to work one day, and the computer was there, but he does not recall if the time was correct or not.
  - 198. On February 9, 2004, following my interview with Mr. Jensen, I went to Austin's and spoke with Mr. Austin again. He informed me that he had looked into the cash register, serial number 2811748, and stated that he had never had it serviced and if his employee, Jared Jensen, did not program the date/time function into the register, Christmas 2002, then no one would have programmed it.
  - 199. On September 22, 2004, I went to Austins Pool and Patio Furniture, also referred to as Austins Christmas, the establishment where Karen Servas purchased ornaments on Christmas Eve 2002, to obtain sales receipts from the Casio electronic cash register to verify the reliability of the date and time on the receipts. Mr. Austin was not present, but his sales clerk, Mr. James Moak, was. I made two separate transactions. The first transaction totaled \$18.25, and I paid cash. The receipt indicated the purchase was made at 10:12 a.m.. Using my cell phone to verify the time it showed 11:19 a.m. and is pictured below.

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15	200. The second transaction I made, using my MasterCard, totaled \$4.30. The cash
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17	register receipt indicated the purchase was made at 10:44 a.m.; the credit card receipt indicated
18	the purchase was made at 11:25 a.m. Using my cell phone to verify the time, it was 11:51 a.m.
19	The receipts are below.
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AUSTING POOL AND PATIO 701 I STREET PHONE 209 524-1774

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**ILEK2** 

\$4.30 CASH

> THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT AUSTINS

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201. There were obvious discrepancies between the actual time and the time stamps on the receipts from Austins. Mr. Moak viewed and acknowledged the time discrepancies on all three receipts.

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I was unable to locate anything in the discovery provided to the defense indicating 202. that investigators ever checked the accuracy of the time stamps from the Austins' cash registers, before the prosecution built its entire case against Scott Peterson around the time Karen Servas stated she put the Petersons' dog in the their backyard, was in turn based entirely on the time stamp of the receipt from a purchase she made at Austins the morning of December 24, 2002.

203. In my opinion, based on my experience as a criminal investigator and based on the importance of that particular item of evidence to the prosecution's overall case, the time stamp on Ms. Servas's receipt should have been verified by MPD when they obtained it from Karen Servas on January 3, 2003.

# CONFIRMATION BIAS OR "TUNNEL VISION"

- 204. It was my opinion then and it remains my opinion today that the police failed to conduct a fulsome investigation into critical leads because that evidence would have called into question their immediately formed but erroneous belief that Scott Peterson was guilty of killing his wife, including the failure to investigate Todd's background, the date or dates and number of times Todd entered the Medinas' home during the burglary, the Croton watch, and failing to interview critical eyewitnesses who reported seeing Laci alive after Mr. Peterson left home for the day on December 24, among other potentially exculpatory evidence.
- 205. Based on my review of the police reports and my own investigation, it is my opinion that the Modesto Police Department immediately targeted Scott Peterson as their main, if not only, plausible suspect in the case and then immediately turned a blind eye to a mountain of exculpatory evidence that was staring them right in the face—presumably because it did not support their working theory of the case.
- 206. The failure of the police to take the eyewitness reports seriously by following up on the information those witnesses were providing indicates to me that the detectives responsible for investigating Laci's disappearance were excluding leads that did not support their theory of Mr. Peterson's guilt from the outset, or they were untrained, unsupervised, and disorganized, or some combination of the above.
- 207. In addition to failing to investigate the exculpatory eyewitness reports, the police also failed to investigate the possible connection between the Medina burglary that happened between December 24 and December 26, and Laci Peterson's disappearance. Any connection between the burglary and Laci's disappearance would have exculpated Mr. Peterson.
- 208. Based on my review of the police reports related to the Medina burglary that were provided to the defense and my own independent extensive investigation into the persons

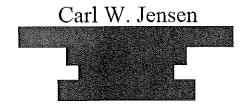
27 28 involved in that burglary, it is my opinion that the Modesto Police Department conducted a superficial and cursory investigation into the details surrounding that crime, including when the burglary occurred, whether the burglary was carried out over more than one day, how many individuals may have been involved in the burglary, who those individuals were, and, most importantly, whether the burglary could have occurred, or at least began, on the same day Laci Peterson disappeared, December 24, 2002.

I have reviewed this declaration in its entirety, and it is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.

May 5, 2024

Cail Jenson

# EXHIBIT A



## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

2015 to 2021	Administrative Security Officer, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Charlotte, NC
2010 to 2011	Magistrate Judge, State of North Carolina, Cleveland County.
2004 to 2007	Carl W. Jensen Investigations, Inc., 4120 Douglas Blvd., #306-271. Granite Bay, California 95746.

A California licensed full service private investigative firm specializing in cases involving homicide, robbery, sexual offenses, aggravated assault, international extradition, embezzlement, computer crimes, as well as cases involving matters in Russia and former Eastern Bloc countries. Accepted court appointed cases pertaining to indigent defendants. This firm was also retained by corporations to investigate major embezzlement cases for presentation to the respective state or federal prosecuting jurisdictions. Successfully recovered embezzled monies from the operations account of a U.S. Congressman. Investigated all of the workers' compensation cases for American Medical Response in Northern California. Testified in Superior Court.

<u>High Profile Cases</u>. From January 2004 to March 2005 retained by the law firm of Geragos & Geragos as the investigator on the Scott Peterson case in Modesto, California accused of killing his wife Lacy Peterson and unborn son Connor.

1997 to 2009 CWJ Investigations, 4120 Douglas Blvd., #306-271, Granite Bay, California 95746.

A California licensed full service private investigative firm specializing in criminal defense investigations.

1988 to 1995 Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI-Retired).

While assigned to a Resident Agency in the southwest, I was solely responsible for the development of the counterintelligence and counterterrorism investigations and operations based on the defined general and specific needs of the FBI. Was assigned to the San Francisco Regional Office and Residence Agencies where I worked foreign counterintelligence and, collaterally, was on the FBI SWAT team.

1983 to 1988 Visa International, Risk Management and Security Division, San Mateo, California.

Security Representative. Responsible for world-wide investigations of counterfeit Visa travelers' checks. Conducted investigations in Thailand regarding a major counterfeit operation. Developed and implemented fraud training programs for member institutions pertaining to counterfeit Visa cards, Visa Travelers' checks and Telemarketing fraud. Programs were developed based on the collection and analysis of suspected fraudulent activity and trends domestically and internationally. Established the first California

based telemarketing conferences involving financial institutions, local, state and federal law enforcement and the Attorney General's office to develop a statewide comprehensive approach to telemarketing fraud. Responsible for security inspections of credit card manufacturing plants domestically and internationally to assess physical security vulnerabilities and quality control. Responsible for liaison with federal and state law enforcement agencies.

1979 to 1983 Special Agent, Naval Investigative Service (NIS).

Conducted Criminal and Counterintelligence investigations for the Department of the Navy assigned to MCAS, El Toro, California. Leading up to the 1980 Olympics in Los Angeles, in depth threat assessments were made of U.S. Navy, to include Marine Corps, interests in Southern California. This involved assessment of installations, to include, but not limited to facilities, persons, telecommunications, transportation and programs. Collateral responsibility as the evidence custodian for the office. Specific assignment in Italy subsequent to the kidnapping of General Dozzier by the terrorist group Rosa Brigada.

## **PUBLIC OFFICE**

2013-2014 Candidate for the Office of Sheriff, Cleveland County, NC. I ran for

office on Godly principals; Return to Moral Values, Servant

Leadership and Fiscal Responsibility.

## **MISSIONARY**

1976-1977 Special Service Worker at Mae Sariang Christian Hospital in

Thailand, working primarily on a mobile clinic providing care to

Sqaw Karen, Lahu, Lisui, and Hmong Hill Tribes.

Years prior to my arrival at the hospital, an Opium Addiction Recovery program was developed by the hospital however no follow-up research had been accomplished to determine the effectiveness of the program. Data from medical charts was collected, interviews conducted where possible and the results analyzed to determine the effectiveness of the program. Taken into consideration were the cultural and societal aspects of the Karen Tribes and Hmong tribes and their distinct interaction amongst each other. The program was shown to be effective.

1973 Summer volunteer, Nekursini Christian Hospital, India, working in

the pharmacy.

#### **EDUCATION**

1974 to 1976 University of California Berkeley. Bachelor of Arts in Physiology

with graduate course study in Neuroanatomy.

1973 to 1974 Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, California. Undergraduate

course study.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Intelligence Report titled *Israel's Greatest Ally—A Warning to the Nations and Hope for Israel*; Published 2012 by Carl W. Jensen, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation (retired) and former Magistrate Judge; printed by Westmoreland Printers, Shelby, NC. The report was disseminated throughout the Middle East, Eurasia and the

United States along with an "open letter" addressed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Intelligence Report titled Russia's Final Military Campaign—A Warning to the Nations and Hope for Israel; Published 1999 by Carl W. Jensen, Special Agent, FBI (retired). This encompassed four years of extensive research, analysis and production of intelligence based on open-source information collected from publications and interviews regarding Vladimir Zhirinovsky and his autobiography "Last Dash to the South". Specific to this report was the threat posed by Zhirinovsky to the Middle East and, in particular to Israel. The report also focused on identifiable problems inherent within the intelligence community from collection to dissemination of intelligence. The report was disseminated to government officials in Russia and Israel.

## SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS/TRAINING/SEMINARS

- Magistrates' School, Chapel Hill School of Government
- CJLEADS Training
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Academy
- Counterintelligence, FBI
- Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T), FBI
- Interviews and Interrogation Techniques specific for Counterintelligence
- Naval Investigative Service (NIS) Academy
- Specialized Surveillance Training, NIS
- Counterterrorism, NIS
- Protective Service Training, United States Secret Service
- Narcotics training, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Procurement Fraud, Federal Law-Enforcement Training Academy
- Understanding Personality Disorders, The Brain Institute

# PROFESSIONAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

- California Private Investigators License (not active)
- Polygraph Certification, National Academy of Lie Detection (not active)
- North Carolina Retired Law Enforcement Officers Firearms Qualification Certification issued under HR218
- CPR AED Certification (not active)

## AWARDS/LETTERS OF APPRECIATION/PLAOUES

- Letter of appreciation from the Prime Minister's Bureau, Foreign Policy Department, Israel on behalf of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the Intelligence Report titled *Israel's Greatest Ally—A Warning to the Nations and Hope for Israel*.
- Letter of appreciation from the Prime Minister's Bureau, Foreign Policy
  Department, Israel on behalf of Prime Minister Ehud Barak for the Intelligence
  Report titled Russia's Final Military Campaign—A Warning to the Nations and

Hope for Israel.

- Letter and monetary award from Director, FBI, for significant contributions in Foreign Counterintelligence. Details of which are classified
- Letter of appreciation from the Inspector Generals' Office, San Francisco relative to a successful NIS criminal investigation of interest to the Inspector General's office.
- Numerous plaques received from International Association of Credit Card Investigators and California Check Investigators Association in appreciation for outstanding contributions at Fraud Control Seminars, Training Institutes and to Law Enforcement and the Financial Industry.
- Certificate of Appreciation from the California Association of Licensed Investigators for contributions to the association.

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Member of Society of Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Inc. (not a current member).
- Member of Charlotte Chapter of Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

# EXHIBIT B

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:	ELIZAI 'F	Y, GARCIA	NUMBER	4	٠,	
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This form must be attached to another form or court paper before it can be filed in court.

The Defendant and I were never married, however, from our relationship, we have two minor children, M TODD, born and CE TODD, born

Since Defendant and I separated and ended our relationship, he has used the minors as his way of hurting me, scaring me, and as his way of continuing to play the mind games he played all during our relationship. I ended the relationship due to his abuse, both verbal and physical, and as I can control the physical abuse now, the verbal and emotional abuse has intensified greatly.

Defendant has actually taken the minors from were they were playing in the front yard without my knowledge of his leaving with them. On several occasions I have consented to his taking the minors only to have him tell me, while he drives away, that he doesn't know if he will bring them back or not. On 2 separate occasions Michael has been kept out of school by Defendant when he is "Controlling" my life using the minors. On many occasions, Defendant will take the minors and drop them off with someone so he can come back and harass me with the fact that he is now in control whether we are together or not.

I have noticed that Defendant is often sitting outside of my friends and family's homes when I am there, just watching where I go and who I see. Friends have even informed me that they have seen him also. Defendant has NO right to keep meannder surveillance. I have been harassed with obscenities, wreckless driving in my neighborhood or wherever I am when he wants me to know that he is present.

I do not have any intentions of trying to keep Defendant from seeing the children, that would not be fair to Defendant or to the minors. It is my goal to establish specific days and times for visitation to prevent Defendant from continuing to use the children to cause fear in me. am requesting the following be granted both temporarily and made permanent to prevent further usage of the minors to harass or torment me:

The parties shall have joint legal custody of the minor children, with Plaintiff having sole physical custody.

Defendant shall have visitation every Saturday from 10:00am until 6:00pm that same day.

Restraining orders shall be ordered as requested pending the hearing, and then modified after the hearing date if so stipulated between the parties, so long as Defendant continues to be restrained from harassing and stalking me.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of (	California that the foregoing is true and correct.
Date: \( 2-14-45	V 20, = 00 los.
ELIZABETH Y. GARCIA	X Elyabeth Sarcia
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#### SOURCE OF ACTIVITY:

On 5/6/96, at approximately 1928 hours, I was working in a marked patrol unit near the area of Tioga and S. Conejo. I observed a red pickup driven by the defendant eastbound on Tioga, approaching S. Conejo. The defendant was driving at an unsafe speed, due to the number of small children on bicycles, who were riding in the street. I also saw two broken tail lamps which is a violation of 24603(E) VC.

I attempted to get through the juveniles to stop the vehicle for the above mentioned violations.

#### **OBSERVATIONS:**

I saw the vehicle going north on S. Conejo and pull into the driveway at 412 S. Conejo. I saw a white male adult wearing a white baseball cap, blue jeans, and black T-shirt, close the driver's door and run up towards the residence at 412 S. Conejo. Officer WILCOXSON pulled up in his marked patrol unit and we both got out and were going to attempt contact with the driver of the vehicle.

The white male adult driver walked back towards his vehicle and I asked him, "Why were you driving so fast? Did you know you left your stereo on in your pickup?" Mr. TODD said, "I was watching where I was going, and I was coming back out to turn off the stereo."

I informed Mr. TODD that I was contacting him for the vehicle code violations of 22350 VC, unsafe speed; and 24603(E) VC, broken tail lamps. Mr. TODD identified himself with his California I.D. card. He was found to be driving on a suspended license and was taken into custody for 14601.1(A) VC.

During a search of Mr. TODD's person, I found a plastic baggie in his right front pants pocket. When I pulled the baggie out of his pants he spontaneously stated, "That is flux, not crank. Flux is used when you are welding, and I am a welder."

I handed the suspected methamphetamine to Officer WILCOXSON. I placed Mr. TODD in the rear of my patrol unit and then searched the vehicle pursuant to the arrest. I found a Mariboro cigarette pack in the console between the two front seats. The Mariboro pack contained approximately six grams of a green leafy substance, believed to be marijuana.

Mr. TODD asked that the vehicle be left with Thomas S. Conejo, and after the search was completed, the keys were turned over to Mr. DIBB.

Mr. TODD was transported to Modesto Police Department for further investigation. TODD was read his Rights per Miranda from my department issued tablet and he stated, "Yeah, I know my rights," and "Sure, go ahead and ask a question and I'll answer it."

Mr. TODD stated that he had been lying earlier when he said it was a flux material in the plastic bag, and that it was in fact crank. I asked Mr. TODD

Officer Stewart

."."

if he meant that the white powdery substance was methamphetamine and he stated, "Yes, that's what crank is." Mr. TODD further stated that he uses crank periodically and uses it by throwing the powder onto a tissue or napkin and swallowing it.

I asked Mr. TODD where he got the crank from and he stated he got it from an Edward SPERRY, a white male, 29 years old, who lives on Althoff Court, Modesto. When he was further questioned about SPERRY, he seemed to wish to cooperate, but was unsure of the exact address or any other information.

Mr. TODD stated that he has been using crank for approximately two years because he's been having family problems, and he also said he is on a diversion program after prior arrest for possession of methamphetamine.

Mr. TODD also said that he has several prior convictions for 14601.1(A) and that he knew he was also suspended at this time, and that is why he hurried to the address and tried to get out of his car before the police could contact him.

Officer WILCOXSON tested the suspected methamphetamine which came back positive during the Valtox test. Officer WILCOXSON packaged the suspected methamphetamine and booked it into Modesto Police Department evidence. I packaged the suspected marijuana, which was also booked into evidence.

## **EVIDENCE OBTAINED:**

- 1. A clear plastic baggie containing approximately three grams of suspected methamphetamine. This item was found by me in the right front pants pocket of defendant TODD.
- 2. A Marlboro cigarette pack containing approximately six grams of suspected marijuana. This item was found by me in the center console of TODD's vehicle. It was packaged by me and booked into MPD evidence.

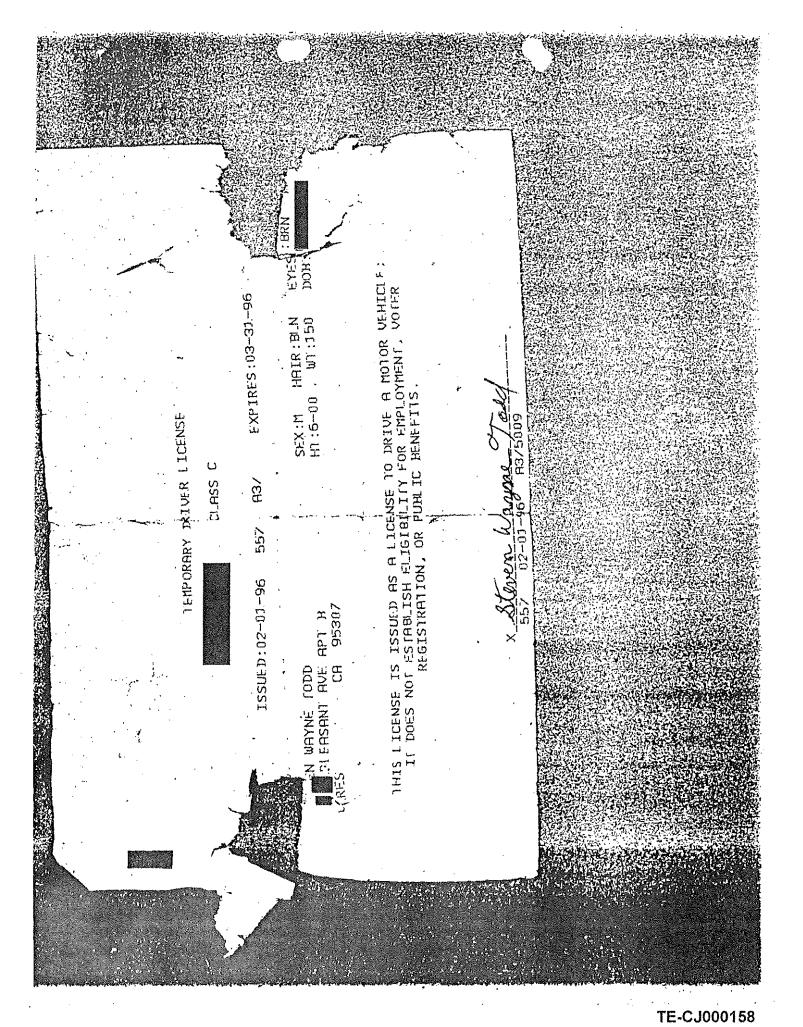
#### ARREST:

Defendant TODD was placed under arrest for 11377 H&S and 14601.1(A) VC.

#### **BOOKING:**

Steven Wayne TODD was booked for the above charges after booking approval by Lt. ATCHLEY.

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## **SOURCE OF ACTIVITY:**

I am the case officer and can testify to the facts of the case. On 03/01/99, at approximately 1419 hours, Officer GONZALES and I were on patrol in the area of S. Conejo Avenue and Tenaya Drive. We observed a subject on a bicycle driving westbound Tenaya against the flow of traffic. We initiated a traffic stop on the bicyclist for a violation of 21650.1 CVC - Operating a bicycle on the right side of the roadway. The bicycle yielded on Tenaya Drive west of S. Conejo Avenue.

## **OBSERVATIONS:**

Officer GONZALES and I exited our vehicle to contact the bicyclist. The bicyclist stated, "I know, wrong side of road." As Officer GONZALES and I approached the subject, Officer GONZALES observed the subject concealing something in his right hand. Officer GONZALES asked the subject what was in his hand. The subject replied, "Nothing." Officer GONZALES requested the subject to open his hand to show what was in it. The subject refused commands and got off of the bicycle. The subject then began to back away while raising his right hand. Officer GONZALES continued to request the subject to open his hand. The subject turned away from Officer GONZALES while bringing his right hand towards his mouth area. As the subject turned, I saw him begin to place a small plastic baggie into his mouth. I requested the subject to stop and to stand still. The subject refused to follow commands. Based on experience and training, I believed the plastic baggie to contain some type of controlled substance. Based on experience and training in tactical communications, I recognized that verbal commands were not having an effect on the subject. I was aware that we were unable to determine if the subject had any weapons and this presented a security risk. I further evaluated the subject's actions and believed that he was backing away in a possible attempt to flee. I also recognized that the excessive verbal commands were not having an effect on the subject. Officer GONZALES and I revised priorities based on the circumstances and grabbed the subject in an attempt to restrain him. The subject attempted to pull away from us. Officer GONZALES and I restrained the subject on the ground area. Officer GONZALES placed the subject's right arm in an arm lock in an attempt to control him. Officer GONZALES repeatedly told the subject to stop pulling away and to stop resisting. Based on my observations and belief that the subject was attempting to ingest a controlled substance, I was concerned for his personal safety and the destruction of evidence. I restrained the subject's head with my left arm in an attempt to manipulate the nerves in his jaw area, while instructing him to spit the suspected controlled substance out. After instructing him to spit the substance out approximately five times and manipulating the nerves in the jaw area, the subject spit out a plastic baggie containing a white powdery substance. Officer GONZALES then attempted to begin a handcuffing technique on the subject. At that point, the subject began to roll away and reached with his right hand and grabbed the plastic baggie containing the white powdery substance. He again brought it towards his mouth area. I instructed the subject several times to drop the baggie. The subject then raised his right hand and threw the plastic baggie containing the white powdery substance approximately 10 feet south of our location. I saw the plastic baggie containing the white powdery substance land in that area. Officer GONZALES and I then were able to handcuff the subject. Officer GONZALES double locked the handcuffs on the subject.

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I recovered the plastic bag containing the white powdery substance from the scene. The subject was identified as D-TODD, by his California ID card. I advised the subject that he was under arrest for possession of a controlled substance and resisting arrest. He replied, "I know, it was stupid, but I was scared." D-TODD then offered several times to make some type of deal to avoid being arrested. I advised D-TODD of his Rights per Miranda. D-TODD stated he understood his rights. D-TODD admitted that the controlled substance was his and that he had attempted to ingest it to avoid getting in trouble. He explained that he had recently started a new job and knew that if he was arrested for possession of a controlled substance it would jeopardize his job.

CSO POWELL responded to our location. CSO POWELL recovered D-TODD'S bicycle and placed it into storage at the Modesto Police Department. Sgt. THOMAS responded to our location. Sgt. THOMAS contacted D-TODD. Per Sgt. THOMAS, CSO POWELL took photographs of D-TODD. D-TODD had a red abrasion on the right side of his forehead. I did not recognize any other readily observable injuries at the time. I asked D-TODD if he was in need of medical assistance. D-TODD stated that he was not in need of medical assistance.

Officer GONZALES and I transported D-TODD to the Modesto Police Department. While at the Modesto Police Department, Officer GONZALES conducted a presumptive Valtox test on the recovered white powdery substance. The recovered white powdery substance tested presumptive Valtox positive for methamphetamine.

#### ARREST:

D-TODD was arrested for a violation of 11377 H&S - Possession of a controlled substance, and 148 PC - Resisting/delaying a peace officer.

## **BOOKING:**

D-TODD was transported and booked into Stanislaus County Jail.

## **EVIDENCE**:

1. A plastic baggie containing a white powdery substance.

#### **EVIDENCE DISPOSITION:**

Item #1 was placed into evidence at the Modesto Police Department for future court presentation.

## **CASE DISPOSITION:**

Cleared by arrest.

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## SOURCE OF ACTIVITY:

On 1-3-97 at approximately 1830 hours, I was working flood patrol with Oficer YOUNG in a marked black and white police vehicle along the Mitchell Road area.

#### **OBSERVATIONS:**

As we approached the intersection of Mitchell Road and Finch Road, we observed Officer GONZALEZ and Officer SCHLENKER directing traffic at that intersection. Before we came to a complete stop at that location, we observed Officer GONZALEZ take off in his police vehicle southbound through the barracades after a subject (later identified as D/TODD) on his bicycle.

At that time, Officer GONZALEZ and Officer SCHLENKER were assigned to that intersection to prevent vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists from crossing the bridge because it was flooded out by the flooded Tuolumne River.

We immediately followed Officer GONZALEZ through the barracades behind D/TODD and I noted at that time that Officer GONZALEZ had his lights and siren on attempting to stop D/TODD. He also turned on his spotlight and was yelling at D/TODD.

We followed D/TODD approximately a quarter mile past Finch Road intersection towards the flooded out area of the bridge and, at that point, D/TODD immediately stopped, turned around and began riding back northbound towards the barracades. Both Officer GONZALEZ and Officer YOUNG and myself then turned around and continued to chase him back towards the barracades on his bicycle. As he was turning around and passing Officer GONZALEZ' vehicle and ours, I clearly heard Officer GONZALEZ yelling at him to stop several times and D/TODD would not stop at that time.

As we approached the barracades at the intersection of Finch Road and Mitchell Road, we could see Officer SCHLENKER standing in the middle of the road with several cars attempting to direct traffic and D/TODD rode his bicycle through the traffic, causing a hazard to Officer SCHLENKER and the other vehicles who were attempting to turn onto Finch Road. Both Officer GONZALEZ and us had to slow down to avoid a collision with the traffic and from hitting Officer SCHLENKER who was out in the road attempting to direct traffic.

D/TODD then appeared to slow down and possibly turn onto Finch Road and at that time both Officer GONZALEZ and us slowed thinking he was going to turn onto Finch Road. At that time, I could again hear Officer GONZALEZ yelling out the window for him to stop and D/TODD did not at that time. It then appeared that D/TODD took off again as fast as he could northbound on Mitchell Road from the intersection and we again chased him with lights and siren attempting to stop D/TODD.

Approximately a quarter mile north of the barracade section, Officer GONZALEZ pulled up next to D/TODD with his police vehicle and D/TODD slowed down and it appeared that he was going to stop at that time. Officer GONZALEZ pulled over to the side of the road attempting to stop when D/TODD again took off riding his bicycle and, at that point, we passed Officer GONZALEZ and took over

chasing D/TODD. I then asked Officer YOUNG to pull up next to D/TODD and, at that time, I felt that I would attempt to hold my pepper spray can out the window and spray in the direction of TODD, hoping to get him to stop at that time. When I did so, I missed D/TODD completely and he dropped the bike and stopped, holding his hands up, appearing to give up at that time.

I then exited the police vehicle as Officer YOUNG stopped it and, when I did, I looked back and saw D/TODD standing alongside the road facing Officer GONZALEZ with his hands at his sides. Officer GONZALEZ was outside of his police vehicle with his lights on D/TODD directing him verbally to get on the ground. I continued towards TODD at that time and I could clearly hear Officer GONZALEZ directing him to get on the ground several times, however, TODD simply stood there and would not obey his commands. At that time, I felt that the location we were in, TODD was possibly going to take off running on foot so I was able to sneak up behind him without him knowing I was there and, at that time, I grabbed his right arm and told him to get on the ground. He at that time attempted to pull away with his arm and I used a leg sweep to take him down to the ground.

When I had TODD on the ground, I rolled him over onto his stomach in order to place him in handcuffs and was quickly joined by Officer GONZALEZ and Officer YOUNG in attempting to take him into custody. TODD was screaming and pulling his left arm away, tucking it underneath his body so we were unable to place him into handcuffs. I kept telling TODD to stop resisting and place his hands behind his back and he continued to attempt to roll around and keep his left arm concealed underneath his body to where we could not see if there was something in his hand or place his hand in a handcuff. That continued for approximately 15-20 seconds until we were able to gain control over him and place him into handcuffs.

Officer YOUNG then walked TODD over to our police vehicle while I began talking to Officer GONZALEZ at that time. Officer GONZALEZ informed me at that time that he had been standing at the barracades outside of his police vehicle with Officer SCHLENKER when TODD rode up on his bicycle. He told me he informed TODD at that time that he could not go across the bridge if he desired to because it was flooded out from the Tuolumne River and it was unsafe for pedestrians, vehicles, or bicyclists to pass at that time. GONZALEZ told me that, at that time, TODD looked at him and told him "Fuck you" and began riding through the barracades southbound on the bridge in direct disobedience of what Officer GONZALEZ had told him. Officer GONZALEZ said he yelled several times for TODD to stop and he continued to tell him "Fuck you, fuck you."

GONZALEZ said he then ran back to his police vehicle and then began following him with his lights and siren on at that time. I told Officer GONZALEZ that we had observed that part and had then fallen in behind him. Officer GONZALEZ told me that several times he had yelled out the window for TODD to stop and that TODD had again replied "Fuck you." I asked him if he had said anything else and Officer GONZALEZ told me that he had not said anything but "Fuck you."

(d)

## ARREST:

D/TODD at that time was in custody and I walked over to inform him that he was going to be arrested and transported back to the Modesto Police Department at that time. When I did so, I asked him inquisitively "Why did you run from us?" TODD told me at that time spontaneously "I'm on probation, I didn't want to go to jail." I then told him at that time if he had simply stopped at the bridge and obeyed Officer GONZALEZ' directions, he would be going home and we would not have had to chase him for approximately five minutes.

I then placed D/TODD in the back of my police vehicle.

D/TOOD was arrested for 2800.2 CVC - evading a peace officer, 2818 VC - crossing flare pattern, and 148 PC - resisting arrest.

TODD was transported to the Modesto Police Department.

## **BOOKING:**

D/TODD was later transported by the Modesto Police Department Transportation Unit to the Stanislaus County Jail after booking approval by Sgt. FERRY and booked for the above charges only.

#### ADDITIONAL:

TODD's bicycle was placed in the Modesto Police Department bike annex for him to pick up at a later time.

## CASE DISPOSITION:

Cleared by arrest.

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# EXHIBIT 3

Declaration of Paula M. Mitchell

#### Declaration of Paula M. Mitchell

I, Paula M. Mitchell, hereby state and declare:

- 1. I am the Director of the Los Angeles Innocence Project (LAIP), a non-profit law firm associated with the California Forensic Science Institute (CFSI) at Cal State L.A.'s School of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics, located at the Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center in Los Angeles. LAIP represents individuals with claims of actual innocence and is a member of the Innocence Network, a coalition of organizations dedicated to providing pro bono legal and investigative services to individuals seeking to prove claims of innocence for crimes for which they have been convicted, working to redress the causes of wrongful convictions, and supporting the exonerated after they are free.
  - 2. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in all courts in the State of California. I am also licensed to practice law in New York and the District of Columbia, and I am admitted before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third, Fourth, Sixth, Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Circuits, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court. I have assisted in overturning the wrongful convictions of individuals who have cumulatively spent nearly 250 years in prison for murders and other serious violent felonies they did not commit.
  - 3. In March 2023, I was contacted by Scott Peterson's prior counsel at Habeas Corpus Resource Center (HCRC) and asked if LAIP would be in a position to investigate potentially exculpatory DNA evidence in Mr. Peterson's case. Over the following months, I instructed, assisted, and supervised LAIP staff attorneys in assembling the voluminous discovery (over 40,000 pages) and the trial and appellate record in Mr. Peterson's case, in an effort to recreate the police investigation file and related crime lab reports and trial counsel files.
- 4. As a part of those efforts, LAIP staff attorneys and I contacted the offices of Mr.
  Peterson's various prior counsel and obtained from them Mr. Peterson's case materials that were
  in their custody, possession, and control, as required under section 1054.9.
- In reviewing Mr. Peterson's case file, I discovered that several items appeared to have become lost, including a box that contained media that included CDs, CVCs, videotapes, audiotapes, and other items. The box had been labeled by prior counsel as Box 1261.

- 1 6. I reached out to several of Mr. Peterson's prior attorneys in an effort to locate
  2 missing Box 1261. After searches over the course of several weeks proved fruitless, in October
  3 2023, I asked Mr. Peterson's prior counsel at HCRC to please look again at its various facilities
  4 for the missing box. In November 2023, Box 1261 was located by Mr. Peterson's counsel at
  5 HCRC and its contents were provided to me and LAIP.
- 7. Box 1261 contained files, notes, and other materials related to the investigation
  Carl Jensen conducted on behalf of the defense in 2004 and 2005—materials I had not seen
  anywhere else in Mr. Peterson's case materials.
- 8. In March 2024, I traveled to Mr. Jensen's home on the east coast to review additional case materials he has in his possession and interview him about the investigation he conducted in Mr. Peterson's case, at which time I obtained copies of additional case materials that were not previously part of the trial file provided to me by Mr. Peterson's prior counsel.
  - 9. In reviewing the discovery provided to the defense at the time of trial, I discovered a tip sheet (Bates 4752) that appeared to document a tip received by the "America's Most Wanted" tip line following the airing on January 6, 2003, featuring the disappearance of Laci Peterson. The tip concerned a man who was reportedly bragging about his involvement in the disappearance and death of Laci Peterson, who lived in the Airport District in Modesto.
  - 10. I reviewed a related police report (Bates 4749) documenting a police interview with the individual named in the tip, wherein the individual reportedly told police he was in custody in the Stanislaus County Jail on December 24, 2002. I found no follow up by police in the discovery that was provided to the defense concerning the individual named in the America's Most Wanted tip.
- 11. I have reviewed a California Public Records Act (CPRA) request to the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department seeking the Stanislaus County Jail rosters for the week of December 23, 2002, and the jail rosters that appear to have been provided in response to the CPRA and which appear to me to be official jail rosters.
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1	12. The individual named	in the AMW tip described above did not appear on the	10								
2	Stanislaus County Jail roster for any d	lay during the week of December 23, 2002.									
3	I declare and state, under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that										
4	the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my recollection.										
5	Executed on May 6, 2024, in I	Los Angeles, California.									
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## EXHIBIT 4

Declaration of D L B

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### Declaration of D. L. B.

- I, D L B hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge:
- 1. I currently reside in Gustine, California. I have been employed full-time as a security guard since about 2015.
- 2. I grew up in Modesto, California, and went to high school with Laci Peterson. 1 recall that she tutored me in math. She was a few years ahead of me in high school.
- 3. Attorneys for Scott Peterson contacted me in March 2024 and asked me if I would speak to them about information I was given relating to the abduction of Laci Peterson in 2002. I agreed to tell them what I recall,
- 4. In 2016 2017 I was living in Modesto and working for a temp agency called Labor Maxx, located 5331 Pirrone Roade #A, in Salida, California. Labor Max was owned by a couple, the wife's name might be Mara. I believe the secretary's name was Danielle and that she lived in Oakdale. I recently went back to Labor Maxx in 2023, and Danielle still works there.
- 5. Sometime in the fall of 2016, the temp agency assigned me to do a few different types of day labor jobs. During this period, I recall working a job with Tony's Plumbing. I also recall setting up bleachers at one point for Central Catholic High School for their new gym. Another time, I remember working at an old folks' home on J Street by the Five Points intersection and that same day, they told us to follow the supervisor for Tony's Plumbing over to Stony Brook Apartments, located on Sherwood Avenue in Modesto, where we filled in a hole.
- 6. It was during that period that I met a man who I thought was named "Donny." He was assigned to work some of those jobs with me. We worked together approximately 20 times, as I recall.
- 7. "Donny" told me he had been in county jail for possession of drugs and petty thest, and that while he was there he had a cell mate who told him that when they were watching something on TV about the Laci Peterson case: "They are going to put an innocent man in jail for something we did. Scott Peterson didn't kill Laci." "Donny" did not tell me the name of his

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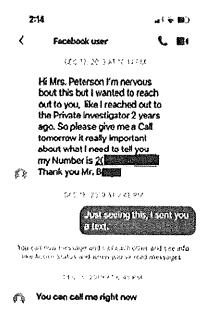
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cell mate. I recall it was when we were working on the job at the Stony Brook Apartments that he told me the information about Laci Peterson.

- 8. "Donny" did not tell me the name of his cell mate, but he said it was the man who talked to his brother on a recorded jail house phone call.
- "Donny" stated that his cell mate told him the following information about what 9. happened to Laci Peterson:
  - a. He was involved in robbing the house across from the Petersons.
  - b. There were three guys outside the house and two guys inside the house.
  - c. Laci saw them robbing the house and yelled at them that they were not supposed to be there and she said she was going to call the cops.
  - d. One of the men involved in the burglary is the brother of the guy on the recorded jail house phone call talking about Laci seeing them rob the house.
  - e. When Laci caught them robbing the house, it spooked one of the men who had been up for weeks on drugs.
  - f. When Laci turned and was walking away, one of the men grabbed her from behind and put their hand over her mouth.
  - They threw her into the back of a van.
  - h. They hit her over the head with a rock.
  - The van they used was a white van.
  - The van they used was later burned.
- "Donny" said he was really bothered by the things his cell mate told him about 10. how Laci was killed. I asked him why he didn't come forward and tell somebody about the information he had gotten from his cell mate and he got quiet and seemed kind of troubled. I had the impression "Donny" told me because he needed to get something off his chest. He was calm and seemed like he was trying to get his life right. He was staying in a half-way house. I think he may have been afraid or fearful for his safety or maybe that of his family, if he came forward.
- I wasn't sure what to do with the information I heard from "Donny". At the time, 11. I thought Scott Peterson was guilty because that was what everybody thought. After I watched a

documentary about the evidence against Mr. Peterson, there seemed to be a lot of discussion about whether the people who robbed the house across the street from the Petersons may have been responsible for Laci's disappearance. I started to wonder if the information "Donny" gave me was important and I started thinking I should try to pass it on to people who were still investigating the ease.

- 12. In the fall of 2017, I contacted a private investigator named Gary Ermoian who is located in Modesto and was shown on the documentary I watched about the Laci Peterson case. I gave the information I had to Mr. Ermoian. At the time I called him, I thought the name was "Donny." I guessed at his last name and I believe I told Mr. Ermoian that the man's last name was "Moris." Mr. Ermoian asked me some follow up questions. As I recall he was unable to find any man at the agency I worked with by the name of "Donny Moris". I did not hear from Mr. Ermoian again.
- 13. About two years later, in late 2019, I saw on social media that the Peterson family was still investigating the case and trying to learn what happened to Laci. I contacted Janey Peterson via Facebook messenger. Our message exchange is below.



14. When I talked to Mrs. Peterson about the information I had, I again said I did not remember the man's name but I thought his first name was something like "Donny" and his last name was "Moris." Over the course of the next two years or so, Mrs. Peterson periodically sent me photos of men she was able to find using that name and similar sounding names who had roots in the Modesto area to see if I could identify the man I worked with who gave me the information about Laci. The photos she was sending me were not the right man.

15. Mrs. Peterson then sent me the photos below. I immediately recognized the man in the pictures as the man I worked with doing day labor jobs around 2016. Mrs. Peterson told me his name was Danny Chapman. I still did not recognize the name but I am certain that the man in the photo is the man who gave me the information about Laci being abducted and hit over the head when she caught the men robbing the house across the street from her home. The photos Mrs. Peterson sent me are below.



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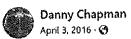
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Mr. Peterson's attorneys showed me a Facebook posting by a man who used the 16. name Danny Chapman dated April 3, 2016. After reviewing the photos of Danny Chapman that Mrs. Peterson sent to me and the Facebook posting, I believe the post was by the same Danny Chapman I worked with who is pictured above, based on the content of the message posted. I recall him telling me he wanted to start a business. When I asked him what kind of business, he said a nursery or a gardening business. The FB post I reviewed is included below.



Havent been active lately just wanted to say say thank u to my family church friends and friends thank u for your prayer finaly have my own place started a gardened busesness also working full time for a temp agency trying to get ahead miss the holy spirit at service big time thanku mom Faye Young Kenna Cogan Mike Anthony McCauley mike Michael Rene Vickerman Robert Pigeon Justin Seward Sr. Rob Robnmichelle Dagnino Justin Schreiber jen Jennifer Damon Roy Pigeon Frank Leitner Sr. And all my friends in fb land the creator is good all the time

5 comments 1 share

I have reviewed this declaration in its entirety, and it is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date

### PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct:

I am over 18 years of age, not a party in the case, and my business address is 1800 Paseo Rancho Castilla, Los Angeles, California 90032.

In the above-entitled matter, on May 6, 2024, I caused a copy of the within: Reply to Opposition to Motion for DNA Testing (Pen. Code § 1405); Proposed Order To Provide Discovery (Pen. Code § 1405(c)) to be served on the following:

Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office Birgit Fladager 832 12th Street #300 Modesto, CA 95354

Email: Birgit.Fladager@standa.org

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