

CENTER FOR APPELLATE LITIGATION

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MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Defender & Colleague
From: Bob Dean
Date: January 15, 2016
Subject: Attached

Here is a list of significant criminal cases pending in the New York Court of Appeals and the issues presented. Cases that the Court has selected for SSM consideration are generally not included. Leave grants were to the defendant unless otherwise noted.

The Center does this update every two months for to its own attorney staff. As a matter of professional courtesy, we also send it to Chief Defenders who do substantial appellate work. Feel free to distribute copies to any members of your staff. This update is also available on our web site (www.appellate-litigation.org).

Although every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the summaries, no express or implied guarantees are made. If your office is handling one or more of these cases and wishes to share some insight not apparent from the intermediate appellate court decision or the Clerk's summary of issues, please feel free to contact me. Your input will be added to the next edition.

We are excited to offer a new feature to our online visitors. Our online Court of Appeals Update (resources link) now includes pdf links to all decided cases, and, for selected cases, a short CAL blog flagging what we think is important or noteworthy about the cases.

Happy reading!

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**CRIMINAL CASES CURRENTLY PENDING IN
THE NEW YORK COURT OF APPEALS**

I. Cases Awaiting Decision

People v. Anthony Jones

ADI order dated March 11, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 115 AD3d 490, 982 NYS2d 309. Pigott, J., granted leave July 21, 2014. Argued January 4, 2016. (Taken off SSM.)

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the sentencing judge has discretion to grant defendant relief from the mandatory surcharge at the time of sentencing, or whether defendant was required to seek such relief by motion pursuant to CPL 420.10(5). (Assigned counsel: Seymour James, Jr., Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau, 199 Water St. NYC 10038.)

People v. Oscar Sanders

AD2 order dated July 23, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 119 AD3d 878, 991 NYS2d 66. Lippman, Ch.J., granted leave December 30, 2014. Argued January 5, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the police properly seized, without a warrant, defendant's clothes, which were lying on the floor of his hospital room in a clear plastic bag, under the theory there was probable cause to believe that the defendant was a victim. (2) Defendant's absence from the Sandoval hearing. (Assigned counsel: Shanda Sibley & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

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People v. Urselina King

AD2 order dated October 23, 2013, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 110 AD3d 1005, 973 NYS2d 353. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave June 27, 2014. Argued January 7, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The preclusion of evidence of third-party culpability -- a defense witness's proposed testimony about overhearing a third party plan the crime. (2) Ineffective assistance of counsel based on counsel's failure to object to the prosecutor's misconduct on summation. (Assigned counsel: Kendra L. Hutchinson & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Anthony DiPippo

AD2 order dated May 28, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 117 AD3d 1076, 986 NYS2d 243. Smith, J., granted leave December 23, 2014. Argued January 7, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the trial court erred in barring defense evidence of third-party culpability: the third-party's confession to a proposed defense witness.

People v. Raymond Leach

AD2 order dated March 5, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 115 AD3d 677, 981 NYS2d 445. Pigott, J., granted leave February 3, 2015. Argued January 12, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the defendant's plea allocution made out attempted grand larceny. (2) The validity of the appeal waiver. (Assigned counsel: Steven A. Feldman, 626 Reckson Plaza, West Tower, 6th Floor, Uniondale, NY 11556.)

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People v. Gordon Gross

AD4 order dated June 20, 2014, affirming denial of CPL 440.10 motion based on ineffective assistance of trial counsel. Decision below: 118 AD3d 1383, 988 NYS2d 733. Lindley, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave September 18, 2014. Argued January 12, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: Whether trial counsel was ineffective for failing to object to testimony regarding numerous prior consistent statements by the sexual assault child victim or to the prosecutor's use of that testimony on summation.

People v. Jin Cheng Lin

AD2 order dated April 3, 2013, modifying judgment of conviction. Decision below: 105 AD3d 761, 963 NYS2d 131. Hall, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave June 13, 2013. Argued January 12, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the defendant was improperly precluded, at trial, from introducing a pre-arraignment videotaped statement to an ADA, to show defendant's emotional demeanor and thus the involuntariness of his preceding statements to the police. (2) The voluntariness of the statements due to the length of time he was questioned by police. (3) Whether the delay in arraignment was strategically designed so that defendant could be questioned outside the presence of counsel, thus rendering the statement involuntary. (4) The court's instructions directing the jury to continue deliberating after refusing to accept a repugnant verdict. (5) The court's refusal to direct the jury to reconsider the verdict in its entirety. (Assigned counsel: De Nice Powell & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

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People v. Freddie Thompson

AD2 order dated June 11, 2014, modifying judgment of conviction by reducing the sentence in the interest of justice and otherwise affirming. Decision below: 118 AD3d 822, 987 NYS2d 189. Smith, J., granted leave December 18, 2014. Argued January 13, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: 10-year look-back period for adjudication as a second violent felony offender: where defendant originally received probation on the predicate offense and was later violated on probation and resentenced, whether the operative sentencing date for the predicate is the original sentencing date or the date of the resentencing on the VOP. (Assigned counsel: Alex Donn & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Christopher A. Nicholson

AD4 order dated June 20, 2014, modifying judgment of conviction. Decision below: 118 AD3d 1423, 988 NYS2d 765. Lindley (AD dissenter), J., granted leave August 12, 2014. Argued January 13, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Improper rebuttal evidence to impeach the sole defense witness on a collateral matter. (2) The admissibility of expert testimony on child sex abuse accommodation syndrome to explain the victim's delayed disclosure. (3) Ineffective assistance of counsel. (Assigned counsel: Mary P. Davison, PO Box 652, 61 North Main Street, Suite C, Canandaigua, NY 14424.)

People v. Marcus D. Hogan

AD4 order dated June 13, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 118 AD3d 1263, 986 NYS2d 907. Lippman, Ch.J., granted leave February 3, 2014. Argued January 13, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the "drug factory" presumption (PL 220.25 [2]) is applicable where the suspect is not in the same room as the drugs. (2) Whether counsel was ineffective for failing to move to dismiss

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the indictment based on a CPL 190.50 (5) (a) violation. (Assigned counsel: Shirley A. Gorman, PO Box 629, 19 Market St., Brockport, NY 14420.)

People v. Lawrence Watson

AD1 order dated December 2, 2014, reversing judgment of conviction. Decision below: 124 AD3d 95, 998 NYS2d 27. Tom (AD dissenter), J., granted leave to People February 2, 2015. Argued January 14, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the trial court violated defendant's right to counsel by disqualifying defense counsel even though defendant waived any potential conflict. The disqualified attorney was a staff attorney with an institutional defender and a potential witness had been represented by a different staff attorney from the same office in charges arising out of the same incident. (Assigned counsel: Richard M. Greenberg, Office of the Appellate Defender, 11 Park Place, Suite 1601 NYC 10007.)

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II. Cases Scheduled for Argument

People v. Assad Cedeno

AD2 order dated January 15, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 113 AD3d 695, 978 NYS2d 328. Smith, J., granted leave September 3, 2014. To be argued February 9, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the trial court violated the Bruton rule by allowing in the codefendant's redacted confession; whether the redaction would not have caused the jury to realize that the confession referred specifically to the defendant. (2) The admission of other-crimes evidence. (Assigned counsel: De Nice Powell and Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Keith Johnson

AD1 order dated December 16, 2014, reversing judgment of conviction and ordering a new trial. Decision below: 123 AD3d 573, 999 NYS2d 46. DeGrasse, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave to People February 17, 2015. To be argued February 9, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the admission, at the joint trial of the defendant and his non-testifying co-defendant, of the co-defendant's Grand Jury testimony denying any knowledge of criminal activity, violated the Bruton rule; whether the Grand Jury testimony was "facially incriminating" to defendant. (Assigned counsel for respondent: David Klem & Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

People v. Oliver Berry

AD2 order dated October 23, 2013, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 110 AD3d 1002, 973 NYS2d 338. Lippman, Ch.J., granted leave November 24, 2014. To be argued February 9, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether a prosecution witness's invocation of the 5th amendment in front of the jury added critical weight to the People's case. (2) Whether the court properly precluded expert

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identification testimony about the effects of stress on the accuracy of identification. (Assigned counsel for respondent: Erica Horwitz and Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Sean John

AD2 order dated August 6, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 120 AD3d 511, 990 NYS2d 597. Hall (AD dissenter), J., granted leave October 20, 2014. To be argued February 10, 2015. (Taken off SSM).

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the police properly seized and opened without a warrant, under the “plain view” doctrine, a box marked “Smith & Wesson” found in the common storage area of an apartment building. (Assigned counsel: Dina Zloczower & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Rashid Bilal

AD1 order dated June 5, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 118 AD3d 448, 987 NYS2d 364. Rivera, J., granted leave September 25, 2014. To be argued February 11, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Where defense counsel unjustifiably failed to request a suppression hearing, whether: (a) the merits of the suppression issue were “close” enough after People v. Clermont, 22 NY3d 931 (2013) to warrant a hearing, where police pursued defendant despite only having a generic description of a “black male” in a jacket and where defendant fled from individuals he did not know were police officers, and (b) the reviewing court erred in limiting its assessment of prejudice to the potential outcome of the suppression hearing. (Assigned counsel: Rachel T. Goldberg & Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

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People v. Roy Gray

AD1 order dated April 8, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction and denial of 440.10 motion. Decision below: 116 AD3d 480, 983 NYS2d 262. Smith, J., granted leave December 18, 2014. To be argued February 11, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether counsel was ineffective for not moving to reopen the Huntley hearing during trial when favorable information as to attenuation came out, since (the Appellate Division determined) defendant would have lost a reopened hearing. (2) The admission into evidence of live ammunition found when defendant's half-brother was arrested; whether probative value outweighed prejudice. (Assigned counsel: Richard M. Greenberg, Office of the Appellate Defender, 11 Park Place, Suite 1601, NYC 10007.)

People v. Nelson Miranda

AT1 order dated August 22, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 44 Misc.3d 140(A), 999 NYS2d 798, 2014 WL 4168509. Lippman, Ch.J., granted leave January 14, 2015. To be argued February 11, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The warrantless search of defendant's backpack as incident to a lawful arrest. (2) Whether the accusatory instrument was jurisdictionally defective.

People v. Christian Williams

AD1 order dated October 30, 2014, reversing judgment of conviction. Decision below: 123 AD3d 240, 995 NYS 2d 559. Tom (AD dissenter), J., granted leave to People January 29, 2015. To be argued February 16, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the Appellate Division correctly held that defendant's guilty plea was involuntary, where the agreed-upon sentence - - unbeknownst to the parties - - was illegally low. (Assigned counsel for Respondent: Richard M. Greenberg, Office of the Appellate Defender, 11 Park Place, Suite 1601, NYC 10007.)

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People v. Marcellus Johnson

AD1 order dated September 30, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 120 AD3d 1154, 992 NYS2d 884. Pigott, J., granted leave March 19, 2015. To be argued February 16, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the court properly admitted Rikers telephone calls made by the defendant, routinely recorded by the Department of Correction, even though defendant's right to counsel had attached. (Assigned counsel: Stanley Neustadter, c/o Cardozo Law School Appeals Clinic, 55 Fifth Avenue, 11th Floor, NYC 10003.)

Matter of Kenneth S.

AD1 order dated October 28, 2014, affirming juvenile delinquency adjudication. Decision below: 121 AD3d 593, 995 NYS2d 48. Court of Appeals granted leave January 20, 2015. To be argued February 17, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The warrantless search of the juvenile's backpack while he was handcuffed and seated in police car. (2) Whether the juvenile was lawfully taken into police custody as a suspected truant.

People v. Reginald Powell

AD2 order dated February 25, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 125 AD3d 1010, 5 NYS3d 445. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave March 19, 2015. To be argued February 17, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The trial court's barring evidence of third-party culpability (victim's \$500,000 life insurance policy naming defendant's brother as the primary beneficiary). (2) Whether there was a reasonable view of evidence requiring the court to charge first-degree manslaughter as a lesser included offense of first-degree murder. (3) Attenuation of post-Miranda statements from inadmissible pre-Miranda ones. (4) Sufficiency of evidence of intent to remain unlawfully in victim's home, to support second-degree burglary. (5) et al.

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People v. Joel Nelson

AD2 order dated December 24, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 125 AD3d 58, 998 NYS2d 216. Dickerson (AD dissenter), J., granted leave March 27, 2015. To be argued February 18, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether defendant was deprived of a fair trial when members of the victim's family were allowed to appear in court wearing t-shirts depicting the victim's photograph along with the words "Remember" or "Remembering." (2) Ineffective assistance of counsel. (3) Sentencing court's violation of defendant's due process rights. (Assigned counsel: Alexis A. Ascher & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Bobby Wallace

AD1 order dated January 7, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 113 AD3d 413, 978 NYS2d 145. Lippman, Ch.J., granted leave November 25, 2014. To be argued March 22, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether defendant was "in custody" so that Miranda warnings were required. (2) Whether the "public safety" exception to the Miranda rule applies where the weapon in question was not an inherently dangerous object. (Assigned counsel: Seymour James, Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau, 199 Water Street, NYC 10038.)

People v. Wayne Henderson

AD2 order dated June 25, 2014, reversing judgment of conviction and ordering a new trial. Decision below: 118 AD3d 1020, 990 NYS2d 214. Smith, J., granted leave to People December 16, 2014. To be argued March 24, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether trial counsel's deficient preparation of an expert witness in forensic psychiatry constituted ineffective assistance of counsel. (Assigned counsel for defendant: Leila Hull & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

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People v. Andre Harrison

AD2 order dated March 26, 2014, dismissing an appeal by permission from a 440.10 motion denial. Decision below: 115 AD3d 980, 982 NYS2d 544. Lippman, Ch.J., granted leave December 29, 2014. To be argued March 29, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the Appellate Division erred in dismissing the appeal of a defendant who had been involuntarily deported after receiving permission to appeal his 440.10 denial, on the ground that it was a permissive appeal rather than a direct-judgment appeal as of right. (Assigned counsel: Allegra Glashausser & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Marino Serrano

AT2 order dated September 29, 2014, dismissing defendant's appeal. Decision below: 45 Misc. 3d 69, 997 NYS2d 213. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave March 27, 2015. To be argued March 29, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the Appellate Term erred in dismissing defendant's appeal based upon his involuntary deportation; the court reasoned that the defendant was raising a plea-withdrawal - - as opposed to a sufficiency or weight-of-the-evidence - - claim. (Assigned counsel: Seymour James, Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau, 199 Water Street, NYC 10038.)

People v. Quanaparker Howard

AD4 order dated February 6, 2015, affirming level 3 SORA risk-level designation. Decision below: 125 AD3d 1331, 999 NYS2d 783. Court of Appeals granted leave May 12, 2015. To be argued March 30, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: SORA-Whether the county court erred in declining to depart from the serious physical injury override's presumptive level-3 risk designation.

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People v. Louis Speaks

AD2 order dated January 14, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 124 AD3d 689, 1 NYS3d 257. Hall, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave February 26, 2015. To be argued March 30, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The admission of hearsay police testimony of a non-testifying witness' description of the perpetrator, and of a testifying witness' description. (2) Ineffective assistance of counsel for failure to object to improper comments during the prosecutor's summation. (Assigned counsel: Nao Terai & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Joel Joseph

AD1 order dated October 7, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 121 AD3d 445, 994 NYS2d 85. Lippman, Ch.J., granted leave December 31, 2014. To be argued March 31, 2016.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the police had probable cause to arrest defendant for ongoing drug activity when some of the information upon which the police relied came from a confidential informant several months earlier. (Assigned counsel: Seymour James, Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau, 199 Water Street, NYC 10038.)

People v. Ronald D. Rossborough

AD4 order dated January 3, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 101 AD3d 1775, 956 NYS2d 389. Smith, J., granted leave September 24, 2014. To be argued March 31, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The validity of defendant's waiver of his right to be present at sentencing. (2) Whether defendant's waiver of his right to appeal forfeits his claim that the court erred in sentencing him in absentia.

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People v. Jonathan J. Connolly

AD4 order dated June 20, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 118 AD3d 1449, 988 NYS2d 791. Read, J., granted leave January 6, 2015. To be argued March 31, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether, at a restitution hearing, the court properly relied on a hearing transcript created by a JHO unauthorized to hold the hearing. (2) Whether the delay in holding the restitution hearing divested the court of jurisdiction. (3) Ineffective assistance of counsel. (Assigned Counsel: David C. Schopp, The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc., 237 Main Street, Suite 1602, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203.)

People v. Tyrone D. Manor

AD4 order dated October 3, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 121 AD3d 1581, 993 NYS2d 424. Pigott, J., granted leave March 19, 2015. To be argued March 31, 2016.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The sufficiency of the plea allocution. (2) Whether defendant's motion to withdraw his guilty plea was properly denied without a hearing. (Assigned counsel: Timothy P. Donaher, Monroe County Public Defender, 10 N. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY 14614.)

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III. Cases Waiting to be Scheduled

People v. Scott Barden

AD1 order dated April 10, 2014, modifying judgment of conviction. Decision below: 117 AD3d 216, 983 NYS2d 534. Pigott, J., granted leave September 23, 2014. Reargument ordered.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether a defendant may be guilty of fourth-degree criminal possession of stolen property for possessing intangible property, i.e., a credit card number, where the rightful owner retains physical possession of the card. (2) CPL §30.30: When the prosecutor states they are not ready and asks for an adjournment, does defense counsel “consent” to the adjournment by proposing an alternate date. (Assigned counsel: Richard M. Greenberg, Office of the Appellate Defender, 11 Park Place, Suite 1601, NYC 10007.)

People v. Terrance L. Mack

AD4 order dated May 2, 2014, reversing judgment of conviction. Decision below: 117 AD3d 1450, 984 NYS2d 768. Lindley, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave to People June 30, 2014. Reargument ordered.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the trial court’s acceptance of a jury verdict without first responding to three jury notes was a mode-of-proceedings error requiring reversal despite the lack of an objection. (Assigned counsel for defendant: Timothy P. Donaher, Monroe County Public Defender, 10 N. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY 14614.)

People v. Jesse Roberites

AD4 order dated March 28, 2014, reversing judgment of conviction. Decision below: 115 AD3d 1291, 983 NYS2d 377. Smith, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave to the People July 17, 2014.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the trial court’s failure to notify a pro se defendant of a jury note requesting exhibits (CPL §310.20[1]) is a mode-of-proceedings error requiring reversal, even in the absence of

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preservation. (Assigned counsel: William J. Comiskey, 677 Broadway, Suite 301, Albany, NY 12207.)

People v. John Gibson

AD3 order dated May 29, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 117 AD3d 1317, 986 NYS2d 660. Rose, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave July 24, 2014.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the police established the existence of emergency circumstances justifying the warrantless entry into defendant's apartment; although the police had reason to believe a weapon was inside the apartment, the defendant was already under arrest outside the apartment, which was unoccupied at the time. (2) Probable cause to arrest. (3) The sufficiency of the indictment as to third-degree weapon possession, where the language failed to specify whether the indictment was for an imitation pistol (PL §265.01[2]) or a dangerous weapon (PL §265.02[1]). (Assigned counsel: John P.M. Wappett, Warren County P.D., 1340 State Route 9, Lake George, NY 12845.)

People v. Kenneth Moore

AT1 order dated February 22, 2012, affirming judgment of conviction after a guilty plea in Criminal Court. Decision below: 34 Misc.3d 151(A), 951 NYS2d 88, 2012 WL 575007. Read, J., granted leave June 9, 2014.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Where the defendant did not move to withdraw his guilty plea, whether the guilty plea was invalid under People v. Tyrell, 22 NY3d 359 (2013). (Assigned counsel: Seymour James, Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau, 199 Water Street, NYC 10038.)

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People v. Glenn S. Smith

AT 9&10 order dated March 10, 2014, reversing judgment of conviction and dismissing the accusatory instrument. Rivera, J., granted leave to People October 6, 2014.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether defendant was required to submit an affidavit of errors upon taking an appeal to the Appellate Term, where defendant provided an electronic recording of the underlying proceeding instead of a stenographic transcription as specified in CPL 460.10(3). (Assigned counsel for Respondent: Richard N. Lentino, 138 West Main Street, Middletown, NY 10940.)

People v. Shane Morris

AD2 order dated August 27, 2014, reversing judgment of conviction and ordering a new trial. Decision below: 120 AD3d 835, 991 NYS2d 454. Graffeo, J., granted leave to People November 25, 2014.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the O’Rama holding (78 NY2d 270) should be overruled to the extent that it designates a violation a “mode of proceedings” error. (Assigned counsel for respondent: David P. Greenberg and Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Charles Smith

AD1 order dated November 13, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 122 AD3d 456, 996 NYS2d 37. Pigott, J., granted leave January 27, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) In an observation-sale case, whether the court improperly precluded defense counsel from cross-examining the observing officers about civil lawsuits filed against them in cases with facts similar to the ones in defendant’s case, where the lawsuits were merely pending or had been settled. (2) The denial of a circumstantial evidence charge, where no drugs were observed exchanged, but a glassine was found upon the alleged buyer. (Assigned counsel: Claudia

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Flores & Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

People v. Anthony Parson, Jr

AD4 order dated November 21, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 122 AD3d 1441, 997 NYS2d 198. Fahey (AD dissenter), J., granted leave January 21, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether counsel was ineffective at the suppression hearing for failure to mount a more vigorous challenge to the propriety of the car stop. (Assigned counsel: David C. Schopp, The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc., 237 Main St., Suite 1602, Buffalo, NY 14203.)

People v. Sparkle Daniel

AD1 order dated November 6, 2014, reversing judgment of conviction. Decision below: 122 AD3d 401, 996 NYS2d 16. Clark (AD dissenter), J., granted leave to People January 22, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the defendant's post-Miranda - waiver statements should have been suppressed, since the police gave the warnings only after the interrogation was underway and the defendant had already responded by giving incriminatory statements. (Assigned counsel for Respondent: Seymour James, Legal Aid Society Criminal Appeals Bureau, 199 Water Street, NYC 10038.)

People v. Nadine Panton

AD1 order dated February 6, 2014, modifying judgment of conviction. Decision below: 114 AD3d 450, 979 NYS2d 579. Lippman, Ch.J., granted leave (upon reconsideration) April 8, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether defense counsel was ineffective for failing to preserve a Miranda issue even though counsel for the co-defendant (Sparkle Daniel) preserved the same issue at the joint hearing. (Assigned counsel: Robin Nichinsky and Robert S. Dean,

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10005.)

People v. Perry C. Griggs

AD4 order dated May 9, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 117 AD3d 1523, 985 NYS2d 369. Pigott, J., granted leave January 27, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The sufficiency of the trial evidence that the defendant forcibly stole property from the victim while using a gun. (2) Whether defendant's sentence was properly enhanced pursuant to PL §60.07 (attack on for-hire vehicle operator). (3) Whether the grand jury proceeding was defective because defendant was shackled during his testimony, or because the prosecutor failed to inform the grand jury of the defendant's request to have another witness testify. (Assigned counsel: David C. Schopp, The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc., 237 Main Street, Suite 1602, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203.)

People v. Dennis J. Sincerbeaux

AD4 order dated October 3, 2014, affirming level 3 SORA adjudication. Decision below: 121 AD3d 1577, 993 NYS2d 855. Court of Appeals granted leave February 17, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether points were improperly assessed under risk factor 9 because the defendant's conviction for endangering the welfare of a child was nonsexual in nature. (2) Sufficiency of evidence to support imposition of points under risk factors 1 and 5.

People v. Antonio Aragon

AD1 order dated July 29, 2014, affirming a judgment of conviction. Decision below: 44 Misc.3d 140(A), 999 NYS2d 797, 2014 WL 4099352. Read, J., granted leave February 24, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the accusatory instrument was facially sufficient where it alleged that police recovered from defendant "one set of brass metal knuckles."

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People v. Anthony Berry

AD1 order dated November 6, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 122 AD3d 414, 995 NYS2d 70. Rivera, J., granted leave April 2, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether a conviction for unlawful dealing with a child under Penal Law 260.20 (1) can stand when culpability is based solely on the defendant's failure to act, and the defendant has no legal duty to the child. (Assigned counsel: Barbara Zolot and Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

People v. Leroy Carver

AD4 order dated January 2, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 124 AD3d 1276, 999 NYS2d 632. Whalen, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave March 17, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether counsel was ineffective for failing to make a suppression motion in a traffic-stop case. (Assigned counsel: Timothy P. Donaher, Monroe County Public Defender, 10 N. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY 14614.)

People v. Steven Henderson

AD2 order dated September 10, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 120 AD3d 1258, 992 NYS2d 140. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave March 25, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) CPL 30.30: Whether the People's delay in seeking DNA testing is an exceptional circumstance and thus excludable time. (2) Whether defendant failed to preserve this issue by not doing a reply affirmation. (Assigned counsel: Leila Hull & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

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People v. Glenford C. Hull

AD3 order dated February 19, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 125 AD3d 1099, 4 NYS3d 623. Lynch (AD dissenter), J., granted leave March 26, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether first-degree manslaughter was properly charged, over defense objection, as a lesser included offense to second-degree murder; whether there was a reasonable view of the evidence that defendant intended to seriously injure, rather than kill, the deceased. (2) Sufficiency of inquiry into juror misconduct. (3) The People's use of prior testimony to impeach their own witness. (4) Refusal to give a circumstantial evidence charge. (Assigned counsel: Jonathan I. Edelstein, c/o Edelstein & Grossman, 501 Fifth Avenue, Suite 514, NYC 10017.)

People v. Anthony Badalamenti

AD2 order dated January 14, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 124 AD3d 672, 1 NYS3d 242. Fahey, J., granted leave March 31, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: (1) Whether there is a "vicarious consent" exception to PL 250.05 (no eavesdropping without the consent of at least one party to the conversation) where a child's parent records a conversation between the child and a third party. (2) Variance between court's charge and indictment allegations. (3) Prosecutorial misconduct. (4) Admissibility of testimony of a child's teacher. (5) Imposition of sentence as punishment for going to trial. (Assigned counsel: Marianne Karas, 980 Broadway, Suite 324, Thornwood, NY 10594.)

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People v. Joseph Bridgeforth

AD2 order dated July 2, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 119 AD3d 600, 987 NYS2d 869. Rivera, J., granted leave April 2, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Batson: whether skin-color is a cognizable class. (2) Batson: whether the “mootness doctrine” precludes a trial or appellate judge from revisiting the adequacy of a prima facie showing (step one) when the nonmovant fails to provide a race-neutral reason (step two). (3) The “presumption of regularity” and the right to be present at Sandoval hearings. (Assigned counsel: Tammy Linn & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Baasil Reynolds

AD1 order dated May 8, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 117 AD3d 478, 985 NYS2d 83. Rivera, J., granted leave April 2, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The legality of a plea agreement whereby defendant agreed to a further 6-month incarceration prior to sentencing. (2) The sufficiency of the Outley hearing. (Assigned counsel: Richard M. Greenberg, Office of the Appellate Defender, 11 Park Place, Suite 1601, NYC 10007.)

People v. Patrick Morgan

AD1 order dated January 6, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 124 AD3d 406, 1 NYS3d 39. Manzanet-Daniels (AD Dissenter), J., granted leave May 7, 2015. (Taken off SSM.)

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether, after the previously deadlocked jury rendered a defective verdict that revealed its numerical split and the identity of the two jurors in the minority, the court, when ordering the jury to resume deliberations and reminding it that the verdict had to be unanimous, wrongfully refused to include any language that jurors were not to surrender conscientious beliefs solely to achieve unanimity. (2)

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Whether, by refusing to grant the deliberating jury’s request to rehear the defense summation simply because it was not “evidence,” the court failed to exercise or at least abused its discretion; and whether defense counsel’s endorsement of the court’s refusal constituted ineffective assistance of counsel. (Assigned counsel: Susan H. Salomon & Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

People v. Nnamdi Clarke

AD2 order dated November 12, 2014, reversing judgment of conviction and dismissing indictment. Decision below: 122 AD3d 765, 995 NYS2d 727. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave to People March 25, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: CPL §30.30. Whether the People’s lack of due diligence in seeking testing of DNA evidence rebutted their claim that the delay was due to “exceptional circumstances” (CPL §30.30 [4] [g]). (Assigned counsel for Respondent: Bill Kastin & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Daviel McCummings

AD1 order dated January 22, 2015, reversing judgment of conviction. Decision below: 124 AD3d 502, 1 NYS3d 97. Saxe, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave to People April 23, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the Appellate Division correctly concluded that defendant was entitled to a new trial because the trial court improperly denied his request for substitution of counsel without conducting any inquiry. (Assigned counsel for Respondent: Lisa A. Packard & Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

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People v. Charles K. Wilson

AD4 order dated September 26, 2014, modifying a judgment of conviction. Decision below: 120 AD3d 1531, 993 NYS2d 200. Pigott, J., granted leave April 23, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the People should have been precluded from cross-examining defendant with statements taken after he had invoked Miranda, where the police deliberately kept interrogating him to gain impeachment material. (2) Whether the photo identification was rendered suggestive by the inclusion of defendant's photograph in successive arrays.

People v. Zachary T. Guerin

Cattaraugus County Court order dated May 30, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction for trespassing in violation of ECL §11-2113(1). Pigott, J., granted leave April 8, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the defendant could be guilty of trespassing on protected property where the posted no-trespass sign did not comply with ECL §11-2111(2)'s requirement that the sign state the name and address of the landowner.

People v. John Stone

AD1 order dated October 30, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 121 AD3d 617, 995 NYS2d 68. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave June 19, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether inferential hearsay testimony from a detective, that he started looking for defendant, the named suspect, after speaking to a non-testifying eyewitness, violated Crawford. (2) Whether under CPL 330.30(2), the trial court erroneously denied the motion to set aside the verdict based on juror misconduct without a hearing, even though there were disputed issues of fact. (Assigned counsel: Lisa A. Packard & Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

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People v. Stanley Hardee

AD1 order dated January 22, 2013, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 126 AD3d 626, 5 NYS3d 430. Acosta, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave June 18, 2015. (Taken off SSM.)

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether, under People v. Torres - - which allows police to conduct a protective search of a car only where the officers (1) have reasonable suspicion to believe a crime has been committed and (2) have an articulable basis to fear for their own safety - - police may search a car when the driver has committed a traffic infraction - - not a crime, there by failing to meet prong one of the Torres rule. (Assigned counsel: Rachel T. Goldberg & Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

People v. Immanuel Flowers

AD2 order dated October 22, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction upon resentencing after AD2 remittitur. Decision below: 121 A.D.3d 1014, 993 NYS2d 921. Pigott, J., granted leave May 14, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the “presumption of institutional vindictiveness” (People v. VanPelt, 76 N.Y.2d 156) in imposing a higher sentence after an appellate reversal, applies where AD2 sent the case back to the trial court for resentencing, where the court originally used improper factors at sentence, and the court then imposes the same sentence. (2) Whether counsel was ineffective for failing to object to the new sentence. (Assigned counsel: Seymour James, Jr., Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau, 199 Water St. NYC 10038.)

People v. Lennie Frankline

AD1 order dated December 11, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 123 A.D.3d 504, 1 NYS3d 23. Pigott, J., granted leave May 22, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Evidence of prior assault by defendant on victim to “complete the narrative” and as probative of “motive”: whether the attempted murder victim’s detailed narrative of the prior assault deprived

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defendant of a fair trial. (Assigned counsel: Seymour James, Jr., Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau, 199 Water St. NYC 10038.)

People v. Ryan P. Brahney

AD4 order dated March 20, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 126 AD3d 1286, 5 NYS3d 630. Lindley (AD dissenter), J., granted leave June 1, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Consecutive versus concurrent sentences: Whether it was illegal to run defendant's intentional murder and first-degree burglary sentences to run consecutively. (2) Whether the defense of extreme emotional disturbance was made out. (3) Whether the admission into evidence of defendant's statement, for which no Huntley ruling was made or waived, was harmless error. (Assigned counsel: Kathryn Friedman, c/o The Sage Law Firm Group, PLLC, PO Box 200, 465 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14213.)

People v. Omar A. Smalling

AD2 order dated March 11, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 126 AD3d 820, 4 NYS3d 307. Fahey, J., granted leave June 9, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the trial court erred in giving a supplemental instruction regarding constructive possession of a weapon in response to a jury note. (Assigned counsel: Kathleen Whooley and Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Harold L. Petke

AD3 order dated February 19, 2015, reversing judgment of conviction. Decision below: 125 AD3d 1103, 5 NYS3d 532. Read, J., granted leave to People May 11, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the concededly improper denial of a challenge for cause, followed by counsel's exercise of a peremptory challenge and the exhaustion of defense peremptories, was harmless

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because (1) the one additional juror selected after the exhaustion did not end up deliberating due to a medical condition, (2) defendant had been given additional peremptory challenges when selecting alternates, and (3) defendant chose not to exercise a peremptory on the alternate who replaced the ill juror.

People v. Jamell R. McCullough

AD4 order dated March 27, 2015, reversing judgment of conviction. Decision below: 126 AD3d 1452, 5 NYS3d 665. Scudder (AD dissenter), J., granted leave to People May 21, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the trial court abused its discretion in refusing to allow the defense to call an expert on the reliability of identification testimony. (2) Whether the Appellate Division erred in reversing and granting a new trial rather than remitting for a Frye hearing.

People v. Leonard Williams

AD2 order dated December 31, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 123 AD3d 1152, 997 NYS3d 499. Pigott, J., granted leave June 19, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the prosecutor's use of a slide show powerpoint presentation during summation deprived defendant of a fair trial. (2) Whether the prosecutor mischaracterized the trial evidence on summation. (3) Whether counsel was ineffective for failing to object to the prosecutor's summation comments. (Assigned counsel: Alex Donn and Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Lyxon Chery

AD1 order dated April 16, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 127 AD3d 533, 6 NYS3d 252. Fahey, J., granted leave July 13, 2015.

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ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the trial court erred in allowing the People to impeach defendant with omissions from the defendant's spontaneous post-arrest, pre-Miranda statement. (Assigned counsel: Marisa Cabrera & Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

People v. Earl Jones

AD1 order dated April 14, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 127 AD3d 517, 5 NYS3d 725. Lippman, Ch.J., granted leave August 10, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the trial court erred in admitting an out-of-court eyewitness' declaration to a police officer that Defendant-Appellant was attempting to burglarize a truck as an excited utterance or a present sense impression. And whether that error violated Defendant-Appellant's constitutional rights to confrontation. (2) Whether the burglary conviction was legally insufficient where the evidence that Defendant-Appellant intended to commit a crime in the FedEx truck's front seating area was that he climbed through an opened door with a tool and a duffel bag, stayed inside for five seconds, took some unelaborated action at the back of the truck, and then walked away with nothing other than his own possessions. (Assigned counsel: Jody Ratner & Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

People v. Luis A. Pabon

AD4 order dated March 27, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 126 AD3d 1447, 7 NYS3d 743. DeJoseph, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave June 10, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The tolling of the statute of limitations period for sexual offenses against minors. (2) Whether the court's error in allowing a detective to testify that defendant lied to him was harmless. (3) Extrinsic evidence to impeach on a collateral matter. (4) Prosecutorial misconduct on summation. (5) In a bench trial, the court's refusal to "sequester" certain trial "evidence" so as to permit appellate review of his mistrial motion.

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People v. Martesha Davidson

Tompkins County Court order dated March 10, 2015, reversing dismissal of accusatory instrument. Read, J., granted leave June 10, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the special prosecutor of the NYS Justice Center (Exec. Law §552) is authorized to prosecute cases of abuse and neglect of vulnerable persons by their caregivers in NY's local criminal courts.

People v. James Brown

AD1 order dated March 17, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 126 AD3d 516, 7 NYS3d 19. Stein, J., granted leave June 17, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: CPL 30.30 & People v. Sibblies, 22 NY3d 1174 (2014); how to analyze the People's subsequent statement of unreadiness following an off-calendar certificate of readiness. The Sibblies Court was split 3-3 in two plurality opinions. (Leave was also granted in People v. Terrence Young, 2015 WL 824564, with a similar issue.) (Assigned counsel: Danielle Muscatello, c/o Robert Didio & Associates, 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Suite 307, Kew Gardens, NY 11415.)

People v. Fernando Maldonado

AD2 order dated July 2, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 119 AD3d 610, 988 NYS2d 693. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave June 19, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The sufficiency of the evidence of grand larceny of real property based upon executing and filing a "forged" deed. (2) The sufficiency of the evidence of value. (3) IAC of trial counsel. (Assigned counsel: Seymour W. James, Jr., The Legal Aid Society Criminal Appeals Bureau, 199 Water Street, NYC 10038.)

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People v. Herman Bank

AD4 order dated January 2, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 124 AD3d 1376, 1 NYS3d 687. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave June 22, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether defendant was deprived of the effective assistance of counsel at the plea negotiations, where counsel misunderstood the law regarding concurrent versus consecutive sentencing and gave incorrect legal advice.

People v. Phillip Couser

AD4 order dated March 20, 2015, modifying one judgment of conviction and affirming the other. Decision below 126 AD3d 1419, 5 NYS3d 787. Stein, J., granted leave on June 24, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Where defendant threatened a group of five people and took a purse from one of them, whether the sentences on the conviction for robbery and on the convictions for attempted robbery had to run concurrently. (2) Where the Appellate Division modified downward the aggregate sentence on the trial conviction, whether the defendant was entitled to his plea back on a subsequent guilty plea where the promise of concurrent time no longer had the same benefit. (Assigned counsel: Timothy P. Donaher, Monroe County Public Defender, 10 N. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY 14614.)

People v. Roy S. Kangas

Oneida County Court order dated February 25, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Stein, J., granted leave June 25, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the trial court erroneously admitted breath test documents into evidence under the business records exception to the rule against hearsay.

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People v. Prince Clark

AD2 order dated April 29, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction, with two dissenters. Decision below: 129 AD3d 1, 9 NYS3d 277. Miller, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave June 29, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether trial counsel was ineffective in not requesting a charge on justification when counsel refrained from exercising his own professional judgment as to trial strategy in the belief that he was bound by the defendant's wishes. (2) Where the evidence supported self-defense, whether the court erred in not sua sponte charging the deliberating jury on justification when they referenced that defense in a note. (Assigned counsel: DeNice Powell & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. James Miller

AD1 order dated November 18, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 122 AD3d 492, 996 NYS3d 273. Adbus-Salaam, J., granted leave July 1, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the trial court erred in precluding defendant from questioning prospective jurors during voir dire regarding whether they could disregard a confession if they found it to be involuntary, where the People had not yet decided if they would introduce the confession at trial. (2) Whether defense counsel was ineffective for failing to object to the prosecutor's summation comments. (Assigned counsel: Richard M. Greenberg, Office of the Appellate Defender, 11 Park Place, Suite 1601, NYC 10007.)

People v. Anthony Perkins

AD2 order dated January 28, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 124 AD3d 915, 2 NYS3d 220. Read, J., granted leave July 2, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the lineup was unduly suggestive where only one lineup subject (defendant) had a dreadlock hairstyle, described by some but not all of the identifying witnesses; (2) the denial

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of an adverse inference charge where the People failed to preserve the tape of a 911 call; (3) the failure of the trial judge to make factual findings before denying the defense Batson challenge at step 3. (Assigned counsel: Paul Skip Laisure & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Hao Lin

AT2 order dated November 26, 2014, reversing judgment of conviction for DWI. Decision below: 46 Misc. 3d 20, 998 NYS2d 558. Abdus-Salaam, J., granted leave to People July 2, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Crawford v. Washington: Whether a police officer who observed the administration of a breathalyzer test by another officer, and who was also qualified to administer it, and who testified at trial because the testing officer was unavailable, satisfied the standards for qualifying as a substitute witness under Bullcoming v. New Mexico, 131 S.Ct. 2705. (Assigned counsel: Seymour James, Jr., Legal Aid Society Criminal Appeals Bureau, 199 Water Street, NYC 10038.)

People v. Elliot Parrilla

AD1 order dated December 19, 2013, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 112 AD3d 517, 977 NYS2d 29. Read, J., granted leave August 17, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the court erred in charging the jury, over objection, that to be guilty of possessing a “gravity knife” (PL 265.01[1]), the defendant had to know only that he had a knife in his possession, and not that it possessed the qualities of a gravity knife (PL 265.00[5]). (2) Whether the court’s refusal to discharge a deliberating juror as “grossly unqualified,” after she belatedly and fearfully reported that her living near appellant’s ex-girlfriend could “affect [her] judgment,” and thereafter gave no unequivocal assertion of impartially, deprived appellant of his right to an impartial jury. (Assigned counsel: Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

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People v. Lerio Guerrero

ADI order dated March 24, 2015, affirming judgement of conviction. Decision below: 126 AD3d 613, 3 NYS3d 613. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave July 24, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Validity of the DNA indictment and its amendment to add the defendant's name once he was identified 13 years later as the source of the DNA. (2) Whether defendant forfeited this issue by operation of the guilty plea or his appeal waiver.

People v. Chris Price

AD2 order dated April 15, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 127 AD3d 995, 4 NYS3d 924. Fahey, J., granted leave July 28, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Admitting into evidence a photograph posted on the defendant's web page four months prior to the robbery, showing him holding a gun similar to the one used in the robbery, even though the People did not establish that the photo was genuine, and the complainant did not confirm that the gun in the photo was the same one used in the robbery. (2) Sufficiency of the evidence as to ID. (Assigned counsel: Tammy Linn & Lynn W.L. Fahey, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Wilson Tardi

AD4 order dated November 14, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 122 AD3d 1337, 996 NYS2d 832. Abdus-Salaam, J., granted leave July 28, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: The constitutionality of the Cheektowaga Police Department's policy of impounding and inventory-searching vehicles of arrestees that are in a public parking lot.

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People v. Jose Aviles

AT1 order dated March 23, 2015, reversing criminal court's dismissal of accusatory instrument. Decision below: 47 Misc. 3d 126A, 13 NYS3d 851, 2015 WL 1295874. Pigott, J., granted leave July 29, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Due process and equal protection challenge to NYPD's policy of administering both breathalyzer and physical coordination tests to English-speaking DWI suspects, while offering only the breathalyzer test to non-English-speaking suspects such as the defendant. (Assigned counsel: V. Marika Meis, The Bronx Defenders, 360 East 161st St., Bronx, NY 10451.)

People v. Rafael Then

AD2 order dated May 13, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction: 128 AD3d 864, 10 NYS3d 135. Fahey, J., granted leave July 29, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether defendant was deprived of a fair trial when he appeared wearing orange prison pants during the first day of jury selection. (2) Testimony that defendant possessed a gun during the month of the crime, to prove ID. (3) Prosecutorial misconduct on summation. (Assigned counsel: Patricia Pazner & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John Street, 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Isma McGhee

AD1 order dated February 24, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 125 AD3d 537, 4 NYS3d 186. Abdus-Salaam, J., granted leave September 4, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The court's erroneous ruling deprived appellant of a fair opportunity to test the credibility of the lead investigating detective and the accuracy of his account, by (a) prohibiting defense counsel from cross-examining the detective about the facts underlying three federal false arrest lawsuits brought against him; and (b) ruling that, by impeaching the detective with his sworn statement that it was appellant's brother, not appellant, that had committed two of the sales, the door was opened to evidence of two uncharged sales; thereby

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depriving appellant of his rights to due process and to cross-examine and confront witnesses(cont'd on additional sheet). (2) Appellant was incorrectly sentenced as a second felony drug offender whose prior conviction was a violent felony, because his prior conviction for criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree, under Penal Law § 265.02(4), is not a violent predicate felony under Penal Law § 70.02(1). (Assigned counsel: Mark W. Zeno & Robert S. Dean , Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10006.)

People v. Tyrell Ingram

AD1 order dated February 24, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 125 AD3d 558, 5 NYS3d 376. Read, J., granted leave August 14, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the trial court correctly precluded defense counsel from cross-examining a police officer witness about unrelated federal civil rights lawsuits in which the officer was named as a defendant. (Assigned counsel: Stanley E. Neustadter, Cardozo Law School, Criminal Appeals Clinic, 55 Fifth Avenue, NYC 10003.)

People v. Robert Patterson

AD1 order dated March 5, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 128 AD3d 424, 9 NYS3d 30. Fahey, J., granted leave July 13, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: Whether it was proper to admit, as circumstantial evidence of defendant's identity as the purchaser of the phone, authenticated records that the purchaser of the pre-paid cell phone, linked to the crime, supplied pedigree information linked the defendant. (Assigned counsel: Seymor James, Jr., Legal Aid Society Criminal Appeals Bureau, 199 Water Street, NYC 10038.)

People v. Rodolfo Hernandez

AD2 order dated April 15, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 127 AD3d 991, 6 NYS3d 634. Pigott, J., granted leave August 14, 2015.

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ISSUES PRESENTED: Whether the child's out-of-court communications, as testified to by her parents, were erroneously admitted into evidence as excited utterances; whether the statements were testimonial in nature. (Assigned counsel: Anna Pervukin & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Herman H. Bank

AD4 order dated June 12, 2015, modifying judgment of conviction. Decision below: 129 A.D.3d 1445, 12 NYS3d 673. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave August 13, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether trial counsel provided IAC by (a) raising a hopeless mental-disease-or-defect defense, and then (b) relying on a pharmacological expert witness rather than a psychologist or psychiatrist. (Assigned counsel: Timothy P. Donaher, Monroe County Public Defender, 10 N. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY 14614.)

People v. Dru Allard

AD2 order dated May 27, 2015, reversing the judgment and dismissing the indictment on CPL 30.30 grounds. Decision below: 128 AD3d 1081, 11 NYS3d 190. Fahey, J., granted leave to People September 3, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the Appellate Division correctly held that defendant's 30.30 claim was preserved for appellate review, even though the defense failed to submit a reply 30.30 affirmation, since the 30.30 court expressly decided the issue. (Assigned counsel: Joshua Levine & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Matthew A. Davis

AD4 order dated March 27, 2015, modifying judgment of conviction by reversing and dismissing the felony murder counts and otherwise affirming. Decision below: 126 AD3d 1516, 6 NYS3d 365. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave (cross appeals) September 3, 2015.

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ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Felony murder: whether the People failed to prove that defendant “caused” the death of the victim - - who was obese and had a heart attack during the robbery. (2) Whether the trial court erred in admitting into evidence surveillance video footage tending to corroborate the accomplice’s testimony.

People v. Carlos Valentin

AD1 order dated May 7, 2015, reversing judgment of conviction. Decision below: 128 AD3d 428, 8 NYS3d 428. Saxe, J. (AD dissenter), granted leave to People October 15, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether there was any evidence that defendant, who raised a justification defense, had acted as an “initial aggressor,” so as to justify the trial court’s initial aggressor charge. (2) Whether any error was harmless. (Assigned counsel for defendant: Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

People v. Steven Finkelstein

AD1 order dated October 30, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 121 AD3d 615, 995 NYS2d 66. Rivera, J., granted leave September 9, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Given the overlapping relationship between coercion in the first and second degrees, (a) whether defendant’s conviction of the first-degree crime violates equal protection due process, (b) whether the indictment was duplicitous, and (c) whether the second-degree crime should have been submitted as a lesser included offense. (2) The trial court’s allowing of evidence of the victim’s knowledge of defendant’s coercion of a former girlfriend. (3) Sufficiency of evidence. (Assigned counsel: Richard M. Greenberg, Office of the Appellate Defender, 11 Park Place, Suite 1601, NYC 10007.)

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People v. Kevin Fisher

AD1 order dated July 3, 2014, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 119 AD3d 426, 988 NYS2d 187. Rivera, J., granted leave October 5, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether defendant should have been permitted to withdraw, prior to sentencing, his guilty plea to hindering prosecution, where the person he admitted rendering criminal assistance to was acquitted of the underlying felony prior to trial. (2) Whether defendant's guilty plea was knowing and voluntary where the People did not disclose interview notes with their primary witness that undercut the People's case. (Assigned counsel: Richard M. Greenberg, Office of the Appellate Defender, 11 Park Place, Suite 1601, NYC 10007.)

People v. William Cook

AD2 order dated May 20, 2015, affirming a level three SORA designation. Decision below: 128 AD3d 927, 9 NYS3d 400. Court of Appeals granted leave October 20, 2015. (Cross-Appeals)

ISSUE PRESENTED: (A) Whether the SORA hearing court erred in assessing 20 points under risk factor 7 for establishing or promoting a relationship with the victims for the primary purpose of victimization where defendant was a long-time family friend. (B) Whether courts can hold multiple SORA hearings for one offender in different counties for the same "current offense" - he pled guilty in two counties for crimes committed against the same children in co-ordinated prosecutions. (Assigned counsel: Lisa Napoli & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. Dayshawn Crooks

AD3 order dated June 11, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 129 AD3d 1207, 11 NYS3d 709. Fahey, J., granted leave September 28, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the motion court correctly decided that a Darden hearing was unnecessary because police surveillance of the two

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controlled drug transactions provided probable cause for a search warrant independent of any statements made by the CI to the police.

People v. Harvert Stephens

AD4 order dated May 8, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 128 AD3d 1497, 8 NYS3d 823. Rivera, J., granted leave October 5, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether a City of Syracuse noise control ordinance, barring “unnecessary noise,” is unconstitutionally vague under People v. New York Trap Rock Corp. (57 NY2d 371 [1982]). (Assigned counsel: Philip Rothschild, Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society, 351 South Warren Street, Syracuse, NY 13202.)

People v. Norman E. Ramsey

Washington County Court order dated May 27, 2015, dismissing appeal from judgment of conviction in Village Court. Rivera, J., granted leave October 16, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether, under CPL 460.10(3), defendant was required to submit an affidavit of errors upon taking an appeal to the County Court, where he provided a transcript of the proceeding derived from an audio recording instead of a transcription by a court stenographer. (Assigned counsel: Robert N. Gregor, 3 Lake Ave., Lake George, NY 12845.)

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IV. New Leave Grants

People v. Michael Pena

AD1 order dated March 26, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 126 A.D.3d 618, 3 NYS3d 604. Pigott, J., granted leave November 4, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) The legality of imposing sentences for three counts of predatory sexual assault consecutively, where the counts stemmed from a single transaction using the same dangerous instrument. (2) Whether the 75-year-to-life sentence was unconstitutional as applied.

People v. Charles Smith

AD2 order dated January 28, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 124 AD3d 918, 998 NYS2d 906. Pigott, J., granted leave November 9, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether there was sufficient evidence of first-degree robbery - - did defendant “display” what appeared to be a firearm. During the robbery, the defendant kept one of his hands at his waist under a sweatshirt, but made no other action or gesture. (Assigned counsel: Skip Laisure & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

People v. William Flanagan

AD2 order dated October 7, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 132 AD3d 693, 17 NYS3d 178. Stein, J., granted leave November 12, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: Defendant, a police officer, was convicted of conspiracy and two counts of official misconduct, for trying to prevent the arrest of a teenager whose father had connections to the police department. (1) Whether an official misconduct charge for malfeasance can be premised on performing an otherwise authorized act. (2) Whether such a charge for nonfeasance can be premised on the failure to perform a discretionary duty. (3) Whether statements by co-conspirators are

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admissible only when made during the time periods involved in the conspiracy.

People v. Gary Wright

AD3 order dated June 11, 2015, affirming denial of CPL 440.10 motion without a hearing. Decision below: 129 AD3d 1217, 13 NYS3d 578. Fahey, J., granted leave November 4, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: Defendant alleged in a CPL 440.10 motion that one of his trial attorneys was conflicted, and thus ineffective, because he was also representing the District Attorney in an election-law matter. (1) Whether there was evidence that the attorney was representing the District Attorney at the same time he was representing defendant, and, (2) if so, did the conflict “operate” since the attorney’s representation ended two months before the start of defendant’s trial. (3) Whether the 440 motion court was required to disqualify the District Attorney’s Office with regard to the motion.

People v. Jamar Bethune

AD2 order dated July 22, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 130 A.D.3d 937, 12 NYS 3d 902. Fahey, J., granted leave November 13, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the trial judge erred in failing to conduct a reconstruction hearing prior to settling the trial transcript by cleaning up the court’s supplemental charge to the jury, without any explanation or basis for the change.

People v. Yusuf Sparks

AD1 order dated October 15, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 132 AD3d 513, 17 NYS3d 423. Pigott, J., granted leave December 23, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the trial court erred in refusing to submit defendant’s justification defense to the jury on the grounds of no “reasonable view.” (2) The court’s mid-trial change in its Sandoval

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ruling. (Assigned counsel: Andrew Dalack & Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

People v. Norman Whitehead, Jr.

AD3 order dated July 9, 2015, modifying judgment of conviction. Decision below: 130 AD3d 1142, 13 NYS3d 642. Pigott, J., granted leave November 24, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Sufficiency of evidence of cocaine sale where the cocaine was unavailable for testing. (2) Duplicitous counts. (3) Prosecutorial misconduct during opening and summation. (4) Refusal to give a circumstantial evidence charge.

People v. Larry Brown

ADI order dated April 9, 2015, affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 127 AD3d 498, 8 NYS 3d 49. Lippman, Ch. J., granted leave December 29, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Whether the plea was involuntary when defendant was promised diversion but was rejected through no fault of his own. (2) Whether the Appellate Division can let a guilty plea and sentence stand, even though the plea was premised on the promise of an illegally low sentence, simply by letting the illegally low sentence stand. (Assigned counsel: Claudia Flores & Robert S. Dean, Center for Appellate Litigation, 120 Wall Street, 28th Floor, NYC 10005.)

People v. Cristian Morales

AT 9 & 10 order dated August 10, 2015, dismissing appeal. Pigott, J., granted leave November 30, 2015.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Whether the Appellate Term abused its discretion by dismissing the criminal appeal of an involuntarily deported defendant on the ground, in part, that he was unable to obey the mandate of the court. (Assigned counsel: Kent V. Moston, Nassau County Legal Aid Society, 40 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Hempstead, NY 11550.)

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People v. Everett B. McMillan

AD2 order dated July 1, 2015 affirming judgment of conviction. Decision below: 130 AD3d 651, 12 NYS3d 301. Stein, J., granted leave December 2, 2015.

ISSUES PRESENTED: (1) Search & Seizure: After defendant was arrested inside a building on a parole warrant, whether the police properly searched his car based upon a tip received earlier in the day about a gun in the car; the defendant had signed an agreement when released on parole that any of his property could be searched. (2) Reverse-Batson: whether the trial court properly determined that defense counsel's reason for his peremptory strike, that he had no information about the juror, was non-race-neutral and, if it was race-neutral, that it was pretextual. (Assigned counsel: Alex Donn & Lynn W.L. Fahey, Appellate Advocates, 111 John St., 9th Floor, NYC 10038.)

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