

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR ROCKY TOP COUNTY, STATE OF PADLAND

SUE GRACE,

Plaintiff,

v.

RILEY STINSON,

Respondent.

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Docket No. **1902-PL-24**

Drafted for the 2024 Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Mock Trial Competition

October 30 – November 02, 2024
Arlington, VA

PROBLEM DRAFTED BY
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INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Welcome to the 2024 Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Mock Trial Competition! This year's case materials were created by Brother Nicholas Lee. Mr. Lee is the founding member of Lee Criminal Defense, a law firm practicing primarily criminal and DUI defense law. Mr. Lee first became involved in mock trial as an undergraduate student at Middle Tennessee State University. While at MTSU, he competed for three years and was eventually promoted to Vice President of the organization and co-captain of the MTSU team that placed third in the nation in the silver division his senior year.

Mr. Lee attended the University of Tennessee for law school, where he participated in the National Trial Team and helped found the McReynolds Chapter trial team. Mr. Lee placed 2nd in the school-wide Jenkins Trial Competition and was named to Order of Barristers. He has also returned annually since graduation to help judge both the Jenkins Trial Competition and Advocate's Prize, the annual school wide appellate competition.

Since Mr. Lee's graduation from UT Law in 2011, he has served as a coach for the UT Law National Trial Team (Assistant Coach, 2011-14; Co Coach, 2014-Present). In 2016, Mr. Lee was honored to receive the UT Law Moot Court Board's annual Forrest W. Lacey Award for outstanding faculty contribution to the moot court program. In the same year Mr. Lee was allowed to begin drafting problems for our annual Phi Alpha Delta mock trial competitions. He is now honored to submit this year's case for our fraternity's use, and looks forward to serving as your case coordinator for this competition.

Gratitude goes to everyone who has contributed to this year's case. Special thanks go to Sister Kayla Townsend-Caudle, Sister Emily Carnder, Brother Alicia McMurray-Smith, Brother Matt Bakke, and Auxiliary Member Bethany Hughes for contributing towards the exhibits in this year's problem, as well as to Brother Ron Coleman for his years stepping in as problem drafter and case coordinator from 2021-23.

Additionally, as always, undying gratitude goes to my mentor and good friend, Brother Carl Eshbaugh, for being a constant source of advice for these problems, year-after-year.

Last, but certainly not least, unending gratitude goes to our Executive Office for running this competition and doing all of the actual "work" associated with it. In particular, each competitor might have contact with Brother Andrew Sagan while preparing for this competition – should the opportunity arise, please join in thanking him and our entire Executive Office staff for their hard work and do whatever possible to make running this competition easier.

We hope that teams find the materials interesting and wish them the best of luck!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
PROBLEM QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION	4
2024 TEAM RULES	4
STATEMENT OF THE CASE	7
COMPLAINT AND ANSWER	8
APPLICABLE LAW	12
STIPULATIONS	15
WITNESS STATEMENTS	17
SUE GRACE	17
DET. HYUN SEUK	24
ROBIN KEATING	31
ALICIA VON KELLER MCMURRAY-SMITH	38
EXHIBITS	45

PROBLEM QUESTIONS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding these case materials should be e-mailed to Andrew@pad.org. This includes but is in no way limited to inquiries for clarification as to case law or governing statutes. Discretion will be exercised in deciding which questions, if any, are answered. Coaches and competitors shall not contact the Case Drafter directly with questions or to discuss the case. Questions regarding mock trial procedure, including any questions involving the Rules of Competition or Rules of Evidence, should also be directed to the Executive Office.

Teams may begin submitting questions at any time. **The deadline for submitting questions is October 08, 2024.**

Please note that the captain's meeting will be **October 30, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. At least one member of your team MUST be present at the Captain's Meeting.**

The latest versions of the Federal Rules of Evidence and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will govern the case and the trial unless the applicable law or case file states otherwise. The presiding judge will have the final determination on how motions, objections, and other matters are ruled.

2024 TEAM RULES

1. Each team must have four members. Each competing member must be a P.A.D. pre-law student member, initiated, and in good standing.
2. Additional members, such as coaches or alternates, must register separately. Alternate competitors are for emergency purposes in case an individual becomes unable to compete. Once the alternate takes the place of one of the four competitors, the replaced competitor will no longer be allowed to enter back into the competition. If you believe your team will need an alternate, please contact the Executive Office to discuss.
3. Each team shall maintain high standards of professionalism and ethics.
4. Any changes to the team roster must be sent to the Executive Office immediately.
5. Being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance while competing in a round is strictly prohibited. Teams violating this rule will be disqualified.
6. Each team will have the opportunity to present the case as both State's counsel and Defense in the course of the competition's three rounds. Any additional round(s) will be
7. The judge will determine allowable communication between attorneys and witnesses/defendants during a round. Otherwise, communication between members of Phi Alpha Delta is allowed during the competition while not competing in a round, indeed encouraged (when not disallowed elsewhere in these rules) as fraternalism is a key component of Phi Alpha Delta. However, and specifically, competitors may NOT communicate with coaches, alternates, or guests during a trial (including breaks).
8. No additional legal research is allowed into the trial.

9. All documents, witness statements, diagrams, signatures, and other materials found in the finalized case shall be deemed originals and authentic unless otherwise stated. Attorneys should have clean copies of all materials that will be presented to the witness or admitted as evidence.

10. Attorneys may only use the materials and exhibits provided in the case file. This rule does not prohibit demonstrative aides, but it does prohibit creating new exhibits.

11. Witnesses shall testify to the facts that are contained in the evidence. However, on direct examination, a witness may draw reasonable inferences from the non-material facts of the case, such as personal background, as long as they do not enhance their position. Further, while witnesses are deemed to have testified to all relevant information, if questioned on cross examination about something not within the witness's statement, the witness may testify however (s)he chooses as long as it does not contradict something within the witness's statement. If a crossing attorney believes a witness has abused this discretion, the crossing attorney must handle such abuse through impeachment or impeachment by omission, as "outside the record" is not a valid objection.

12. At competition, each competitor must serve as a witness on one side and as an attorney on the other. For example, if a competitor is an attorney when the competitor's team is assigned prosecution, that same competitor must be a witness when the competitor's team is assigned defense (or vice versa). Violation of this rule will result in disqualification of that competitor from consideration for the top attorney and top witness awards, and could also result in point deductions and/or disqualification for the competitor's team.

13. Deference will be given to the presiding judge on how they run the courtroom according to the rules of the competition.

14. For every round, each attorney must be the presiding attorney for each of the following categories: A. Opening or closing statement B. Direct examination of one witness C. Cross examination of one witness

15. Objections and responses must be made by the attorney on each team that is presiding over that particular portion of the trial.

16. Each team will have 45 minutes to present: (a) an opening statement; (b) two direct examinations; (c) two cross-examinations; and (d) a closing argument. Each courtroom will have a designated timekeeper whose calculations will govern. Pre-trial motions will not count towards the official time and the official time will stop to argue objections.

17. Each round is limited to no more than 2.5 hours of time. It will be the responsibility of the presiding judge to ensure that pre-trial motions and/or arguing objections do not extend a round past 2.5 hours of time. The ability of judges to give feedback will be determined by the expeditiousness of the overall trial.

18. The four teams who have won the most judges' ballots in the preliminary rounds will advance to the final rounds. In the event that two or more teams have won the same number of judges' ballots, the tie breaker will be that team(s) with the highest total points will advance to the final rounds. Similarly, the winner of each final round will be determined by which team won more judges' ballots in the final round. In the event that both teams in a final round won the same number of judges' ballots, the tie breaker will be which team had the highest total points from the final round.

19. Teams are forbidden from watching other competitors in all preliminary rounds. If a school has registered multiple teams, this still applies. Members of Team 1 may not watch members from Team 2 compete. If a single coach is coaching multiple teams, that coach and the members are prohibited from sharing information relating to the team, theory, or presentation of competitors with members of other teams. Anybody not competing in the final rounds may observe either of the final rounds.
20. Video recording rounds is prohibited. Anyone who believes they need to video record a round must discuss the request and receive express written consent from the IEO.
21. So as not to force a competitor to “break character” if (s)he must refer to these rules in a trial, competitors shall refer to these rules as the “Local Rules” of the Court.
22. Any violations of these rules must be brought to the attention of the Mock Trial Coordinator or the Executive Director within 15 minutes of the completion of the trial. Should any issues arise, they will determine if a violation of the letter or intent of the rules has been made and determine what repercussions will result. Rules violations could result in repercussions including a warning, a point reduction, or disqualification.
23. While Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 50 motions should be made and will be heard, such a motion will not be granted.
24. In the jurisdiction where this trial will take place, both direct examinations and cross examinations are open in spite of Federal Rule of Evidence 611. Any re-direct examination or re-cross examination, however, are closed.
25. As when practicing in real life in front of a judge with whom you are not familiar, the skilled trial practitioner will not presume the judge knows the law and the facts of the case, nor that the judge does not know the law and the facts of the case. It is the job of the skilled trial practitioner to assess what laws and facts need to be presented, and present them in a clear and compelling fashion. As such, competitors shall not lodge complaints that a judge does not know or misunderstands the law or facts of this case, and no such complaints will be heard.
26. Also as in real life, judges do not always rule as you think they should. This may happen with increased frequency in a mock trial, where judges may purposefully rule incorrectly to see how a competitor will handle the ruling. Competitors shall not complain as to a judge’s ruling and no such complaint will be heard.

**ADDITIONAL RULES MAY BE ADDED AT ANY TIME.
TEAMS WILL BE NOTIFIED.**

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This year's problem is a civil petition for a protective order, known in this jurisdiction as an "Order of Protection." Padland citizen Sue Grace has filed a complaint for an Order of Protection against their ex-significant other, Riley Stinson.

On July 26, 2024, police responded to the residence of Sue Grace. A frantic Sue Grace explained to officers how their ex-significant other, Riley Stinson, had shown up at Sue Grace's house uninvited, how the two of them had gotten into a physical altercation, and that Riley Stinson had left when Sue Grace called the police. Sue Grace was observed to have defensive markings and redness around the throat, which corroborated their story.

Those closest to Sue Grace and Riley Stinson would say that matters were not that cut-and-clean.

Riley Stinson, a prominent local family-law attorney, was taken into custody when they appeared for a scheduled court-appearance on July 29, 2024.

Local rules provide a jury trial in this jurisdiction in cases of petitions for Orders of Protection, absent exigent circumstances. At the conclusion of this trial, the jury will determine whether Sue Grace should be granted a one-year or five-year Order of Protection, or if one should be granted at all.

Witnesses:

For the Plaintiff

1. Sue Grace, Petitioner.
2. Detective Hyun Seuk, Lead Detective in this case.

For the Defense:

3. Robin Keating, owner of local bar The Odditorium.
4. Alicia Von Keller McMurray-Smith, close friend of Sue Grace and Riley Stinson.

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COMPLAINT

Comes now Plaintiff, Sue Grace, by and through their attorneys, and bring the following action, and in support thereof, avers as follows:

1. Plaintiff Sue Grace (“Plaintiff”) is an adult individual currently residing at 400 W. Main St., Rocky City, County of Rocky Top, State of Padland.
2. Plaintiff is the very proud parent to their furry, four-legged friend, Precious, a child of a canine variety.
3. Respondent Riley Stinson (“Respondent”) is a horrible adult individual currently residing at 4300 Justice Way, Rocky City, County of Rocky Top, State of Padland.
4. Plaintiff and Respondent have formerly lived together;
5. Plaintiff and Respondent have dated and had a sexual relationship in the past.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

6. Plaintiff and Respondent began dating on Halloween, 2023.
7. Early in the relationship, Respondent exhibited signs of being controlling and emotionally manipulative.
8. That soon after January 01, 2024, Respondent became physically abusive.
9. That on many occasions, but as recently as July 26, 2024, Respondent was physically abusive of Plaintiff’s pet, Precious.
10. That on many occasions, but as recently as July 26, 2024, Respondent was physically abusive of Plaintiff.

11. That on many occasions, but as recently as July 26, 2024, Respondent was destructive of Plaintiff's property.
12. That on July 04, 2024, Plaintiff told Respondent to have no further contact with Plaintiff.
13. That on many occasions, but as recently as July 26, 2024, Respondent continued to come around and contact Plaintiff.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Sue Grace respectfully requests of this Honorable Court a Protective Order against Respondent Riley Stinson, not shorter than one year in length and not to exceed five years in length, and for any other relief due unto them under the law.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ John J. Karasek
Counsel for the Plaintiff
800 S. Gay St., Ste. 700
Rocky City, PD 75309

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ANSWER

1. Admitted
2. Admitted that Plaintiff has a canine-pet named Precious.
3. Denied that Respondent Riley Stinson is a horrible person; admitted to the rest.
4. Admitted.
5. Admitted.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

6. Admitted.
7. Denied.
8. Denied.
9. Denied.
10. Denied.
11. Denied.
12. Denied.
13. Denied.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Respondent Riley Stinson respectfully requests of this Honorable Court to deny Petitioner Sue Grace's Petition for a Protective Order against Respondent Riley Stinson, and for any other relief due unto them under the law.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jennifer Schroader
Counsel for the Respondent
101 E. Main St., Ste. 1600
Rocky City, PD 75309

APPLICABLE LAW

PCA § 36-3-602. Petition – Protective Orders.

- (a) Any domestic abuse victim, stalking victim, or sexual assault victim who has been subjected to, threatened with, or placed in fear of, domestic abuse, stalking, sexual exploitation of a minor, sexual assault, or a human trafficking offense, may seek relief under this part by filing a sworn petition alleging domestic abuse, stalking, sexual exploitation of a minor, sexual assault, or a human trafficking offense by the respondent.

[...]

- (e) Any domestic abuse victim, stalking victim, or sexual assault victim entitled to a protective order under this part shall be entitled to:
 - (1) A one-year protective order, which can be renewed at the end of one year for good cause shown; or
 - (2) A five-year protective order, if deemed necessary for the safety of the domestic abuse victim, stalking victim, or sexual assault victim, which can be renewed at the end of five years for additional time, up to five years, for good cause shown.

[...]

- (n) Any domestic abuse victim, stalking victim, or sexual assault victim shall be protected from any contact of any kind from named party(ies), however that less strenuous restrictions can be placed upon election of the domestic abuse victim, stalking victim, or sexual assault victim.

[...]

PCA § 39-13-111. Assault.

- (a) A person commits assault who:
 - (1) Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to another;
 - (2) Intentionally or knowingly causes another to reasonably fear imminent bodily injury;
 - or
 - (3) Intentionally or knowingly causes physical contact with another and a reasonable person would regard the contact as extremely offensive or provocative.

[...]

PCA § 39-13-111. Domestic Assault.

- (a) As used in this section, "domestic abuse victim" means any person who falls within the following categories:
 - (1) Adults or minors who are current or former spouses;
 - (2) Adults or minors who live together or who have lived together;

- (3) Adults or minors who are dating or who have dated or who have or had a sexual relationship, but does not include fraternization between two (2) individuals in a business or social context;
- (4) Adults or minors related by blood or adoption;
- (5) Adults or minors who are related or were formerly related by marriage; or
- (6) Adult or minor children of a person in a relationship that is described in subdivisions (a)(1)-(5).

- (b) A person commits domestic assault who commits an assault as defined in § 39-13-101 against a domestic abuse victim.

[...]

PCA § 36-3-602. Stalking.

[...]

- (a) (4) "Stalking" means a willful course of conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment of another individual that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested, and that actually causes the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested;
- (a) (5) "Unconsented contact" means any contact with another person that is initiated or continued without that person's consent, or in disregard of that person's expressed desire that the contact be avoided or discontinued. Unconsented contact includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:
 - (A) Following or appearing within the sight of that person;
 - (B) Approaching or confronting that person in a public place or on private property;
 - (C) Appearing at that person's workplace or residence;
 - (D) Entering onto or remaining on property owned, leased, or occupied by that person;
 - (E) Contacting that person by telephone;
 - (F) Sending to that person mail or any electronic communications, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, text messages, or any other type of electronic message sent using the internet, websites, or a social media platform; or
 - (G) Placing an object on, or delivering an object to, property owned, leased, or occupied by that person; and
- (a) (6) "Victim" means an individual who is the target of a willful course of conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment.

Nicole Sebastiano v. Aubrey County Board of Trustees, 2 P.A.D. 1, 8 (Padland 1981):

Plaintiffs have the burden of proving their case by a preponderance of the evidence.

Danson v. State, 24 PAD 168 (Padland 1986):

Determinations as to whether someone is “drunk” or as to how fast a vehicle is travelling are lay observations, not requiring expertise.

Coleman v. Nelson, 182 PAD 284 (Padland 2020):

Petitions for protective orders need only make minimal allegations to warrant hearing at trial; *e.g.* an allegation that abuse occurred is sufficient for all relevant facts be heard at trial, without listing specific details such as date and time matters are alleged to have occurred. The reason for this is the State's obvious concern in addressing domestic abuse issues, combined with the matter than often a Petitioner might, especially in domestic violence situations, be filing petition without the assistance of legal counsel.

STIPULATIONS

Procedural Stipulations

- 1) All objections regarding the Complaint and Answer in this case have been heard and overruled. Said objections shall not be mentioned at trial, but are nevertheless preserved for appeal.
- 2) The order at trial will be pre-trial matters, pre-trial motions, plaintiff's opening statement, respondent's opening statement, plaintiff's case-in-chief, respondent's case-in-chief, plaintiff's closing, respondent's closing, and plaintiff's rebuttal closing. Both parties must call both of their listed witnesses and Plaintiff will not be allowed to call any rebuttal witnesses. Plaintiff will only be allowed rebuttal closing if they requested so prior to beginning their main closing argument.
- 3) All witnesses called to testify have already been constructively sworn in.
- 4) For each witness, direct and redirect will be allowed, as well as cross and recross, but no further examination beyond that. Padland has open cross examination, but closed redirect and recross examinations.
- 5) "Beyond the record" is not a valid objection. Rather, attorneys are to address any inferences made from the case materials in examinations and via impeachment when necessary.
- 6) All exhibits in the file are authentic, and each exhibit in this case is deemed to be the original unless otherwise stated.
- 7) If any party requests the rule of sequestration, it shall be constructively enforced. However, no individual will be actually sequestered from the room.
- 8) All stipulations, both procedural and substantive, have been approved by the Court at a pretrial hearing and may not be amended or waived. Parties may stipulate to further matters, but not insofar that it may contradict these pretrial stipulations.
- 9) As rebuttal witnesses are not allowed in this court's jurisdiction, respondent's counsel must inform the court and opposing counsel in pre-trial matters if respondent's counsel intends to introduce evidence under Federal Rule of Evidence 404. It will be the respondent counsel's duty to sufficiently limit the scope of the character evidence to be introduced. After said notice is given, plaintiff's counsel will be permitted to pre-emptively introduce character evidence to the same extent in the plaintiff's case-in-chief, as they will not be able to in rebuttal testimony. Failure of counsel to provide sufficient notice will be deemed a waiver or right to provide evidence under Federal Rule of Evidence 404.

Substantive Stipulations

- 10) The E-911 transcript is a fair and accurate record of the E-911 call in this case. Both parties agree that it is admissible and no objection shall be made to its admittance.
- 11) The criminal record included in the record is a fair and accurate representation of the criminal record of the Sue Grace in this case.
- 12) These matters are also being tried as criminal charges. A probable cause hearing has been conducted in this case and, after a hearing in open court, the criminal charges have been delivered unto the Rocky Top County grand jury for review. These criminal charges are pending and not resolved as of the date of this protective order trial.
- 13) The defendant has exercised their United States Constitution 5th Amendment rights and elected to not testify at this trial.
- 14) Each of the transcripts included herein are fair and accurate representations of each witness's testimony at the probable cause hearing that occurred in the criminal

prosecution of this case. All statements were given under oath, in open-court, and with Riley Stinson's defense counsel present and availed cross examination. All objections to any materials included in the transcripts are reserved and should be made by counsel at appropriate times during the civil trial of these matters.

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE EXAMINATION OF SUE GRACE

DIRECT EXAMINATION

1 Q: Please state your name, spelling the last for the record.

2 A: Sue Grace. That's G – R – A – C – E.

3 Q: What do you do for a living?

4 A: Well, I'm semi-retired. I was a championship prize-fighter back in the day. I
5 made enough money and managed it well enough that I can live comfortably
6 without working. I fill my days running an inner-city gym, teaching school-aged
7 children self-defense and discipline.

8 Q: What brings you here today?

9 A: I used to date a Riley Stinson. That's them over there. Toward the end of the
10 relationship, it became abusive. I'm here today asking for an Order of Protection,
11 to protect me from that scoundrel.

12 Q: Can you tell the Court about how you met?

13 A: We were both at the Monroeville Mall and ran into each other in a sporting
14 goods store. I don't usually do this sort of thing, but I could tell Riley was meant
15 for me so I went for it. Asked them if they wanted to grab a drink, one thing led
16 to another, and then there we were, a week later, quite in love. I couldn't help but

1 plan the rest of our lives out together. They seemed hesitant at first, but I
2 ploughed ahead anyways, determined to make it happen.

3 Q: How did things go from there?

4 A: Great! At first. Then they stopped paying so much attention to me. They'd talk to
5 other people while I was around, had friends of the opposite sex. Their best
6 friend even is of the opposite sex! They would stay late at work, wouldn't let me
7 go through their phone, it just started to feel wrong. They were cheating on me, I
8 just know it.

9 Q: Did you ever get any proof that Riley Stinson was cheating on you?

10 A: Yes! All of my friends said Riley was going around town with other people,
11 sitting all close to them and laughing. One of them even said they thought they
12 saw Riley kissing someone.

13 Q: Let's cut to the reason we are here today. Did Riley Stinson ever do anything to
14 make you feel unsafe?

15 A: Yes. Towards the end of the relationship, Riley became physically abusive. Never
16 when others were around, but Riley would push and slap me.

17 Q: Can you recall any particular instances?

18 A: It happened so often, it all blurs together. But I do remember the last time it
19 happened, because I was determined to make sure it was the last.

20 Q: Can you tell us more about that?

21 A: I suppose I should back up and say I broke up with Riley Stinson on July 04,
22 2024. I couldn't take it anymore, them having friends of the opposite sex, going out and
23 not taking me with them. So I told them it was over and to never contact me again.

24 Q: Do you recognize what has been marked as Exhibit 16 for identification?

25 A: Yes, I recognize Exhibit 16, that's a screenshot of me texting Riley Stinson,
26 telling them to never contact me again.

1 Q: Can you tell us now more about July 26, 2024?

2 A: Yes, of course. Ok, so back to July 26, 2024, the last time Riley Stinson abused
3 me. I went out drinking with some friends. We went to our favorite local bar, this
4 swanky joint called The Odditorium. Everybody knows us there, we go multiple times a
5 week. Well on this night in particular it was "NJT Night," NJT meaning New Jersey
6 Turnpikes. They're the specialty of the bar owner, Robin.

7 Q: What happened that night?

8 A: Well the night went on and I probably had too much to drink, admittedly my
9 memory of the night is hazy and not the best, but it makes my karaoke that much better.
10 Next thing I know though, I wake up at home and there is Riley Stinson, standing over
11 me.

12 Q: Did this surprise you?

13 A: I couldn't believe it, Riley knew I didn't want them anywhere near me, little less
14 in my home! So I start yelling at them to get out and throwing things at them. Riley
15 grabbed me by the wrists and threw me onto the bed, but I got back up and started
16 pushing them to the door. Riley got mad and threw my office chair! It broke.

17 Q: Do you recognize what has been marked as Exhibit 15 for identification?

18 A: Yes, that's the chair that Riley absolutely destroyed, Exhibit 15.

19 Q: Ok, what happened next?

20 A: Things continued and eventually ended with Riley pinning me to the floor, hands
21 around my neck. I couldn't breathe and I was afraid they were going to kill me.
22 Eventually they realized what they were doing and got up, apologizing. I told them to get
23 away from me and called 911.

24 Q: Do you recognize what has been marked as Exhibit 2 for identification?

25 A: Exhibit 2 seems to be a recording of the 911 call. It fairly and accurately reflects

1 how I recall that conversation going.

2 Q: What happened next?

3 A: Well as soon as Riley heard me calling 911, they took off. Hopped in their

4 precious car, which they always loved more than me, and drove off.

5 Q: I'm showing you what have been marked for identification as exhibits 6, 7, and 8.

6 Do you recognize these?

7 A: Yes, that's the car. Exhibits 6, 7, and 8.

8 Q: I'm now showing you what have been marked for identification as exhibits 9, 10,

9 and 11. Do you recognize these?

10 A: Exhibit 9 is a picture of my bedroom. Exhibit 10 is a picture of my living room.

11 Exhibit 11 is a picture of my kitchen from the living room.

12 Q: Do these fairly and accurately show your residence on the night of July 26, 2024?

13 A: Those pictures don't show the damage Riley left on the night of July 26, 2024. I

14 wish I had thought to take pictures of it that night, but I was so scared witless that I

15 didn't think to. But this is where Riley and I lived together for a time. It shows what my

16 home usually looked like.

17 Q: I have to ask what may seem like a few peculiar questions. Did you and Riley

18 Stinson have a romantic relationship?

19 A: Yes, we did.

20 Q: Was this relationship also sexual in nature?

21 A: Yes, if I must say, we did have sex.

22 Q: And did the two of you live together while you were in a relationship?

23 A: Off and on. We'd stay at my place a few nights a week, at Riley's place a few

24 nights a week. But Each of these photographs shows an area where I was abused, Riley

25 used to abuse me throughout both of our homes.

26 Q: Ok, back to the night in question. What happened after you called 911 and Riley

1 Stinson fled your residence?

2 A: I spoke to many police officers that night. The one that sticks out the most is
3 Detective Hyun Seuk. They identified themselves as the lead investigator. I remember
4 answering all of their questions, best as I could. I remember being very upset because
5 they didn't catch Riley that night. I don't recall if they took any evidence that night other
6 than some photographs and my statement. Sure didn't seem like they were doing their
7 job.

8 Q: Did anything else happen?

9 A: One thing Detective Hyun Seuk asked me did stick out as peculiar. They asked
10 about my fur-baby, Precious. I told them that yes, Riley used to abuse Precious too.
11 Would throw Precious around, spank and smack them when they didn't do everything
12 exactly perfect.

13 Q: I'm handing you what have been marked as exhibits 12, 13, and 14 for
14 identification?

15 A: Yes, that's my precious Precious. Exhibits 12, 13, and 14.

16 Q: Is there anything else we need to know?

17 A: All I want is to be treated like I deserve, which is the absolute best. Certainly not
18 ignored, certainly not cheated on, certainly not abused. That lying cheater needs to go to
19 jail, but at the least needs to be kept away from me. I had to suffer, Riley should have to,
20 too.

21 Q: Looking around the courtroom, do you see Riley Stinson today?

22 A: Yes, that's them over there in the double-breasted black tuxedo and purple cravat
23 tie.

24 Q: Let the record reflect that the witness has accurately identified Riley Stinson. And
25 did all of these events happen in Rocky Top County, state of Padland?

26 A: Yes, they did.

CROSS EXAMINATION

1 Q: I'm showing you what has been marked for identification as Exhibit 1. You
2 recognize that, don't you?

3 A: I do.

4 Q: That accurately and fairly reflect your criminal history?

5 A: Yes, I recognize Exhibit 1 as that. I mean, I've never seen it before, but I know
6 my history. That's my criminal record.

7 Q: I'm seeing correctly that you were once charged with murder?

8 A: Yes, a number of year's back I was involved in a bar fight. Unfortunately the
9 other person died as a consequence. But the jury found me not guilty, said it was self-
10 defense, so I was cleared.

11 Q: Shifting gears a little bit, isn't it true that during your relationship with Riley
12 Stinson, you actually were cheating on Riley Stinson?

13 A: Yes, I was cheating on Riley too with a Harley Gray. I don't see what that has to
14 do with anything.

15 Q: You would often lie to Riley Stinson?

16 A: No more than I knew they were lying to me. But you have to understand, I am a
17 member of the Lesser Church of Lopt, Originator of Deceits.

18 Q: How is that important?

19 A: A major tenet of the Church is that of pragmatism, and lies or deceits that lead
20 to the furtherance of a Church member's personal interests is lauded as admirable and
21 good. So while Riley thinks lying is immoral, my religious belief allows for it. Even finds
22 it good. It was a constant point of argument among us.

23 Q: You have alleged that Riley Stinson abused you on many occasions. Do you
24 mean physically?

25 A: Yes, often.

1 Q: That Riley Stinson physically abused you on July 26, 2024?

2 A: Yes.

3 Q: Do you have any photographs or medical records corroborating your story?

4 A: Well, no. I know the police took some, but I understand that they have been lost.

5 Q: And you have alleged that Riley Stinson abused your pet, Precious. Did you also

6 mean physically?

7 A: Yes.

8 Q: Do you have any photographs or veterinary records corroborating this?

9 A: No.

10 Q: Isn't it true that you often would physically discipline Precious?

11 A: When needed.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR ROCKY TOP COUNTY, STATE OF PADLAND

SUE GRACE,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Docket No. <u>1902-PL-24</u>
	)	
RILEY STINSON,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

TRANSCRIPT OF THE EXAMINATION OF DETECTIVE HYUN SEUK

1 Q: Please introduce yourself to the jury.

2 A: I am Detective Hyun Seuk of the Rocky Top County Sheriff's Department.

3 Formerly of the South Haven County Sheriff's Department, until I made the transfer a

4 couple of years back.

5 Q: Have you undergone training to hold that position?

6 A: I have undergone all the standard training for all officers, and then some.

7 Detectives in this department have to undergo additional, annual training. This includes

8 training in domestic abuse situations, like in today's case.

9 Q: Have you testified before in domestic abuse cases?

10 A: Yes. I have testified both as a lay witness, and also a few times as an expert

11 drawing upon my training and experience in domestic abuse cases.

12 Q: Are you aware of who Sue Grace is in relation to Riley Stinson?

13 A: I was aware of the Sue Grace, Riley Stinson situation well before July 26, 2024. I

14 first became aware when other officers responded to their residence and reported Sue

15 Grace saying Riley Stinson had hit them repeatedly. From their reports I could see that

16 there were welts and swelling often found on Sue Grace that were consistent with their

17 accountings of what was occurring.

1 Q: Was Riley Stinson ever prosecuted for these instances?

2 A: Unfortunately due to Riley Stinson's stature in the community, no charges were
3 filed at those times. Also due to Sue Grace stating their unwillingness to cooperate with
4 prosecution. Those were only the instances where the police were called, based upon my
5 training and experience I knew most instances of abuse go unreported, and it was kind of
6 a thing around the Department with Sue Grace and Riley Stinson.

7 Q: Do you recall the first time you met Sue Grace or Riley Stinson?

8 A: The first time I came across the Sue Grace, Riley Stinson situation personally was
9 July 26, 2024. I was the lead detective on call when yet another call came in from Sue
10 Grace. I responded immediately, must have taken me less than fifteen minutes to arrive.

11 Q: Did anything happen when you arrived?

12 A: When I arrived, I immediately located Sue Grace.

13 Q: Before we talk about that, can you describe what you found when you arrived?

14 A: The residence was a wreck. The glass coffee table laid on the ground shattered,
15 books had been tossed all over the place and very few were still on the book shelf. There
16 was a major dent in one of the drywalls and the living room big screen tv laid on the
17 ground near the tv stand, shattered. The bed was a mess and furniture was overturned. I
18 noticed blood coming from Sue Grace's head and welts on their arms and face that I
19 could tell would bruise something fierce. I also noticed an insanely cute little dog present,
20 walking around with a limp but still barking at everyone. There were neighbors at the
21 road giving statements that they had heard a lot of screaming and a commotion, then an
22 individual leave the residence in a purple vehicle. Many of them stated they knew the
23 individual to be Riley Stinson, and that the purple vehicle was distinctively their vehicle.

24 Q: Ok, and back to Sue Grace. Other than battered and bleeding, how did they
25 appear to you?

26 A: They were visibly distraught in a corner, ranting and raving at a uniformed

1 officer. I pulled Sue Grace aside and tried to calm them down to take their statement.

2 They calmed down quite a bit, but I could tell they were still upset.

3 Q: Did Sue Grace tell you anything?

4 A: Sue Grace told me about how they had been out that night and made it home to
5 Riley Stinson waiting for them. An argument ensued and Riley Stinson became physically
6 violent, strangling Sue Grace and throwing them around. There was redness about Sue
7 Grace's neck consistent with this accounting. There were bruises and defensive marks
8 also present, consistent with the rest of what Sue Grace was telling me. They went on to
9 tell me that as soon as they could, they got away, locked themselves in their bedroom,
10 and called 911.

11 Q: Was Riley Stinson present as well?

12 A: No. When Riley Stinson realized Sue Grace was calling 911, they fled the scene.

13 Q: I'm showing you what has been marked for identification as Exhibits 9, 10, and
14 11. Do you recognize them?

15 A: Yes, I recognize Exhibits 9, 10, and 11. I recognize them to be photographs of
16 the residence I was called out to on July 26, 2024, for the Sue Grace, Riley Stinson
17 incident. It was significantly more wrecked than that though.

18 Q: Did anything else happen?

19 A: Well Sue Grace was obviously not happy about being abused themselves, but
20 they were beyond livid when they said Riley Stinson had struck their dog, Precious. Sue
21 Grace said this wasn't the first time that it had happened, that Precious never liked Riley
22 Stinson. I met Precious that night.

23 Q: I'm showing you what has been marked Exhibits 12, 13, and 14 for identification.
24 Do you recognize these?

25 A: Yes, that's Precious in exhibits 12, 13, and 14.

26 Q: Did Sue Grace tell you anything else?

1 A: Odd enough, Sue Grace was also very distraught that Riley Stinson had broken
2 one of Sue Grace's chairs in the altercation.

3 Q: Showing you what has been marked for identification as Exhibit 15. Do you
4 recognize this?

5 A: Yes, that's the chair showing the damage I noted, Exhibit 15.

6 Q: Did Sue Grace complain about damage or abuse to anything or anyone else from
7 that night?

8 A: No, they did not.

9 Q: So was Riley Stinson ever found?

10 A: Well, like I said, Riley Stinson was not found at the scene when officers arrived.
11 Sue Grace said that Riley Stinson had taken off in their car, a very distinctive, purple,
12 2016 Dodge Challenger Scatpack. To my knowledge, it is the only of its kind in the
13 county.

14 Q: Showing you what has been marked for identification as Exhibits 6, 7, and 8. Do
15 you recognize them?

16 A: I recognize them to be Riley Stinson's vehicle.

17 Q: Ok, what happened next?

18 A: We put the description out to officers in the area but it was not located that
19 night.

20 Q: Did anything else happen that night?

21 A: Nothing of significance. I file my incident report and that was it for that night.

22 Q: Do you recognize what has been marked as Exhibit 3 for identification?

23 A: Yes, that's the incident report I filed in this matter.

24 Q: Did you collect any other evidence that night?

25 A: No, I didn't take any other photographs. Or finger prints. Or blood samples. I
26 understand some other officers may have taken pictures and collected evidence, but from

1 what I've heard those officers have transferred to other states and they must have
2 misfiled or lost anything they collected.

3 Q: Is this unusual?

4 A: You have to understand, this was a pretty open-and-shut case, none of that was
5 needed. And it is unfortunate that evidence was lost, but it happens.

6 Q: Ok. Was Riley Stinson ever located?

7 A: Yes, I was called to court to testify on an unrelated case the following Monday,
8 that would have been July 29, 2024. I recognized Riley Stinson's car in the courthouse
9 parking lot. I immediately called for backup and ascertained which court Riley Stinson
10 was due in that morning. We had to interrupt court but we were able to take Riley
11 Stinson into custody without incident.

12 Q: Did Riley Stinson make any statements?

13 A: As we were arresting Riley Stinson, they asked what it was all about. When I told
14 them they were being arrested for the domestic abuse of Sue Grace, Riley Stinson said
15 they had never laid a finger on Sue Grace, how Sue Grace was a manipulative shrew,
16 how it was Sue Grace who had always been hitting Riley Stinson. I did notice Riley
17 Stinson had a black eye and bruises on multiple parts of their body. However, between
18 the two stories I believed Sue Grace more, so we took Riley Stinson into custody.

19 Q: Do you recognize what has been marked as Exhibit 4 for identification?

20 A: Yes, that is my addendum to my initial report.

21 Q: Do you recognize Riley Stinson here today?

22 A: Yes, that's them at the defense table in the tuxedo.

23 Q: May the record reflect that the witness has accurately identified the defendant.

24 And did all of these events occur in Rocky Top County, state of Padland?

25 A: Yes, they did.

CROSS EXAMINATION

1 Q: Did you ever suspect Sue Grace of lying about what had happened?

2 A: I question everything a witness or victim tells me. But the physical marks on Sue
3 Grace, the wrecked residence I was called to, and that Riley Stinson had fled the scene all
4 pointed to Riley Stinson being the primary aggressor and Sue Grace telling the truth.

5 Q: Are you aware of what has been marked as Exhibit 16 for identification?

6 A: Yes, I am.

7 Q: You recognize it as the text Sue Grace said they sent Riley Stinson, telling Riley
8 Stinson to leave Sue Grace alone?

9 A: Yes.

10 Q: Through your investigation, did you find out that Riley Stinson on a number of
11 occasions had contact with Sue Grace after that text was sent?

12 A: That is what I was told, yes.

13 Q: Would this not contradict Sue Grace's claims that they were afraid of Riley
14 Stinson?

15 A: Not necessarily. You have to understand, and from my training, experience, and
16 expertise, this is unfortunately not uncommon with domestic abuse situations.

17 Q: How so?

18 A: Abusers have a way of making the abused feel less than they are, uncertain of
19 themselves, and desirous of the approval of the abuser. The abuser is often egotistical,
20 quite masterful of manipulating both the abused and how third-parties view the situation.
21 Additionally, they often will isolate the abused in a way where the abused has next to no
22 one else they can call for help or support. So the abused will often forgive the abuser,
23 convince themselves that any abuse isn't as bad as the abuse actually was, and even
24 convincing themselves that it wouldn't happen again. This all lined up with the picture of
25 Sue Grace and Riley Stinson's relationship, from my investigation.

1 Q: Isn't it true that you've spoken with Sue Grace many times about what they
2 would testify about in court?

3 A: Well, yes, but not in the way you're insinuating. I have spoken with Sue Grace
4 many times since July 26, 2024. I had to get their statement, talk to them about what to
5 expect when testifying, things of that nature.

6 Q: I'm showing you what has been marked as Exhibit 5 for identification. You
7 recognize this?

8 A: Yes, I recognize Exhibit 5 as a memo from when I worked with the South Haven
9 County Sheriff's Department.

10 Q: Have you ever seen Sue Grace and Riley Stinson together?

11 A: No, I never saw Sue Grace and Riley Stinson together.

12 Q: You've never seen Riley Stinson strike Sue Grace?

13 A: I never saw Riley Stinson strike Sue Grace.

14 Q: You've never seen them abuse Sue Grace's pet?

15 A: I never saw Riley Stinson abuse Precious. I never saw Riley Stinson do anything,
16 I am going off of my training, experience, and investigation. Riley Stinson fled the scene,
17 indicative of guilt. Sue Grace was highly agitated still when I initially interviewed them,
18 with physical markings and damage to their residence, all indicative of guilt. Fortunately
19 Sue Grace has been all too happy to help us prosecute this time. Finally.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR ROCKY TOP COUNTY, STATE OF PADLAND

SUE GRACE,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Docket No. <u>1902-PL-24</u>
	)	
RILEY STINSON,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

TRANSCRIPT OF THE EXAMINATION OF ROBIN KEATING

1 Q: Please introduce yourself.

2 A: My name is Robin Keating. I am the owner and head bartender of The

3 Odditorium, maybe you have heard of us. We are best known for our Mardi Gras parties

4 and NJT night.

5 Q: NJT night, what is that?

6 A: NJTs? Those are New Jersey Turnpikes, my specialty cocktail. It takes a full week

7 of prep and all of my considerable intellect to pull those nights off. They're a hoot.

8 Q: And do you know either Sue Grace or Riley Stinson?

9 A: Why yes, I know Sue Grace and Riley Stinson. Sue Grace quite a bit better than

10 Riley Stinson. Sue would come in most every night, a regular. Riley would usually just

11 come in to pick up Sue so they wouldn't drink-and-drive, every now and then would

12 come in for a drink but not much of a drinker, that Riley.

13 Q: Have you ever met Sue Grace's pet dog?

14 A: Precious? Yes, I know Precious too well.

15 Q: Showing you what has been marked for identification as Exhibits 12, 13, and 14.

16 Do you recognize these?

17 A: Yes, that's Precious in Exhibits 12, 13, and 14. Sue insisted on bringing Precious

1 everywhere, said Precious was their emotional support dog. But mostly once inside Sue
2 would unleash Precious and the little demon would wreak havoc everywhere. Chewing
3 on furniture, barking incessantly at anyone they didn't know. But what are you going to
4 do?

5 Q: Can you tell us more about the relationship between Riley Stinson and Sue
6 Grace?

7 A: Riley and Sue must have started dating somewhere around the first of the year,
8 that's when I noticed Riley starting to come around. Can I say that I was happy for it?
9 Riley seemed to calm Sue down a bit. To say Sue is wildly quirky would be an
10 understatement. But Riley always took care of them, even when Sue was drunk. By that I
11 mean Sue was a mean drunk, yelling, starting fights, constantly punching and slapping a
12 little too hard on the shoulders and such. But you could tell Riley liked Sue, and Sue was
13 desperate for Riley.

14 Q: Let me ask you, are there any instances between Riley Stinson and Sue Grace that
15 come to mind in July of 2024?

16 A: Well sometime in July I remember Sue telling me Riley had broken up with Sue.
17 Sue's reaction to this wasn't a shock, they told me about how they went off on Riley and
18 told Riley to never talk to them again. Well Riley was always a good one, we hardly ever
19 saw Riley after that, though Sue seemed to call them late almost every night. Thankfully
20 the times we did see Riley was when Sue really needed a ride, and Riley would still always
21 show up to make sure everyone got home ok.

22 Q: More specifically, does anything come to mind around July 26, 2024?

23 A: It was kind of the same story on July 26, 2024. Riley showed up, alone, and
24 started drinking around five or six in the afternoon. They ordered wings and nachos for
25 dinner, but steadily drank throughout the rest of the night. They almost got into a fight
26 with another of my regulars until I told them I'd cut them both off if they didn't calm

1 down. And Sue was flirting with anything that moved.

2 Q: Did Sue have their dog with them that night?

3 A: No, Sue said Precious had been in a mood so Sue had made them stay home as
4 punishment.

5 Q: You said Sue Grace showed up alone. Did anybody ever join them?

6 A: Maybe a couple hours before midnight Sue's friends showed up. Riley had too
7 many NJTs and Sue's friends had shown up pretty sober, so Sue needed to call it a night
8 well before the rest of them. Very wisely, none of Sue's friends would let Sue drive. I
9 remember suddenly Sue was asking everyone, me included, if Riley was coming to pick
10 them up. Insisted that Riley was a good one despite everything Sue had done, that Riley
11 was going to come and get them.

12 Q: Did Riley show up that night?

13 A: Like clockwork. A little time passed and Riley showed up. I'm not exactly sure
14 who called Riley, whether it was Sue or one of their friends. I know it hadn't been me, I
15 was too busy with and concentrated on churning out NJTs to do much of anything else
16 that night.

17 Q: What happened next?

18 A: Riley gently helped Sue to their amazingly pretty, purple car.

19 Q: Showing you what has been marked for identification as Exhibits 6, 7, and 8. Do
20 you recognize these?

21 A: Yes, that's Riley's car

22 Q: Did you notice anything else that night?

23 A: Well I was shocked by Sue's behavior, even for Sue. The whole way Sue was
24 yelling at Riley, calling them scum, slapping them then apologizing and suddenly
25 thanking Riley for coming to get them. Then hitting Riley again, then asking Riley to
26 carry them to the car.

1 Q: Did you ever see Riley raise their voice to Sue that night?

2 A: No, Riley remained perfectly calm and reassuring, taking care of Sue like they
3 were a little baby bird.

4 Q: You said you saw Sue repeatedly assault Riley. Did you ever see Riley retaliate?

5 A: No, not once.

6 Q: Did you ever see Riley hit Sue that night?

7 A: I did not.

8 Q: Ever?

9 A: No.

10 Q: Are you aware of what Sue Grace is accusing Riley Stinson?

11 A: Yes. It was all over the news because of who Riley Stinson is in the community,
12 and because Sue Grace beat someone to death in my bar once. But even if I hadn't seen
13 it in the news, I would have known about it because it is all Sue ever talks about.

14 Q: Are you aware Riley Stinson was arrested in connection to this case?

15 A: I am. I think it was early the next week.

16 Q: And when Riley Stinson left with Sue Grace on July 26, 2024, was that the last
17 time you ever saw Riley Stinson?

18 A: No, I saw Riley Stinson once more that night.

19 Q: Please tell us about that.

20 A: Well, firstly, I was happy to see Riley because I hadn't realized Sue had left
21 without closing their rather massive tab. Sue does this on occasion and Riley always
22 covers it when that happens. Riley did that night too.

23 Q: Anything else?

24 A: Well, you see, Riley came back and it was quite a while after Riley and Sue had
25 left. Riley had a drink with one of Sue's friends. I noticed that something must have
26 happened, Riley's clothes were torn, they had scratch marks on them, and their face was

1 red.

2 Q: Had they not appeared thusly when they had left earlier?

3 A: No, they had been perfectly put together, not a mark on them.

4 Q: Did you ever find out what had happened?

5 A: Riley said that Sue had gotten violent again. Entirely believable – like I said, Sue
6 is a mean drunk.

7 Q: One final question, did anybody from any policing agencies ever come and
8 question you about what you saw on the night of July 26, 2024?

9 A: No, which I thought was really weird. After I saw everything on the news, I even
10 put in a call to the police saying Sue Grace had been at my reputable establishment for
11 many, many hours before and from what I saw, it was clear they had arrested the wrong
12 person. But nobody ever followed up with me.

CROSS EXAMINATION

13 Q: Are you saying you haven't seen Riley Stinson since then?

14 A: No, I haven't seen Riley since the night in question.

15 Q: Have you seen Sue Grace since then?

16 A: I have seen Sue with the same regularity as before that night. Disturbingly, Sue
17 has seemed more off-the-handle than ever before.

18 Q: You said when Riley Stinson returned that night, they had torn clothes, scratch
19 marks, redness in their face?

20 A: Yes.

21 Q: And they hadn't had those things when they'd left with Sue Grace?

22 A: They had not.

23 Q: When Sue Grace left with Riley Stinson, did Sue Grace have any bruises on
24 them?

25 A: Not that I could see.

1 Q: Any scratches?

2 A: No.

3 Q: Was Sue Grace bleeding when they left The Odditorium that night?

4 A: Heavens, no.

5 Q: Well then how can you say with any certainty that the police “got the wrong

6 person” as you say?

7 A: For starters there’s me having known Sue for many a year, and having known

8 Riley for quite some time too. Sue was always the one picking fights, being physical,

9 abusive. Never Riley. But even if I hadn’t known them, I would still be pretty sure

10 because Sue won’t shut up about that night. Sometimes I’ll hear Sue tell their side of the

11 story, that Riley had mood swings and had one that night. Then a couple times, when

12 Sue is really drunk, I can swear I’ve overheard Sue bragging about how they lied to the

13 police, that Riley never laid a finger on them, that they were doing it all to make Riley pay

14 for dumping them.

15 Q: And you’re sure that’s what Sue Grace said?

16 A: Well, I think so. Keep in mind I have the best bar in all of Padland, so I’m always

17 busy. But from the bits and pieces I overhear as a barkeep, I’m certain. Yes.

18 Q: Is there anything else you can tell us that we need to know about Riley Stinson?

19 A: I have never seen Riley be violent or even raise their voice. I know Riley is a big

20 shot attorney, but I only know them outside of the courtroom and can I say? They’re

21 perhaps one of the most chill people I’ve ever met.

22 Q: Anything else about Sue Grace?

23 A: Oh, yes. Sue, on the other hand, is like their dog, Precious. Absolutely insane. But

24 Sue helps pay the bills, so I tolerate them.

25 Q: And is there anything else we need to know about that night?

26 A: Yes, on July 26, 2024, I closed The Odditorium at 3 a.m., like every night as

1 required by Padland law. Riley and Sue left well before that, I think right after midnight. I
2 know it is about a ten minute drive from The Odditorium to Sue's place, five if there's
3 no traffic. I saw Riley Stinson come back maybe around last call, which would have been
4 2:30 a.m. They only had the one drink, spoke with one of their mutual friends, and both
5 of them calmly left when we closed.

6 Q: I have to ask, do you have any personal investment in how this case turns out?

7 A: Well yes, I suppose in both ways. Sue Grace is one of my biggest spenders, a bar-
8 fly that helps keep my business afloat. But Riley Stinson serves as a deacon at my church
9 and is also handling my divorce at the moment. All of this is unfortunate.

SUE GRACE,

Plaintiff,

v.

RILEY STINSON,

Respondent.

1 Q: Please introduce yourself.

2 A: Hi. My name is Alicia Von Keller McMurray-Smith. I just love saying that, don't

3 you? So fun to say. Alicia Von Keller McMurray-Smith.

4 Q: What do you do for a living, Alicia Von Keller McMurray-Smith?

5 A: For a living I am the country's foremost expert on International Mineral Import

6 and Export Law.

7 Q: Does that mean you're an attorney?

8 A: Yes, I'm an attorney, and a rather splendid one. Handle accounts for many of the

9 largest, most influential family-run businesses in the world.

10 Q: Do you know Riley Stinson?

11 A: Yes, that's actually how I came to know Riley Stinson. Riley is an acceptable

12 attorney, kind of a big fish in a small pond kind of way. Anyways, I think we first met at

13 a Rocky City Bar Association crawfish boil and bar-b-que. Keep in mind, bar-b-que, not

14 grilling out. Slapping meat on a grill doesn't equate to bar-b-que. You have to do ribs,

15 brisket, the good stuff for it to be a bar-b-que. Grinds my gears to no end when someone

16 invites me to what they call a "bar-b-que" and then they just throw some burgers and

1 hotdogs on a grill. They might as well serve iced tea instead of sweet tea while they're at
2 it.

3 Q: You were saying how you know Riley Stinson?

4 A: Ah yes, I digress. So I've known Riley for maybe five years now, but have known
5 Sue Grace for closer going on a decade. I suppose you could say they are two of my
6 closest friends. I spent most of my social time with one of them or the other, and often
7 both once they started dating. That's why it was so rough on me when they broke up, I
8 had to rearrange my social calendar. Rather inconsiderate of them.

9 Q: Tell us about Sue Grace.

10 A: Ah, we're rewinding a bit there. Sue before Riley was something else! They tore
11 through significant others like no one could believe. They were always unhealthy
12 relationships, Sue either dismissing people because they were too good for them – Sue
13 doesn't honestly believe they deserve someone who is good to them and so doesn't trust
14 it. Or Sue getting way too invested, way too fast, and demanding all of the other person's
15 attention. Sue would get angry if they texted with anyone else, spent time with anyone
16 else, basically if Sue wasn't the center of the universe. This would often lead to fights and
17 I have seen on more than one occasion Sue physically abuse their significant other out in
18 public! But you know Sue, always has to play the victim.

19 Q: We're talking about your good friend, Sue Grace?

20 A: Don't get me wrong, Sue is a great friend, just a horrible person in a romantic
21 situation. I could call on Sue night or day and they would come in to help bury the body,
22 no questions asked. But in a romantic relationship? Absolutely unhinged. Controlling,
23 manipulative, narcissistic. I could never date Sue, there's a serious screw loose there.

24 Q: Tell us a little more about Riley Stinson then.

25 A: Riley is a good example of "opposites attract" on the other hand. Riley is
26 basically who I want to be when I grow up. I mean, not professionally. I'm far more

1 successful with my International Mineral Import and Export law firm. But as in who
2 Riley is as a person? Always chill, calm, kind. Could never hurt a fly.

3 Q: Have you ever seen Riley Stinson be abusive, physical or otherwise, to Sue
4 Grace?

5 A: I have never seen Riley lay a hostile hand on Sue, or Precious, or anyone for that
6 matter. And Riley always treated Sue like royalty. Riley is that person who will stop to pet
7 any dog, cat, or possum if the possum is friendly enough. Even fosters animals from time
8 to time. A kinder soul I have never known.

9 Q: Ok. Were you around either of them on or about July of 2024?

10 A: Yes. All of this leads to, yes, of course, I knew both Sue and Riley throughout
11 July of 2024. I was with Sue right after Riley had broken up with them and when Sue
12 texted Riley to never talk to them again. Sue even had me approve the text.

13 Q: I'm showing you what has been marked for identification as Exhibit 16. Do you
14 recognize it?

15 A: Indubitably. Exhibit 16, that's it. The text. And Riley really tried to respect Sue's
16 wishes, they really did. Didn't go anywhere Sue liked to frequent, didn't even talk poorly
17 about Sue behind their back. But Riley would come around every now and then when
18 Sue would call them.

19 Q: How do you mean, when Sue would call Riley?

20 A: You see, every blue moon or so Sue has a bit too much and is done for the night
21 well before the rest of us. This especially happens on NJT nights at The Odditorium.
22 Well, instead of calling it on those nights, all of us friends of Sue knew Riley and knew
23 we could trust them, so we would call Riley to take Sue home. Sue was always happy to
24 see Riley when they would come to pick them up, and Sue always got home safely.

25 Q: Always happy?

26 A: Well, not always. You see, Sue can be a violent drunk and Riley bore the brunt of

1 that. That's what happened on July 26, 2024.

2 Q: Tell us about that night.

3 A: Well, ok then, July 26, 2024. A bunch of us had gone out to see a movie that

4 night, this amazing superhero movie that had just been released. Then we stopped at The

5 Chef's Table, best steakhouse in Padland. I remember I had steak with a side of steak.

6 Anyways, during dinner Sue had been blowing up our phones, demanding we come hang

7 out with them. They said they were at the Odditorium and we could tell by the typos and

8 misspellings in the texts, not to mention the slurring of the voicemails Sue had left us,

9 that they had already started. So we went to join them.

10 Q: What happened next?

11 A: We got there and could immediately tell Sue needed a ride and said they needed

12 Riley to pick them up, so I call Riley. Before we got there apparently Sue had already

13 gotten into a fight or two and causing a disturbance, but any night when Sue doesn't beat

14 someone to death in a bar is a good night for Sue.

15 Q: Back to Riley Stinson. After you called them, did they show up?

16 A: Yes. Riley, good old reliable Riley, shows up and takes Sue home. Sue was

17 especially belligerent on their way out, switching back and forth from loving all over

18 Riley to yelling at and hitting Riley. But Riley got Sue to the car, and took them home.

19 Q: I'm showing you what has been marked for identification as Exhibits 6, 7, and 8.

20 Do you recognize these?

21 A: Yes, that's the car. Riley's car I mean, only one of its kind I have ever seen.

22 Exhibits 6, 7, and 8.

23 Q: Did anything else happen that night?

24 A: I figured that was it for the night but maybe half an hour later Riley comes back

25 to The Odditorium, grabbed a drink, and asks to talk.

26 Q: Half an hour later, are you sure?

1 A: I mean, that's my best guess. I wasn't exactly watching the clock.

2 Q: Did you and Riley Stinson end up talking?

3 A: Mostly we talked about Sue, how Riley didn't want to get back together with

4 them but did want to make sure they were doing ok. Now that you mention it, Riley did

5 have some swelling around the eye and some red spots on their body, but as Sue was

6 hitting them as they left, I didn't think anything of it.

7 Q: Did anything else happen that night?

8 A: At the end of the night, Riley finished their one drink and curiously said

9 something I can't riddle out to this day. Riley said "Nothing is ever going to be the

10 same." Then they left. I stuck around for a little while longer then called a ride-share to

11 get me home.

12 Q: Have you seen Riley Stinson since that night?

13 A: Yes, I still talk to Riley all the time.

14 Q: Anything of significance?

15 A: Riley maintains that they didn't do anything to Sue which, based on what I know

16 about Sue and their reputation, I one-thousand percent believe. But even to this day I've

17 never heard Riley say a cross word about Sue.

18 Q: And have you seen Sue Grace since that night?

19 A: Yes, I still see Sue all the time too. Like I said, entirely unhinged in a relationship

20 but a great friend.

21 Q: Anything we should know about there?

22 A: Sue is worse than ever. Won't stop talking about Riley, and by "talking" I should

23 say trashing Riley every chance they get. Has been on the news a few times about all of

24 this and loving every minute of it.

25 Q: Has Sue ever spoken about the night in question?

26 A: Spoken about it? More like won't shut up about it. Always telling it like it is a

1 well-rehearsed war story, I could probably recite it from memory by now. But a couple of
2 times, when it is just Sue and me, I'll ask them if it really happened?

3 Q: What do they say?

4 A: Without fail they go silent, look me in the eye for an eerily long time, then says I
5 have known them long enough, they should believe me. Well, except for one NJT night,
6 they responded differently.

7 Q: How so?

8 A: That time Sue broke down crying and asked if they came clean, if they told the
9 police that it was all a misunderstanding, did I think it could all go away and Sue and
10 Riley could get back together again.

11 Q: Have the police ever questioned you about that night?

12 A: No, not once. Though Sue did ask me once if I would talk to the police and tell
13 them Riley had been abusive toward Sue, and that Riley had struck Sue at the bar that
14 night.

CROSS EXAMINATION

15 Q: You have more of a history with Riley Stinson than you just told us about, don't
16 you?

17 A: Well, yes. I used to date Riley Stinson. We dated for maybe three years, but that
18 was a couple years back and well before they met Sue Grace. Sure, there is a part of me
19 that will always love them, I would be lying if I said I had never thought about a future
20 with them. But that was when we were together. Ultimately we're great friends but
21 weren't right for each other, romantically.

22 Q: And you have more of a history with Sue Grace than you've let on as well?

23 A: Well, yes. The first time I remember meeting Sue was at church. You see, we
24 both attend the Lesser Church of Lopt. Once or twice a week, every week, to this day.

1 Q: You've said that you used to hang out with both Sue and Riley, yes?

2 A: That's correct.

3 Q: Have you ever seen Riley around Sue's pet, Precious?

4 A: Many a time, yes.

5 Q: Isn't it true that you've seen Riley strike Precious, on multiple occasions?

6 A: Strike isn't a fair word. I would see Riley push Precious off furniture and drag

7 Precious to their kennel when Precious didn't want to go. But strike? Closest to that I

8 ever was was when Riley would pop Precious in the nose, sometimes with a rolled-up

9 newspaper, when Precious did something wrong. But Sue would punish Precious too,

10 and I never once saw Sue object when Riley would punish Precious.

11 Q: And isn't it true that you think it possible that Sue Grace is telling the truth about

12 what happened?

13 A: I mean, anything is possible. Soon after that night I did see Sue with welts and

14 bruises, so I suppose no one can know what happened except Sue and Riley.

EXHIBIT LIST

1. Criminal Record of Sue Grace
2. E-911 Record
3. Incident Report
4. Incident Report – Addendum
5. Internal Memo – South Haven County Sheriff’s Department
6. Photograph of Respondent’s Vehicle – 1 of 3
7. Photograph of Respondent’s Vehicle – 2 of 3
8. Photograph of Respondent’s Vehicle – 3 of 3
9. Photograph of Residence – 1 of 3
10. Photograph of Residence – 2 of 3
11. Photograph of Residence – 3 of 3
12. Photograph of Precious – 1 of 3
13. Photograph of Precious – 2 of 3
14. Photograph of Precious – 3 of 3
15. Photograph of broken chair
16. Screenshot of Text Messages

CRIMINAL RECORD: SUE GRACE

Charge:	Possession of Marijuana		
County, State:	Rocky Top, Padland	Docket No.	GS16516-2010
Date of Offense:	03/14/2010	Date of Disposition:	04/15/2010
Disposition:	Plea of Guilty – sentenced to time already served		
Charge:	First Degree Murder		
County, State:	Rocky Top, Padland	Docket No.	GS-653943-2015
Offense:	08/13/2010	Date of Disposition:	02/27/2016
Disposition:	Not Guilty – Affirmative Defense of Insanity		
Charge:	Domestic Assault		
County, State:	Rocky Top, Padland	Docket No.	GS-667484-2016
Offense:	03/15/2016	Date of Disposition:	10/31/2016
Disposition:	Dismissed – <i>Nolle Prosequi</i>		
Charge:	Perjury		
County, State:	South Haven, Padland	Docket No.	CR-2018-23485
Offense:	07/17/2018	Date of Disposition:	04/01/2020
Disposition:	Plea of Guilty – 30 days in cusotody		
Charge:	Domestic Assault		
County, State:	South Haven, Padland	Docket No.	GS-2020-32408
Offense:	04/22/2020	Date of Disposition:	11/17/2020
Disposition:	Dismissed – Defense Motion		
Charge:	Misdemeanor Theft		
County, State:	Rocky Top, Padland	Docket No.	CR-728429-2021
Offense:	12/23/2021	Date of Disposition:	02/14/2021
Disposition:	Plea of Guilty – eleven months, twenty-nine days unsupervised probation, \$720.00 restitution		
Charge:	Domestic Assault		
County, State:	Rocky Top, Padland	Docket No.	CR-827345-2022
Offense:	12/07/2022	Date of Disposition:	11/120/2023
Disposition:	Guilty Verdict after Jury Trial – sentenced to time already served after completion of anger management assessment and follow recommendations, stay away from victim Alex Wright		

EXHIBIT 1

E-911 RECORD

Date: 07.26.2024

Time: 0523 hours

Operator: B. Hughes

Caller: Sue Grace (identified) (in bold)

0523 9-1-1-. What's your emergency?

0523 **Yes. I'm at my house and my ex won't leave.**

0523 Have you told them to leave?

0523 **Yes. And they should know better than to be here in the first place, I've told them many times before to leave me alone and to not come around me.**

0524 Ok, I can dispatch units to your location. Where are you now?

0524 **At home. 400 W. Main Street. Here in Rocky City.**

0524 I'm dispatching units to you now. Are they still there?

0524 **No, they saw I was calling 9-1-1 and finally left.**

0524 Ok, units are on the way. Are you harmed in any way?

0524 **No, not really. We got into an argument and it got heated, but they've left now.**

0524 Well stay on the phone until units get there. Can you tell me anything more about your ex?

0525 **Yes. Their name is Harley Stinson, they've been abusive for a long time. Before they left, they said if I spoke to the police, they would come back and kill me.**

0525 Is there anything else? Do they live with you, do you know what they drive?

0525 **They used to live with me but not any longer after we broke up. I threw all of their stuff into the front yard and burned all of their clothes. But I do know that Riley drive this super fancy, purple car.**

0525 Is there anyone else in the house? Do you have children or anyone living with you?

0526 **Children? Just Precious, but that's my child, not theirs. Oh, some officers are pulling up now.**

0526 Good. You can get off the phone now and tell the officers everything that happened.

EXHIBIT 2

ROCKY TOP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Rocky Top County Area Law Enforcement Incident Report

Case # 1902-PL-24 Arresting Officer H. Seuk
Arrest Date: N/A – Suspect not at scene IDN # 834400385
Arrest Time: N/A – Suspect not at scene Arresting Agency: RTCSO

~~ARRESTEE~~ SUSPECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name Riley Stinson DOB 07/31/1982 Sex _____

Address 4300 Justice Way, Rocky City, Padland 36753

Home Phone _____ Employer Self-Employed Work Phone _____

Location of Arrest N/A – Suspect not at scene

SSN 455-18-■■■■ Race _____ Hgt _____ Wgt _____

Eyes _____ Hair _____

NARRATIVE

On 07261986 at or about 0523 I was called to a report of Domestic Abuse, Stalking, and Criminal Trespass at or about 400 West Main Street, Rocky City, Padland 36753. I arrived to find a distraught Sue Grace ("Victim"). Victim reported that Riley Stinson ("Suspect") had fled the scene moments before in a purple Dodge Charger. Report sent out through dispatch to search for a vehicle matching Suspect's vehicle description. As of the writing of this report, Suspect and Suspect's vehicle not located.

Suspect relayed to me that Suspect is the ex-significant other of Victim and that the two of them used to live together. Suspect stated that they got home from a night out and fell asleep. Then, upon waking up, Suspect was standing over Victim, watching them sleep. An argument ensued and Victim stuck Victim, as well as strangling Victim. Defensive marks noted on Victim and redness about Victim's neck, corroborating Victim's recitation of events.

Suspect informed me that Suspect had previously told Victim to stay away from them and not contact them, multiple times. Additionally, Suspect stated that Victim did not have permission to be in Victim's residence on the night in question.

Suspect Riley Stinson determined to be primary aggressor and a warrant is being sworn out for Suspect's arrest. These events did occur in Rocky Top County, state of Padland. Suspect not taken into custody because Suspect fled the scene and could not be located.

EXHIBIT 3

ROCKY TOP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Rocky Top County Area Law Enforcement Incident Report - ADDENDUM

Case #	<u>1902-PL-24</u>	Arresting Officer	<u>H. Seuk</u>
Arrest Date:	<u>07/29/2024</u>	IDN #	<u>834400385</u>
Arrest Time:	<u>1030</u>	Arresting Agency:	<u>RTCSO</u>

~~ARRESTEE~~ SUSPECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name Riley Stinson DOB 07/31/1982 Sex _____

Address 4300 Justice Way, Rocky City, Padland 36753

Home Phone _____ Employer Self-Employed Work Phone _____

Location of Arrest Rocky Top County Courthouse – 100 W. Main St., Rocky City, Padland

SSN 455-18-■■■■ Race _____ Hgt _____ Wgt _____

Eyes _____ Hair _____

NARRATIVE

On 07291986 at or about 1030 I was reporting to the Rocky Top County Courthouse to testify in a separate case when I noticed a vehicle matching the vehicle description of Riley Stinson ("Suspect"). From knowledge and experience, Suspect is the only individual in Rocky Top County who owns a purple Dodge Challenger. Additionally, I know Suspect to be a local attorney therefore likely to be found in the courthouse.

Upon learning this, I called for backup and Suspect was found in Criminal Court – Division VII, in the midst of a hearing. I, along with Officers R. Coleman, J. Hughes. A. Sagan, K. Maloney, J. Ross, J. Miquel, and N. Sebastiano took Suspect into custody without incident.

While being taken into custody, Suspect seemed confused and continuously inquired why they were being taken into custody. Notably, Suspect also stated that they had not seen Sue Grace ("Victim") since the previous week when Victim had called Suspect for a ride. Suspect admitted to accidentally breaking Victim's chair but denied ever abusing Victim or Victim's pet.

Suspect has been previously determined to be the primary aggressor. All of these events occurred in Rocky Top County, Padland. Suspect taken into custody because DOMESTIC ABUSE – PRIMARY AGGRESSOR TO BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

EXHIBIT 4

SOUTH HAVEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

South Haven County – Internal Memorandum – To be kept CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Personnel File – Detective Hyun Seuk

FROM: Captain C. Anderson, IDN 248095

RE: Disciplinary Action – State of Padland v. Harley Gray, Docket No. 1902-PL-20

DATE: December 15, 2020

SUMMARY

State of Padland v. Harley Gray was a case charging Harley Gray with the 2nd Degree Murder of Celyn LeBeau. LeBeau was a student at a mock trial competition under coach Harley Gray. Near the end of the competition, LeBeau went missing and Gray was suspected. LeBeau's body was never found.

At trial, Gray was found NOT GUILTY by a jury of their peers. After the trial, an internal review revealed that Detective Hyun Seuk deviated from standard operating procedure in a number of ways, including but not limited to

- Det. Seuk failed to adequately secure the suspected scene of the crime, resulting in some crucial evidence being damaged or destroyed.
- Det. Seuk failed to obtain surveillance footage of the hotel lobby and exits in which the competition was being hosted.
- Det. Seuk failed to interview potentially crucial eye-witnesses.
- Det. Seuk failed to Mirandize Gray prior to questioning, resulting in multiple incriminating statements by Gray being excluded from trial.

RECOMMENDATION

After a thorough investigation, and questioning of Det. Seuk, the following actions are recommended:

- Det. Seuk will be given a verbal reprimand.
- Det. Seuk will be placed on paid leave, effective immediately, for a period of six months.
- Upon returning to active duty, Det. Seuk will be placed on a probationary period of one year. Further deviation from any standard operating procedures during the probationary period will result in Det. Seuk's immediate termination.

ADDENDUM

September 24, 2021 – additional deviation from standard operating procedure. Det. Seuk terminated effective immediately.

EXHIBIT 5



EXHIBIT 6



EXHIBIT 7



EXHIBIT 8



EXHIBIT 9



EXHIBIT 10



EXHIBIT 12



EXHIBIT 13



EXHIBIT 14



EXHIBIT 15



EXHIBIT 16