

**Drew Peterson Trial 2012 - Murder of Kathleen Savio
People of the State of Illinois v. Drew Peterson (09CF-1048)
Will County, Joliet, Illinois**

Defense Opening Statements July 31, 2012

**A Personal Collection of Found Materials ("as is")
(Note: This is "not" an official legal court transcript)
(Dialog spacing done below for format and reading ease)**

In Session
<https://www.facebook.com/InSession>

July 31

The defense is about to start their opening statement in the Drew Peterson Murder trial.

In Session will provide live updates in this thread.

07/31/2012: Defense Attorney Joel Brodsky on Opening Statements

In Session

The jurors are back in the courtroom.

Lead defense attorney Joel Brodsky will now deliver his opening statement on behalf of defendant Drew Peterson.

July 31 at 11:43am · Like · 3

In Session

Brodsky begins by introducing the members of his defense team.

"We're like a baseball team . . . everybody has a different position to play."

July 31 at 11:44am · Like · 1

In Session

Beth Karas is on In Session now.

She was in the court room during the prosecution's opening statements.

July 31 at 11:46am · Like · 7

In Session

Brodsky: "In this case, we'll be cross-examining the State's witnesses ...the answers on cross-examination are evidence, too, just as important as the State's answers."

July 31 at 11:46am · Like · 1

In Session

? "When Mr. Peterson was a young man, he decided he wanted to go into law enforcement. He wanted a job where he could help people."

Brodsky notes that Peterson joined the military, and was a member of the military police.

"He did his job well."

July 31 at 11:48am · Like · 2

In Session

Brodsky discusses Peterson's first marriage (He married at 20).

After 2 years in the Army, "he moved back to Bolingbrook... Where he was a police officer for 30 years."

The attorney then continues to go over Drew's police career, describing his various duties.

July 31 at 11:50am · Like · 2

In Session

The State has made three objections in a row, all of which have been sustained.

So Judge Burmila asks for the jury to be removed, and tells Brodsky that he's been making inappropriate statements.

Judge: "It appears to me that you're testifying to this jury about Mr. Peterson."

Brodsky denies this charge, and says he's only talking about things that he intends to introduce at trial.

Judge: "You're perverting the purpose of the opening statement here."

Nevertheless, he says he will allow the defense a little leeway here.

July 31 at 11:54am · Like · 6

In Session

The jurors are now back, and Brodsky resumes his opening.

He notes that Peterson's first marriage ended in divorce ("no problems").

However, before he can go on, the State asks for a sidebar.

July 31 at 11:56am · Like · 1

In Session

The sidebar ends, and Brodsky once again resumes his opening statement.

He moves to the subject of Drew's second marriage, noting that it was during this time that they opened Suds Pub.

It was also during this time that Peterson worked undercover with the narcotics squad.

July 31 at 11:59am · Like · 1

In Session

After his second divorce, Drew became the sole owner of Suds Pub.

In 1992, he married Kathleen Savio. Brodsky describes her as "hot tempered."

She became involved in the management of Suds, and they also opened a printing business.

"They made good money...but then, problems arose.

Kathy was very bossy at the business...she would get angry, and then stay angry for days."

July 31 at 12:03pm · Like · 2

In Session

Brodsky: "They started to fight about money. She would lose her temper easily, over nothing,

make a scene. He would try to calm her down, but nothing could control Kathy...The marriage had become dysfunctional."

Ultimately, Drew moved to the basement.

July 31 at 12:05pm · Like · 1

In Session

It was during this time that Drew met and began an affair with Stacy.

Kathleen learned of the affair when she received an anonymous letter.

"The marriage is over."

July 31 at 12:06pm · Like · 2

In Session

Brodsky: In March, 2002, Kathy finds out that Drew had taken Stacy on a vacation to Mexico...She gets livid, wants him out of the house... She's angry, wants to get her way. So she goes to court and files a pro se petition for an order of protection...She fills it with lies ... stupid, ridiculous statements.

July 31 at 12:09pm · Like · 2

In Session

Brodsky: She gets an order of protection...that puts him out of the house...Drew calls his lawyer. Kathy is served with a divorce petition, and an order to vacate. So you have all these papers flying back and forth... All of a sudden, Kathy agrees to drop her petition for an order of protection, and Drew agrees to move out. That avoids a hearing on any of these unproven allegations. And never again until after Kathy's death do you ever hear anything again about an order of protection.

July 31 at 12:14pm · Like · 2

In Session

Brodsky: The divorce goes along, as all bitter contested divorces do . . . She's a very angry, bitter woman, who believes that she's been abandoned for a younger woman . . . She lies about facts, and ignores facts, such that Drew owned Suds Pub before they were married . . . She lies when it fits her purpose, or when she's hurt and angry.

July 31 at 12:16pm · Like · 1

In Session

Brodsky describes a fight between Kathy and Stacy when Drew and Stacy returned the children after a visitation. He describes Savio at that time as "a madwoman."

July 31 at 12:20pm · Like · 3

In Session

Brodsky: Kathy told her friend, Mary Pontarelli, that Drew wasn't supporting her or the kids... but Drew's paying \$2200 a month...

July 31 at 12:20pm · Like · 4

In Session

We have posted a new thread.

July 31 at 12:22pm · Like · 2

In Session

July 31

The defense is giving its opening statement right now in the Drew Peterson murder trial.

Watch this thread for live updates from court.

In Session

"Like all divorces, this one came to an end... It was a bifurcated divorced... They were actually getting along... things are calmed down, coming toward an end."

The divorce case is continued twice, to April 6, 2004.

"Kathy is not saying anything about Drew threatening to kill her...it's just all about money.

Drew wanted to keep as much money as possible, and Kathy wanted to get as much money as possible."

July 31 at 12:25pm · Like · 4

In Session

Brodsky now moves to the weekend of Savio's death. He notes that Kathleen and her boyfriend had sex that weekend; despite earlier plans to get together Saturday night, her boyfriend begs off. "Kathy wants him to come over; she wants to discuss marriage. He's not ready to discuss marriage. The call ends about midnight, and that's the last time anybody hears from Kathy Savio."

July 31 at 12:26pm · Like · 2

In Session

According to Brodsky, Drew Peterson is home on that Saturday, "surrounded by people" (including Stacy).

He attempts to drop his sons off at Savio's house on Sunday night, but gets no answer.

Because it's a holiday weekend, he keeps the kids on Monday, thinking he's supposed to.

But when he tries to drop them off on Monday, there is again no answer.

"Now he's getting worried."

July 31 at 12:29pm · Like · 4

In Session

"Going into the house that Monday was not Drew's idea; it was Mary Pontarelli's idea."

So Drew calls a locksmith. "Why call the police? Drew IS the police. He's just doing his job."

July 31 at 12:35pm · Like · 3

In Session

Brodsky: Bolingbrook police are contacted, who defer to the Illinois State Police.

They see no signs of foul play...just to be extra careful, they bagged her hands. There's a full and proper autopsy...the cause of death is undisputed; the cause of death is drowning.

July 31 at 12:37pm · Like · 2

In Session

The coroner's autopsy notes indicate that Savio may have fallen. A toxicology report came back negative. A coroner's jury found the manner of death was "accident . . . and the case was closed . . . nobody did or said anything to contest that finding. The reason is because it was an accident. There's no witness to foul play, no murder weapon, no crime scene, no sign of forced entry, no sign of a struggle. The bathroom was in perfect order . . . there is not one shred of evidence that Drew Peterson or anyone else was in that house. Why? Because this was a household accident."

July 31 at 12:43pm · Like · 2

In Session

"What happened in the bathtub? Nobody was there, so nobody can tell us. The State will say Drew Peterson snuck in there and drowned her. . . (but) she died in the middle of the morning; who's going to sneak around in black at 10:00 Sunday morning?"

July 31 at 12:44pm · Like · 2

In Session

Brodsky: Kathy slipped, fell, hit her head in a household accident, and drowned. Case closed.

July 31 at 12:46pm · Like · 2

In Session

Brodsky concedes that interest in the case revived after Stacy went missing. He notes that the body was exhumed, and ridiculed the autopsy conducted by Dr. Michael Baden on "FOX Entertainment News . . . of course Dr. Baden's going to say it's a homicide, because if it's an accident there's no story."

July 31 at 12:48pm · Like · 3

In Session

Brodsky now ridicules attorney Harry Smith, who he claims came forward "only after the media circus started . . . it was good for business, free advertising."

He also dismisses Sue and Anna Doman, Kathy Savio's sisters, for not originally coming forward with the claims they later made.

July 31 at 12:50pm · Like · 2

In Session

"There's another person, Neil Shori. He'll testify that Drew told Stacy to lie for him. Where does he tell that story? On the Greta Van Susteren Show."

This prompts an objection, and leads to a brief sidebar.

July 31 at 12:53pm · Like · 3

In Session

"Finally, let's talk about the science here. Forensics are not an exact science . . . it's an art, not a science . . . Kathy Savio was not a healthy person."

(He names a long list of afflictions he claims she suffered).

"She also was treated for mental illnesses" (and lists medications she was taking).

"She was not a healthy person . . . the State's theory that healthy people don't drown in the bathtub is not valid, because Kathleen Savio was not healthy."

July 31 at 12:58pm · Like · 3

In Session

Brodsky describes the three pathologists he claims the defense will call, and claims all three will say this death was accidental.

"In conclusion, we're going to hear in this case what I call urban legend. . . nothing but myth, rumor, innuendo, and hearsay. But you have to deal in facts, and when you do, you'll see that my client is exactly what he is: not guilty."

The defense's opening statement ends.

Judge Burmila calls the lunch recess at this time. The trial will resume at 2:15 ET.

July 31 at 1:03pm · Like · 4
