

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

**Nick Pontarelli Testified August 22, 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)**

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In Session

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

August 22 at 4:59pm

Watch this thread for live updates from the Drew Peterson murder trial!

The jurors are gone, but the judge is back on the bench.

Attorney Joel Brodsky is addressing the court about the limits to the scope of witness Harry Smith and his testimony about Kathleen Savio.

"If the statement leads to the fact that maybe he knows that Miss Savio lied under oath, that goes to the issue of her credibility."

Judge; "Well, I directed both sides to interview Mr. Smith if they wanted to. Did you do so?"

Steve Greenberg: "I talked to him today . . . what she [Savio] told him about the incident is different from what she then testified in court."

Judge: "Well, then, you've got your impeachment."

Greenberg: "I think they should be asked to disclose that before he testifies."

The judge says that the defense may call Smith in an offer of proof prior to his testimony before the jury.

Judge: "If he's going to testify about something she said to him, and he knows that she testified under oath, they'll be able to impeach her through cross-examination... if that alters your plans about calling him, then don't call him now, and call the other witness."

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In Session

The judge notes that the jurors have complained about a defense printer running too loudly during testimony. He tells the parties that the printer in question will no longer be allowed to

run during witness testimony.

August 22 at 5:00pm · Like · 17

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In Session

The judge leaves the bench, and the trial is in a brief recess.

August 22 at 5:00pm · Like · 8

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In Session

The parties are still milling around in the hallway.

It now appears that the next prosecution witness will be Nick Pontarelli, the son of earlier witnesses Mary and Tom Pontarelli.

August 22 at 5:09pm · Like · 10

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In Session

August 22 at 5:26pm

Watch this thread for live updates from the Drew Peterson murder trial!

Judge Burmila is back on the bench.

Before the jury comes in, the defense asks for a sidebar.

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In Session

The sidebar ends.

The judge sends for the jury.

August 22 at 5:26pm · Like · 7

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**08/22/2012: Prosecutor Chris Koch at direct examination**

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In Session

The jurors are now in the courtroom.

The State calls its next witness: Nick Pontarelli (questioned by prosecutor Koch).

He is 22 years old, and lives with his parents, Tom and Mary Pontarelli.

“I’m an I.T. recruiter for Tech Systems . . . this is my second week.”

August 22 at 5:29pm · Like · 6

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In Session

The witness says he knew Kathleen Savio.

He identifies a photograph of Savio, and says that she lived directly next door to his home.

He then identifies a photograph of her house.

August 22 at 5:30pm · Like · 9

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In Session

“Do you recall when Kathleen moved in next door?”

“It was in 2000, from what I remember.”

“How old would you have been?”

“I was ten years old . . . she also lived with her husband, Drew, and their two children, Tom and Kris.”

He identifies the defendant in the courtroom.

“What type of relationship with you have with Tom and Kris?”

“They were just the boys next door . . . we used to go on family vacations, went camping together . . . I went with the Petersons on one occasion. We also went to Lake Geneva together.”

“How often would you see Tom and Kris?”

“Pretty often, a couple of times a week . . . they were good friends.”

August 22 at 5:33pm · Like · 6

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In Session

Drew Peterson moved out of the house “in approximately 2000.”

“Did you ever do anything with the children after school?”

“Yes, sometimes I would walk home with them after school, and just wait with them until their mom came home . . . they had a garage door opener.”

“After the defendant moved out, what kind of work would you do for Kathy?”

“I would just watch the kids, while she was at work or at school.”

“Did there come a time when you did any work to the house?”

“Yes.”

“What kind of work would you do to the house?” Objection.

The defense asks for a sidebar.

August 22 at 5:36pm · Like · 5

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In Session

The sidebar ends.

The judge asks to have the jurors taken out of the courtroom.

August 22 at 5:36pm · Like · 4

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In Session

The sidebar ends.

The judge asks to have the jurors taken out of the courtroom.

August 22 at 5:43pm · Like · 1

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In Session

The jury is now gone, and the witness leaves the courtroom.

Judge; “One of the jurors has advised the bailiff that he or she knows the witness. I want to see all of the witnesses with the court reporter in the judge’s conference room. And then, Donna [the bailiff], I’ll want you to bring back the juror.”

The judge and the attorneys leave the courtroom.

August 22 at 5:43pm · Like · 4

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In Session

Judge Burmila is back on the bench.

“The issue involving the juror was resolved, and the juror will remain seated.”

He then sends for the witness, and the jury returns to the courtroom.

August 22 at 5:52pm · Like · 10

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In Session

The jurors are back, and the prosecution resumes its direct.

“After the defendant moved out, did you do any work on the house?”

“Yes . . . I helped her change her locks to the front door and the garage door . . . both the deadbolt and the bottom lock.”

“Would you have occasion to continue to babysit after the defendant moved out?”

“Yes.”

“When you would go to the house, how would you see Tom and Kris?”

“I would ring the doorbell.”

“How many times did you go over to see Tom and Kris?”

“Multiple times a week.”

August 22 at 5:54pm · Like · 7

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In Session

“Did there come a time when you learned that Kathy had a boyfriend?”

“Yes, Steve Maniaci.”

“Did you meet Steve Maniaci?”

“Yes.”

August 22 at 5:55pm · Like · 7

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In Session

“Did there come an occasion when you took a photograph of Kathleen Savio?”

“Yes . . . it was in 2003 . . . that’s Kathleen Savio.”

“Was she working when you took this photograph?”

“Yes.”

“Why did you take that particular photograph?”

“There were just a couple of pictures left on a digital photograph, and I just snapped some pictures.”

The witness is then asked about the weekend that Savio died.

“My family and I had been on vacation in Florida, and had just gotten back on Friday.”

“What kind of relationship did you have with Kathy?”

“Kathy was like a second mother to me . . . I was over there a lot of the time, hanging out with the boys. And Kathy was always there.”

“On Saturday, Feb. 28, did you see Kathy that day?”

“Yes, in the afternoon. She was unloading groceries out of her car, and she came over and talked to us . . . I went over to help her unload groceries out of her vehicle, and went inside her house for lunch. I was just in the kitchen.”

He describes the layout of Savio’s kitchen.

“What were you talking about?”

“I was just telling her about my vacation; I had also brought over some of the stuff that we brought back from Florida . . . she made us both a salad.’

“Recall what she was wearing?”

“She had on a T-shirt and some sweat pants.”

“Did you observe anything unusual about Kathy that day?”

“Nothing out of the ordinary.”

He was at Kathy’s house for 45 minutes to an hour. That day, Tom and Kris were at their father’s.

August 22 at 6:00pm · Like · 9

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In Session

After having lunch, he went back to his own home.

Around 4:00, he and his parents left to go to a family party.

“I know we got home around midnight . . . I noticed Kathy’s bedroom light was on . . . there were no vehicles in the driveway.”

“Did you see any vehicles in the driveway that night, or in the street area?”

“No.”

“What other lights did you see?”

“None that I saw . . .outside lights were off.”

“What did you do then?”

“Just went to sleep; it was late . . . on Sunday, I called over to Kathy’s house, to see if she wanted any pasta for dinner . . . we have a big meal, spaghetti and meatballs.”

“Did you get any response?”

“No, there was no response . . . I thought I would just go over there with the pasta, in case she would answer the door . . . the screen door was unlocked. I rang the doorbell; there was no answer. I tried to look in the side window; all I saw was the cat, at the top of the stairs. I just went home, and told my family I didn’t think she was home, because there was no answer.”

“Do you recall what you did that night?”

“No, I really didn’t do much that night.”

August 22 at 6:04pm · Like · 8

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In Session

Monday was a holiday, so he didn’t have school.

"I had CCD, and then I went to a friend's house. Then I went home . . . I had just gotten Season One of THE SIMPSONS . . . and then the doorbell rang [this was at approximately 10:00 pm]."

"Where were you when the doorbell rang?"

"Inside my bedroom . . . it was Drew Peterson, asking if we had heard from Kathy."

"Know who answered the door?"

"My mother did . . . I could hear Drew Peterson, and then when I walked out I could see Drew Peterson. He was in his police uniform . . . he'd been trying to bring the kids home, and he hadn't had any communication with Kathy . . . I called Kathy's house; I called her cell phone a couple times. There was no response. My mother got off the phone with Steve [Maniaci]; Steven hadn't heard from her either."

According to Nick, Peterson wanted them to go into the home, to make sure everything was OK.

August 22 at 6:07pm · Like · 5

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In Session

"We all convened around this little stoop that was right outside the door . . . from what it looked like, there were no lights on in the house."

After the locksmith opened the door, Steve Carcerano, his mother, his father, and this witness entered the house.

"Steve and my mother went upstairs; my father and I went into the kitchen." Peterson "stayed outside . . . he wanted to make sure that Kathy didn't come home and see Drew in her home; she would be upset . . . when I walked in the kitchen, there was an open carton of orange juice still on the counter; I put the cap back on it and put it in the refrigerator . . . she was the kind of person who would put it away and would be on the kids about putting things away. I opened the microwave; there was a mug of water in the microwave . . . I went to the garage, to check and see if her car was in the garage."

"Was the door locked?"

"The door was deadbolted; it was locked. I saw her car was in the garage; at that point I headed toward the staircase."

August 22 at 6:12pm · Like · 7

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In Session



Despite his father's instructions not to go upstairs, the witness went up. At that time, his mother and Steve Carcerano were looking through her bedroom.

"I observed Steve entering the bathroom; the door had been creaked open, it wasn't closed . . . the door looked like it had been closed, touching the wood, but not all the way in the latch . . . I observed Steve walking into the bathroom, turning the light on; my mother was following Steve."

"What's the next thing you recall?"

"My mother going into the bathroom and screaming . . . I did go fully into the bathroom, just enough to see her in the tub."

"Where did you go next?"

"I just kind of stood back; I leaned against her bed. Drew did come upstairs . . . I don't think he had anything in his hands. My father was upstairs with us; he came upstairs after he heard my mother scream. "I left the house at this point; I was kind of in shock. I just went home . . . I went upstairs and tried to go to sleep."

"Did you see your mom and dad later that night?"

"Yeah, I was tossing and turning, I couldn't sleep. I saw them downstairs, but I just stayed in the house."

August 22 at 6:15pm · Like · 7

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In Session

The next day, Tuesday, the witness did not go to school. He saw Drew, Stacy, and Stephen Peterson at Savio's house.

"Did you go over to Kathy's house that day?"

"No."

"Where did you see him?"

"I saw him going into the house, and taking stuff out."

August 22 at 6:16pm · Like · 10

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**08/22/2012: Defense Attorney Joseph Lopez on cross examination**

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In Session

The direct examination of Nick Pontarelli is now concluded, and defense attorney Joe Lopez begins his cross.

“What time did you make this observation of Mr. Peterson and his son at the house?”

“It was early in the morning, probably 9:00 or 10:00?”

“Did you see Susan or Anna Doman there?”

“No, but I know that they were there that day.”

“You never saw Drew and Anna and Susan and Henry that day together?”

“Never together.”

“Did you know Angela?”

“Yes . . . she’s Susan’s daughter.”

“Did you see her there?”

“No.”

“She’s married, right?”

“I don’t know.”

“You didn’t see her there that day?”

“No.”

August 22 at 6:19pm · Like · 7

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In Session

The witness estimates that he and Savio had lunch around 1:00 pm on Saturday, Feb. 28.

“You were very close to her?”

“Right.”

‘And you were also very close to Tom and Kris?’

“Right.”

“How long were you there?”

“Forty-five minutes to an hour.”

“You were close to the family?”

“Yes.”

“Even when Drew was living there?”

“Yes.”

“Drew was fun, wasn’t he?”

“Yeah.”

“You enjoyed your relationship with Tom and Kris?”

“Yes.”

“Since Kathy’s death, you’ve at least been in touch with Tom through Facebook?”

“Yes.”

August 22 at 6:21pm · Like · 5

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In Session

Pontarelli says that there was a time when Drew lived in the basement.

“You have a porch?”

“Yes.”

“Where is your bedroom at?”

“The rear of the house.”

“Do you have a side window that looks at that house?”

“No.”

August 22 at 6:22pm · Like · 6

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In Session

In a photograph of Savio’s home, he points out her bedroom and bathroom windows.

He says Savio's cat was named "Tess," but can't remember where its litter box was.

He says he was also close with Susan Doman, Kathleen's sister.

"Did you know her sister, Anna?"

"Yes . . . I never met her father, Henry."

"Ever see her father at the house?"

"Never."

August 22 at 6:24pm · Like · 5

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In Session

The witness recalls that Drew moved out "around 2003."

"Did you help move Drew's stuff out?"

"No."

"Up until the time Drew moved out, you would go to the house regularly?"

"Yes."

"And you and Drew and boys would play together?"

"Right."

"He was always good to you?"

"Yes."

"And he was good to his children?"

"Yes."

The witness also knew Stephen Peterson, Drew's older son.

August 22 at 6:25pm · Like · 4

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In Session

Pontarelli is asked about his family's regular Sunday pasta dinners.

“A lot of times, Kathy and Drew would come over?”

“Yes . . . I would say she came over more frequently after they separated.”

August 22 at 6:27pm · Like · 5

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In Session

“Steve Carcerano would also spend time with Drew and your family?”

“Yes.”

“All the neighbors were fairly close?”

“Yes.”

“You were only 14 that night, and you were very upset when Kathy died?”

“Of course.”

The witness repeats that he helped Savio replace her front door locks “right after he moved out.”

“The night you went to the house, Drew called your mom?”

“He came over to the house.”

“The next day was a school holiday?”

“It was.”

“Did Tom go to the same school at that time that you did?”

“No . . . we’re in the same district, but we all didn’t have school.”

“And you attended some CCD classes that day, on Monday?”

“Correct.”

August 22 at 6:28pm · Like · 3

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In Session

The witness repeats that he went to a party on Saturday night, Feb. 28.

He repeats that he and his parents left around 3:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon.

“So between 1:00 and 4:00 you didn’t see her, and don’t know what she was doing?”

“No.”

“Know if anyone was visiting her?”

“No.”

“When you go home, you don’t know if someone was visiting?”

“Right.”

“But the light you saw was upstairs on the second floor?”

“Right.”

“You assumed she was up there studying at that time?”

“Right . . . I went to bed right away.”

“Recall when you got up the next morning?”

“No . . . around that age, I was more of a heavy sleeper . . . sometimes 11:00.”

“You didn’t hear any unusual noises coming from Kathy’s house?”

“That’s right.”

“You didn’t hear any car doors banging, or anyone speaking loudly?”

“No.”

“Do you have a dog?”

“I do; I had a different dog when Kathy was alive.”

“The dog wasn’t barking at night, waking you up?”

“No . . . that dog would always sleep in my parents’ bedroom.”

August 22 at 6:32pm · Like · 5

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In Session

The witness repeats that brought some pasta to Savio’s house on Sunday.

“You called before you went over there?”

“Yes . . . around 1:30 or 2:00.”

“There was no answer?”

“Right.”

August 22 at 6:33pm · Like · 7

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In Session

The witness says Kathy and Steve Maniaci had a good relationship.

“When Drew came to the house, did he have Tom and Kris with him?”

“When I seen him, he was just by himself . . . he had his police uniform on.”

“That was Sunday?:”

“No, we’re talking about Monday night . . . it was at 10:00, 10:15.”

“Know if your mom had talked to Drew earlier?”

“I don’t.”

Later on, Peterson came back.

“And there was a locksmith who came?”

“Yes.”

“All the lights were off in the house?”

“That’s right.”

August 22 at 6:36pm · Like · 8

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In Session

According to this witness, everyone was ‘a little bit nervous’ that something might have happened to Savio. He recalls that Drew was present when the locksmith worked on the door.

“Remember who went in first?”

“No.”

“But you went in, too?”

“Right.”

He repeats that he saw the orange juice on the counter, and the mug in the microwave.

“You saw a pack of pills there?”

“Next to the glass of orange juice, there was a pack of pills there.”

“The garage is attached to the house?”

“Right.”

“And the garage door had been locked from the inside?”

“Right.”

August 22 at 6:39pm · Like · 4

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In Session

As he went up the stairs, his dad grabbed him and told him not to go up there. Nevertheless, he proceeded.

“Your mom was looking under the covers?”

“Yes, under the comforter, because it was all rustled.”

“Did Steve go into the bathroom first?”

“Yes.”

“And switched on the light?”

“Right.”

“That’s when Kathy was found?”

“Yes . . . I witnessed Drew come upstairs and go into the bathroom . . . I was there for at least two to five minutes after that.”

“Did you try to comfort your mother?”

“Yes . . . she was VERY upset.”



After that, he left and went back to his own house.

“You left because you were upset?”

“Yes . . . it was very shocking.”

“You didn’t expect to see that?”

“No.”

August 22 at 6:41pm · Like · 2

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In Session

“The day after this happened, did Drew come to your house, too?”

“No,”

“Did he bring anything to your house?”

“No.”

August 22 at 6:42pm · Like · 3

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In Session

“Between the time you left at 1:00 on Saturday and all day Sunday, did you see any cars in Kathy’s driveway?”

“No.”

“When you helped her with the groceries, was her car parked in the driveway?”

“No, it was in the garage.”

“She had a green Mountaineer?”

“Yes.”

August 22 at 6:43pm · Like · 4

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In Session

“The light you saw that evening when you came home . . . you’ve described that previously as a reading light?”

“It was a reading lamp in her bedroom.”

“You knew that was the area she would study in?”

“Right . . . it was just a lamp she would use to study.”

“She would study by lamp light, not by ceiling light?”

“Right.”

August 22 at 6:47pm · Like · 4

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In Session

“When you were talking to Sgt. Turner that day, remember telling him that less than 12 hours after Kathy was found, Drew was giving a patio set to your mother?”

“I don’t remember a patio set to my mother . . . no, we did not get any patio set. The patio set was his mother’s, formerly.”

August 22 at 6:48pm · Like · 4

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In Session

“You took four photos?”

“I’m not aware of how many photos I took.”

“You took a picture of Kathy in the bathroom, and a picture of her bedroom, too?”

“Yes . . . and her kitchen and her living room. Just around the house.” Objection.

The parties approach for a sidebar.

August 22 at 6:50pm · Like · 6

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### **08/22/2012: Prosecutor Chris Koch at redirect examination**

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In Session

The sidebar ends. Lopez says he has no further questions.

Prosecutor Koch then begins his redirect.

“The night that the defendant came to your house in uniform, that was Monday night?”

“That’s’ right.”

“That’s the day you were referring to previously when you went over to Kathy’s house?”

“Right.”

“You didn’t see Drew any time on Sunday?”

“No, I did not see Drew on Sunday.”

“And he didn’t have the children with him when he came over on Monday?”

“No.”

That ends the redirect, and there is no recross, so the witness is excused.

August 22 at 6:52pm · Like · 6

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In Session

That concludes the testimony for today.

Judge Burmila leaves the bench, and the trial is in recess until 9:00 CT/10:00 ET Thursday morning.

August 22 at 6:53pm · Like · 2

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