

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

**Prosecution and Defense
Closing Statements September 4, 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>

September 4 at 9:22am

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

Closing arguments will be held this morning.

The prosecution team just entered the courthouse.

As they walked in, Susan Doman's husband shook hands with lead prosecutor James Glasgow.

In Session

The defense attorneys are slowly filtering into the courtroom...the prosecutors are already present.

There's no sign yet of defendant Drew Peterson.

September 4 at 9:56am · Like · 11

In Session

Defendant Drew Peterson and his attorneys are now all inside the courtroom.

September 4 at 10:32am · Like · 3

In Session

The reason for this morning's delay is apparently because the defense has been setting up the equipment for a PowerPoint presentation to use during its summation -- not only does it have to be set up, but the prosecution wants to see the presentation before it gets used.

That's according to defense attorney Steve Greenberg.

September 4 at 10:38am · Like · 9

In Session

September 4 at 10:55am

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

Judge Burmila has just taken the bench.

"There were two unresolved issues regarding jury instructions . . . has the language been agreed upon?"

In Session

The prosecution says that it has, so the first of the two instructions will be added to the packet.

Attorney Joel Brodsky then addresses the second proposed instruction, which involves "dissolution of marriage."

"To a lay jury, it may seem unwieldy . . . so I slightly modified it, added four or five words to make it clearer."

This involves the fact that the defendant and Kathleen Savio had a bifurcated divorce, with the property settlement to follow.

Prosecutor Colleen Griffin, however, disagrees with the wording.

"We believe the jury instruction as proposed by the defendant would draw attention to facts not in evidence . . . I believe it would allow the defendant to argue to the jury that Drew Peterson did not have any motive or intent to kill his wife . . . we believe the instruction is inappropriate."

Judge Burmila: "I find the State's argument to be persuasive. It will not be given."

September 4 at 10:55am · Like · 2

In Session

The order of the jury instruction is now being finalized.

The defense asks the judge to order the spectators in the gallery to show no displays of approval or disapproval during the closing arguments. The prosecution takes no position on this matter.

Judge: "One can only assume the people in the gallery understanding they're in a courtroom... I don't think I need to make any further admonitions than that."

September 4 at 10:56am · Like

In Session

Attorney Steve Greenberg addresses the judge, says that the State should not be allowed to argue during its summation that the defendant did not want Kathleen Savio to gain anything once the divorced settlement was completed.

Prosecutor Chris Koch disagrees, saying such evidence was indeed introduced during the trial.

Judge: "The parties understand they can draw inferences from the evidence introduced during the trial . . . if they make an argument that the other party doesn't agree with, you're certainly free to object, and we'll deal with it at that time."

September 4 at 10:58am · Like · 5

In Session

Judge Burmila has left the bench.

The defendant, however, remains inside the courtroom, and it appears that most -- if not all -- of the attorneys are still in there as well.

September 4 at 11:06am · Like

In Session

Steve Greenberg has just come into the overflow courtroom.

When asked the reason for this delay, all he will share is "they're working on stuff."

September 4 at 11:07am · Like

In Session

Judge Burmila returns to the bench.

He sends for the jury.

September 4 at 11:08am · Like · 11

In Session

The jurors are now in the courtroom.

Judge Burmila: "Good morning, everyone. We've reached the point of closing arguments . . . the parties now have an opportunity to make inferences from the evidence that was produced in this case . . . the State will have two opportunities to address you, because they have the burden of proof."

September 4 at 11:11am · Like · 8

In Session

New thread

September 4 at 11:14am · Like · 1

09/04/2012: Prosecutor Chris Koch on State's closing statements

In Session

September 4 at 11:14am

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

Prosecutor Chris Koch begins the prosecution's closing statement:

"'I'm going to kill you' . . . that is the statement the defendant told Kathleen Savio just weeks before her death. And on Feb. 29, 2004, that became a reality, as she lay dead in that bathtub at the hands of Drew Peterson . . . you bring with you your common sense, and your life experiences . . . I ask you to keep in mind common sense, common sense. Because it is clear that this man murdered Kathleen Savio."

In Session

"There are two things the State has to prove, and that we have proved beyond a reasonable

doubt for you to find the defendant guilty: that he performed the acts that killed Kathleen Savio, and that when he did so he knew that his acts would cause death or great bodily harm to Kathleen Savio. The evidence in this case shows we did prove it, that he did commit this act, and that he did cause the death of Kathleen Savio. What was the cause of the death of Kathleen Savio? That's not really in dispute . . . the cause was drowning; everyone has agreed that the cause was drowning . . . so the issue becomes did she drown at the hands of the defendant? The answer to that is yes."

September 4 at 11:16am · Like · 29

In Session

"Dr. Larry Blum came in here . . . one of the first things he wanted to rule out were the three D's: drugs, drink, and disease . . . he ruled out the three D's, and moved on to the next analysis; he looked at the positioning of the body in the tub. He talked about the toes, that they are so much bent at a 90 degree angle . . . he said that was something he looked at in helping him to determine that this was not an accidental fall. He also talked about this falling backward, the basic principles. In order for her to get this laceration on the back of her head she's got to fall back to get there. There is not one single thing that's out of place in that tub; are you kidding me? There's gong to be stuff knocked over. Reality, common sense . . . every day experiences."

September 4 at 11:20am · Like · 16

In Session

"He [Dr. Blum] described that tub . . . it's a smooth contour, another thing he looked at to determine that this laceration could not have happened in this tub. IN his expert opinion, this laceration required a concentrated edge: a weapon, an object, a concentrated surface. Not one of those things is in that tub area . . . not one thing. Another thing he looked at is the injury pattern . . . we have left front injuries, left side injuries, left back injuries, right injuries, right and left injuries. So it's not just one side of her body; it's multiple sides, four sides. How can you get that in one fall? You can't. You can't do it. It's not possible."

September 4 at 11:21am · Like · 12

In Session

"The bruising was deep bruising . . . you can look at the pictures . . . this abrasion to the buttocks, you could not get one in that tub. Now Dr. DiMaio, who says it's not an abrasion . . . but if it is, it didn't happen in that tub, that's his testimony. That abrasion was not caused by that tub. The bottom line is as she falls backward she's hitting her backside, as well as her head . . . he looked on the back of the arms, found nothing, no bruising. The last thing he talked about was the pattern of dried blood, that there was this really defined drying blood pattern around the eye and nose. If this is a tub full of water, the blood just goes in with the

water; that's not that what happened here. That's another thing that told him [Dr. Blum] as a pathologist that it's just not there, it isn't possible. And he said, 'In my expert opinion, this was a homicide.'"

September 4 at 11:25am · Like · 14

In Session

Prosecutor Koch now moves to prosecution expert Dr. Mary Case.

"She got on the stand, and she talked about the same kind of injuries that Dr. Blum saw . . . she looked at the diaphragm; she found a hemorrhage there, that would require significant force. She spent a lot of time talking about the different layers of this head injury . . . then she also talked about diffused brain injuries, your concussions. She said when you look at the situation, there was just not enough velocity when falling in a bathtub to render you unconscious, to take it to the level of a shaken baby or being in a severe car injury. That's the kind of force they want to opine happened in this case; that's NOT what happened in this case."

September 4 at 11:28am · Like

In Session

"Dr. Case told you she would not lose consciousness from that kind of injury . . . her opinion stands for the truth in this case. That force was not sufficient enough to render her unconscious. The clavicle, that was the result of blunt force trauma . . . like a motor vehicle accident, the force was so great on that injury . . . Dr. Blum aged the abrasions to within an hour of her death, and the bruising to within 24 hours of her death. Both Drs. Blum and Case had the opinion that this was a homicide. And Dr. Baden said these injuries were consistent with a struggle, and not with a single fall."

September 4 at 11:29am · Like · 7

In Session

"Dr. Baden said that the diaphragm, he was it with his own eyes. He's had particular interest in the diaphragm over the years . . . he said that injury could be caused by a blow or a very strong bear hug, squeezing the body around the rib cage . . . everybody wanted to say what a great job Dr. Mitchell did; Dr. Mitchell said it was an abrasion. The reason why the defense theory fails is because they just want to dismiss it . . .they just kind of move it out of the way so that it fits their theory."

September 4 at 11:32am · Like · 4

In Session

With the State's experts, we've shown you that she died at the hands of another person. And that person is the defendant. That's who did this . . . less than one in a million people will drown in a bathtub."

September 4 at 11:33am · Like · 5

In Session

Prosecutor Koch moves to the testimony of defense expert Dr. Vincent DiMaio.

"Where in that tub would you get three separate points of contact?"

"You can't do it . . . when he got down to it, he said, 'I don't know, maybe she was stunned . . . it was one of those things.'

His methodology, his scientific theory on these injuries fails.

I ask you not to give any credibility to Dr. DiMaio's testimony."

September 4 at 11:39am · Like · 10

In Session

"Dr. Jeffrey Jentzen . . . the testimony from Dr. Blum about the size of the tub, Dr. Jentzen says you slip up and you go airborne. In his theory, she's up in the air, twisting, to get to this position to strike this pelvic bone. At the same time, he said the skin was folding over and protecting itself. So I guess in midair the skin decides to fold over, and she then hits the back of her head. His theory fails . . . how are you going to get airborne in a tub that's only 40 inches? But that gives her the velocity that he says she has to have. DiMaio says sliding into position; Jentzen says bouncing. Use your common sense, ladies and gentlemen . . . if you use common sense and your every day experiences, their theories are just not sound. There were 14 different injuries on that body."

September 4 at 11:40am · Like

In Session

"How can you get all of those [injuries] in a single fall? You cannot. You cannot."

September 4 at 11:40am · Like · 1

In Session

Prosecutor Koch now moves to the subject of circumstantial evidence.

"You take this evidence as a whole . . . but look at all the separate pieces of evidence. If you start to put it all together, you can see that we've proven beyond a reasonable doubt that this man killed Kathleen Savio. Steve Maniaci . . . you heard from him . . . they had sexual intercourse, no abrasions, no bruising . . . they had sex and went to bed . . . and the Pontarellis saw her on Saturday; she was going to stay home and study. On Sunday, they try to reach her; they're unsuccessful . . . it's not until Monday night that the defendant goes to Mary Pontarelli and that decision is made to go into the house . . . if it was a holiday weekend and you were supposed to have the kids, why try to take them back on Sunday? And he doesn't call anyone . . . he doesn't try to call Steve Maniaci, he doesn't go speak to Mary Pontarelli. He does nothing . . . he says he drives by a couple of times that night and that was the end of it."

September 4 at 11:45am · Like

In Session

"He's the watch commander, the one on duty . . . [but] he doesn't call a single officer to come over there to assist with this wellness check . . . the only one there is the defendant. [Locksmith] Bob Akin talked about the fact that only the front door was locked . . . you know Kathy always liked to keep her doors locked. And when the door is unlocked, the defendant lets [others] go into the house, not knowing what they're going to find. But he knows, Drew knows . . . they flip the light on, and they see her dead. And Mary screams. The defendant goes upstairs, and when he gets upstairs he doesn't have his gun drawn, isn't on his radio, doesn't have his flashlight on. If this is a scream, why doesn't he have his gun out? You know why? Because he killed her; he knows what they're going to find up there in that tub."

September 4 at 11:49am · Like

In Session

"Tom Pontarelli heard the defendant say, 'I just found my ex-wife dead in the bathtub. And they're going to think I did it' . . . what do they think he did? When the paramedics arrived, the defendant said, 'I'd like a little professional courtesy . . . the same thing he said when they came to talk to Stacy Peterson . . . ladies and gentlemen, he's trying to control the scene, just like he controlled that interview with Stacy Peterson. And the next day, when the Domans are over at the house, 'Let me in! Let me in!' He's all over that house . . . and my God, what is he doing? He's cleaning the bathtub! He's cleaning the bathtub on the same day that Kathleen Savio is taken out of that house! Are you kidding me? . . . you know, murderers sometimes go back to the scene, to make sure they got it right."

September 4 at 11:52am · Like

In Session

"Sgt. [Patrick] Collins had never investigated a homicide before . . . they decided they were going to interview the defendant . . . they go to the Bolingbrook Police Department, in the lunch room . . . they asked him about any financial gain that would exist, and he said he guessed he would get the full value of the house, which was \$300,000...it just doesn't add up, ladies and gentlemen. But then we get to the interview of Stacy the following afternoon. Drew's looking for professional courtesy, wants to sit in on the interview . . . Stacy was real shaken and nervous about the event . . . they're sitting right next to each other; he's got his hand on her knee, his arm around her, consoling her. At one time he helps her with a breakfast question. Too bad they didn't know he had spent hours and hours with Stacy, telling her what to say. That's what you heard from Neil Schori."

September 4 at 11:57am · Like · 14

In Session

The judge is going to instruct you regarding some conduct, other conduct on the part of the defendant . . . conduct other than that charged in the indictment . . . that may be considered for you only for limited purposes . . . Teresa Kernc and Mary Parks were motive and intent, and Jeffrey Pachter for intent. We know Kathleen Savio called the police in July, 2002, she told Teresa Kernc how the defendant entered the house, pulled her down the stairs, and pulled out a knife . . . a couple of months later, in November, 2002, she also drafts a letter to the Will County State's Attorney's office saying the defendant, Drew, was very upset that the judge had ordered him to pay child support, and that he didn't want to pay her anything. She also told Sue Doman and Kristin Anderson what had happened on that day. I submit that her repeated telling of this incident lends itself the credibility that you need to know this happened. Use it to decide his intent and motive. The motive is clear: 'I'm tired of paying child support, I don't want to pay you anything.' The intent is clear; a knife up to her throat. Use it to determine motive and intent when you consider this offense."

September 4 at 12:00pm · Like

In Session

Prosecutor Koch now moves to the testimony of witness Mary Parks.

"Now we have him in November of 2003, telling her [Savio] 'why don't you just die?' And Jeffrey Pachter . . . this testimony was offered to show that the defendant intended to kill his ex-wife . . . it's during this ride-along that he's looking to see if Mr. Pachter can find someone to take care of his ex-wife; he's going to pay \$25,000. First of all, you have to decide whether that actually happened . . . I'd ask you to recall the testimony of the witnesses. The defendant told Mr. Pachter that she worked at Red Lobster. You heard the witnesses who took the stand: she worked at Red Lobster. That corroborates the fact that Mr. Pachter was telling the truth. Then you can look at that conduct as it relates to his desire to kill Kathleen Savio."

September 4 at 12:04pm · Like · 8

In Session

"My life would be easier if she was just dead, or died."

That was the statement the defendant made to Lt. Coughlin of the Bolingbrook Police Department in February of 2004. He was in that courthouse . . . there was this comment made . . . 'They're getting all my money.' Again, it's money . . . he doesn't want to pay Kathleen Savio anything. Again, it's for you to decide the credibility and weight to give these witnesses. But Lt. Coughlin got up here and testified as to that statement . . . the bottom line is the statement was made . . . 'my life would be easier if she was just dead, or died.'

Mary Parks walked her to her car in the fall of 2003, and during these walks Kathy said to her that the defendant said, 'I could kill you and make you disappear.' That's what Mary Parks told you the defendant told Kathleen Savio. She told you how after Kathleen died she called the State's Attorney's office, to see if an investigation was taking place. I submit to you that she was credible on that stand; that statement was made, and it was made by the defendant"

September 4 at 12:10pm · Like · 3

In Session

"Kristin Anderson . . . Kathy confided in her that the defendant said he could kill her and make it look like an accident. He could kill her and make it look like an accident. That's a statement Kathy told Kristin Anderson that the defendant made directly to Kathleen Savio . . . after finding out that Kathleen had died, she called the Illinois State Police on three occasions to tell them this particular information. Anna Doman testified that six weeks before Kathleen's death Kathleen showed up, scared, saying that Drew was going to kill her . . . and make it look like an accident. Sue Doman, the other sister of Kathleen Savio, testified that Kathleen Savio told her, 'I'm going to kill you and make it look like an accident.' Take all of those things together . . . this is multiple people . . . they are believable, and those statements were made."

September 4 at 12:11pm · Like

In Session

"Drew told Joseph Steadman that her death was drug related . . . we know that no drugs were involved. He told Mr. Steadman, 'If she was murdered, I would be one of the suspects' . . . she's in a bathtub, why is he going to be a suspect? If this is just a slip and fall in a bathtub, why would he be a suspect in a murder?"

Of course, why is he cleaning out the bathtub the next day, too?"

September 4 at 12:11pm · Like

In Session

"He told Jennifer Schoon that there were anti-depressants on the counter, and that she may have fallen and hit her head . . . why is he telling different people different things? And he told Susan McCauley there was a wine glass by the tub . . . all these statements he's making, it's deflection, deflection, deflection! . . . all those things lead right to the point of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that he went into the house and forcibly held her down so she could inhale fluid, so she could drown. Remember Dr. Baden? He said the injuries to the clavicle would be consistent with someone pushing her down on a hard surface. That's where she got those hemorrhages. He said those injuries were consistent with t a struggle. He went into that house that night, and pushed her down, held her down, until she inhaled that fluid."

September 4 at 12:15pm · Like · 10

In Session

Koch now moves to the testimony of Neil Schori.

"He said she told him that sometime in the early morning hours he's there, standing by the washer and dryer, dressed in black, putting clothes from a bag in the washer, his clothes in the washer, and then walking away. She told Neil Schori there were women's clothes, and they weren't hers. Soon after that, she had a conversation with him, and the defendant told her soon the police would be wanting to interview her. And he told her what to say to the police . . . it took hours. She said she lied. She lied to the police. So not only do you have all that other evidence, you have his wife who tells Neil Schori about the night he came home with these items of clothes in this bag."

September 4 at 12:18pm · Like

In Session

"A couple of months later, she [Stacy] called Harry Smith . . . she wanted to know if the fact that he killed Kathy could be used against him in the divorce . . . 'I have information about how he killed Kathy' . . . that conversation transpired in October of 2007. Common sense, everyday experiences."

September 4 at 12:18pm · Like

In Session

"He held her underwater, and he pushed her down. Because of that, we are asking that you find him guilty, ladies and gentlemen of the jury. Thank you."

This ends the prosecution's closing argument.

September 4 at 12:21pm · Like · 11

In Session

The judge calls a brief recess at this time.

He leaves the bench.

September 4 at 12:21pm · Like · 4

In Session

September 4 at 12:22pm

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

"He held her underwater, and he pushed her down. Because of that, we are asking that you find him guilty, ladies and gentlemen of the jury. Thank you."

This ends the prosecution's closing argument.

The judge calls a brief recess at this time.

In Session

Judge Burmila returns to the bench.

He sends for the jury.

September 4 at 12:42pm · Like

In Session

New thread

September 4 at 12:49pm · Like

09/04/2012: Defense Attorney Joseph Lopez on Closing Statements

In Session

September 4 at 12:48pm

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

The jurors are now present, and attorney Joseph Lopez begins the defense closing argument.

"Five weeks, and we're finally here. It's been a grueling five weeks for all of you, and we really appreciate your service..."

In Session

"...you're basically just a bunch of strangers, and we throw you in a room and you bond with each other. The United States of America is the only place where you have a jury system. It's been going on for centuries . . . the only place in the world where you have people determine your fate . . . the standard is 'beyond a reasonable doubt.' It's not 'are you kidding me?' but 'beyond a reasonable doubt.' And you took an oath not to hold it against Drew Peterson that he didn't testify . . . you are not to consider that in any way when you consider your verdict. If you do that, you're turning your back on the American flag, and violating your oath. Trials are kind of like Monopoly games; there's rules you have to follow . . . a trial has rules, and nobody can cheat. And you have to follow the judge's instructions."

September 4 at 12:48pm · Like · 6

In Session

"The other thing that's very important with the presumption of innocence is you have to have this little voice in your head tell you, 'Sgt. Peterson is innocent.' That's what you have to do, it's the presumption of innocence. You have to weigh the evidence, and apply the standard 'beyond a reasonable doubt.' Those are the rules we live by . . . when you watch the Bears play football on the weekends, against the Packers, there's rules: you can't go off sides, out of bounds. There's rules. There are rules . . . and we have to keep that in mind as we go through this process. It's a tedious process . . . but you rely on your collective memories . . . you know why you're here today? Because Sgt. Peterson exercised his right to a jury trial. That's why you're here today."

September 4 at 12:49pm · Like · 4

In Session

"The judge is a very important person, isn't he? A distinguished jurist, important person; he's got the robe on. That's because he's the judge of the rules. But the jury is just as important, because you're mini-judges. You're judges of the facts . . . you don't have to believe any of it, not one word of it. Whatever comes out of that witness stand, you determine whether or not you're going to believe it. Just because someone says something doesn't mean it's so . . . and let's not forget that this case was a divorce case. I guess in a divorce case, everybody's

truthful, huh? People say things because they're mad, they want the advantage, they want sympathy from other people. They'll blow their horn, and blow it until somebody sympathizes with them. It's the same on both sides; there's no such thing as a divorce without tears.

But the State hasn't proven anything in this case; this case is riddled with holes, like a piece of Swiss cheese . . . it's all speculation. Speculation. You just heard Mr. Koch tell you he drowned her in the tub. How did he get in the house? How did he restrain her? . . . they can't even prove how it happened. It's speculation . . . you don't have to like Drew Peterson; you don't have to like Sgt. Peterson at all. You know what you have to like? You have to like that flag, the principles that we live by in this great United States of America, no other country like it. We're exercising through the Bill of Rights the U.S. Constitution."

September 4 at 12:57pm · Like · 1

In Session

"We asked you to serve, and we appreciate that. No matter what your verdict is, we appreciate that . . . we know how hard that is. Let's talk about the case; I want to say a few things . . . one of the things the State told you is they want you to use your common sense to rely on hearsay. What is hearsay? The judge will define it for you . . . you heard about circumstantial evidence . . . if you leave a pie at home with your kids and tell them 'don't eat it,' and you leave and come home and somebody's in the pie, 'the cat ate it,' you look at the cat to see if he's got any pie on his face. And then you realize the cat has pie on his neck. Does that mean the cat ate it, or the kids smeared pie on the cat, to make it look like he ate it.

So it's not that clear. Circumstantial evidence is not that clear."

September 4 at 12:59pm · Like · 4

In Session

"Sometimes people go fishing and tell their friends. Before you know it, it's a ten pound fish, instead of a two pound fish. You not only have to believe it beyond a reasonable doubt, but you have to believe that the person who said it said it accurately, didn't put their own spin on it, or their interpretation of it. It's dangerous. Circumstantial evidence is dangerous. That's what this case is about, only this and nothing else. And that's something you can't forget.

What are the charges here? Indictments aren't convictions . . . all it is is a document, a piece of paper . . . they're just accusations, and they're not proof of anything. All they're good for is a paper shredder, or to be put in a garbage bag . . . the State must prove guilt – GUILT – beyond a reasonable doubt. It's something you feel, that's what reasonable doubt it. When you look in the mirror, you have to be perfectly content with what you do in this case. It's not like going to Walmart or Target; you can't change your mind at the end of the case . . . once you ink it, it's forever. It's forever.

The State has failed to prove Drew Peterson is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Let's start with Dr. Mitchell, the poor dead guy . . . Kathy's death was already ruled an accident. The death certificate says accident . . . and it says the date of injury is unknown.

Has the State told you when she was supposedly killed by Sgt. Peterson? Absolutely not . . . not one micron of evidence, one hair, on follicle, one print, nothing. We don't even know when it happened . . . when did it happen? Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is the standard here. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt. And they haven't even proved that. They've proved it was an accident, all right, they've proved that.

Do you think Drew hated her so much that he would take her away from the mother of the children he loved? Absolutely not! Do you think Tommy Peterson would have come in here and testified as a defense witness? Tommy said Drew broke down . . . it breaks your heart . . . imagine how that must have felt? And Tommy picked up it. Kids pick up on all the things their parents do."

September 4 at 1:08pm · Like · 3

In Session

"Is this a massive conspiracy between the FBI and the Illinois State Police to protect Sgt. Peterson? Of course not! It's an accident. An accident!"

September 4 at 1:08pm · Like · 3

In Session

"They can't even tell you when she suffered these injuries . . . the science ain't there! Dr. DiMaio is a renowned expert from around the world; he worked for the U.N. Think they just pulled up some quack to do that? Absolutely not!"

September 4 at 1:08pm · Like · 2

In Session

"Sgt. Deel finds a condom upstairs. And Steve Maniaci says it was downstairs . . . how embarrassing; I hope I didn't offend anybody, but it's important . . . it's part of the evidence, because of what Deel said. Did Steve forget he put it on downstairs, they went upstairs and he tossed it? Probably. Probably that's how she got bruises. Nobody can say she got those bruises at the hands of Sgt. Peterson, not one person. They can't even tell you how those bruises occurred. They can't offer any evidence of how the injuries happened, except in a slip in a fall. Are you going to tell me that no one's suffered a slip and fall in the bathtub before?"

Why do you think they sell those rubber bath mats with the little suction cups?"

September 4 at 1:11pm · Like · 7

In Session

“Steven Maniaci asked Kathy if she could come over; he wanted to order Chinese food and order a movie. And she said, ‘No, I have to study.’ And Mary Pontarelli said she was invited to a party, and Kathy told her, ‘No, I have to study.’ That was the last time anyone had physically seen her. Maniaci had a phone call at midnight, and they had a fight; you can understand how upset she must have been, looking at her ex-husband down the block with a new family. And here was this guy who didn’t want to marry her.

And they can’t even prove that Ms. Savio was the victim of a homicide, because it was an accident. They wanted to make it a homicide, but it was an accident. They talk about, ‘Oh, Stacy told Schori’ . . . that she gave this false alibi, that he coached her for four hours. All we heard was that Drew told her, ‘We made bacon and eggs, or whatever it was.’ “ The prosecution then has an objection, and the parties go to a sidebar.

September 4 at 1:16pm · Like · 5

In Session

The sidebar ends, and attorney Lopez resumes his closing.

“None of the State’s witnesses could tell you how she received the injury. What was it really? It was the bath tub, the curvature of the bath tub. What happens when you drop a water balloon? It explodes! The back of your head, same thing. Dr. DiMaio told you that . . . these experts can’t agree on anything, can they? Is the glass half full or half empty? That doesn’t meet the burden of reasonable doubt, it actually raises the level of reasonable doubt. They look at something, and they all see something different. That’s not beyond reasonable doubt, that IS doubt . . . that’s not proof beyond a reasonable doubt. That IS doubt . . . and this case is nothing but reasonable doubt, about what happened.”

September 4 at 1:20pm · Like · 3

In Session

“We didn’t want to hide Harry Smith. We put him up there . . . the most important thing you should remember is how it is that they made an accident into what they tell you is a homicide.

They can’t tell you when it happened, how it happened . . . what evidence do you have that Drew Peterson murdered his wife? None. NONE! ZERO!

The State wants you to rely on hearsay evidence . . . they had this big motive . . . there was no motive . . . he agreed to extend the pension date in the bifurcated divorce case? He was not a beneficiary of the insurance policy, the kids were . . . even the showbiz doctor came in

here [Dr. Michael Baden], Autopsies Gone Wild.”

September 4 at 1:20pm · Like · 3

In Session

“How does Drew even know she’s home? She could be over at Maniaci’s house . . . she doesn’t discuss her plans with him . . . remember that show that used to be on Sunday nights, that cartoon show where the guy used to hang out in the back yard and drink with his neighbors? . . . King of the Hill . . . I used to love that show! The neighbors go over to Kathy’s, and tell her about this party . . . she goes to the Samba Room with Maniaci, they return home and have sex, and the condom is discarded. Remember Maniaci is the guy who slept in the bed with her, and he never says anything about this giant knife; wouldn’t he be the first to know?”

September 4 at 1:28pm · Like

In Session

“Kathy and Steve had a midnight quarrel, and Kathy hung up on Steve . . . that’s around midnight [on Saturday]. We know the Pontarellis come home, in two different vehicles at two different times . . . they saw the light on from inside the bedroom. And Mary [Pontarelli] is her best friend . . . so Mary assumes she’s studying.

That evening, no dogs bark, no neighbors overheard [anything]; the neighborhood is nice and quiet. Those houses are very close together, not a lot of side yard . . . but nobody hears anything coming out of that house. It’s peaceful and it’s quiet.

Sunday, Drew and his family go to the Shedd Aquarium . . . he tries to return the kids on Sunday, but there’s nobody there. It’s a three day weekend, so that’s why there’s no attempt to call anybody; Tom Peterson agreed with that . . . you are the judges of the facts, you’re mini-judges, just like the judge.

Sunday, Mary tries to contact Kathy to invite her over for spaghetti and meatballs; Nick also tries to contact Kathy in the afternoon. He went to the house, banged on the door, and didn’t see anything unusual.

Steve Maniaci didn’t attempt to call her on Sunday, or on Monday, either. We don’t even know if she’s home when Nick goes over there. Maybe she already slipped and hit her head. Nobody knows if she’s in the house or out of the house. Nobody knows that. She’s not answering her phone; we don’t know where she’s at. The State doesn’t know where she’s at.

And, again, Monday, Drew’s looking for Kathy again. He finally calls Kathy . . . everybody’s looking for Kathy . . . she doesn’t have to account for every move to her ex-husband; she can do whatever she wants. [But] no one can find her.”

September 4 at 1:31pm · Like

In Session

“They decided to call a locksmith. And it took Robert Akins, a trained locksmith, six minutes to open that door. And you now why Drew didn’t go in there? I’ll tell you why. It’s a divorce case; it’s a bifurcated divorce . . . the case could have been settled at any time; this case didn’t have to go to trial. Remember, there was issues about the pension, the house . . . remember Mr. Brodsky saying . . .” Objection.

The parties go to a sidebar.

September 4 at 1:32pm · Like

In Session

The sidebar ends. The jury is excused from the courtroom.

September 4 at 1:52pm · Like · 2

In Session

The jurors are now gone.

Prosecutor Koch is objecting to the fact that an exhibit attorney Lopez is attempting to use in his closing was never actually entered into evidence.

“It was never presented to be in evidence.”

Attorney Lopez responds: “The only part of this order we’re using is the part about when all remaining issues are to be resolved.”

Judge: “Was there a stipulation about this exhibit?”

Koch: “There was a stipulation, but they still have to move it into evidence.”

Lopez: “It was something that was shown to a witness . . . I’m only asking that I be allowed to refresh the jury’s memory.”

Judge: “You can certainly refer the jury to the particular testimony without using the exhibit . . . the objection will be sustained.”

He sends for the jury.

September 4 at 1:53pm · Like

In Session

The jurors are now back in the courtroom, and attorney Lopez continues his summation.

“I told you something I forgot to follow up on. The reason Drew didn’t go into the house was because he wasn’t there on police business; he was following the divorce court order. On March 22, 2002 Kathy got exclusive possession of the marital home. His going in that house violated the court’s order! . . . this order was in effect until the property was distributed and there was a final decision. So that Monday when Drew was there, he was under a court order not to enter that house. Not because he knew that Kathy was upstairs in that bath tub, but because the court ordered him not to do it.”

September 4 at 1:53pm · Like · 4

In Session

“Drew can’t go in there without her permission.

Nick and Tom [Pontarelli] are on the first floor, Steve [Carcerano] and Mary [Pontarelli] go upstairs . . . Nick sees orange juice and pills; he puts the orange juice away . . . Drew doesn’t have permission to go into the house. All of the lights are off. Mary doesn’t see anything unusual; the bed wasn’t made. There’s no signs of any struggle, any forced entry, absolutely nothing.

Drew didn’t go in because he was ordered by the court not to do it. Steve goes into the bathroom; Mary goes into the bathroom and screams. Kathy is lying in the bath tub; everything else in the bathroom is intact. The State wants to tell you she didn’t fall in there because none of the bottles have moved. Well, that’s a framed-in tub, and they shouldn’t move if the contractor did it the right way . . . whoever put that tub in right, it would be solid, it would be anchored. The whole thing’s framed out around the tub.

Why does Drew have to have his gun out? ‘What am I going to tell my kid?’ are the first words out of his mouth. It’s ridiculous! He didn’t do it. Because it’s an accident . . . it’s ridiculous! That’s a ridiculous theory.

They’re trying to nail Jell-O to a tree. It’s an accident. Pure and simple.”

September 4 at 1:54pm · Like · 3

In Session

“The blue towel’s a fallacy. It’s a fallacy. It’s what in law enforcement is called a red herring, to get your eye off the ball . . . when Drew left, the towel wasn’t there. The house is secured and Drew’s outside; he can’t go back in . . . the last time anybody saw Drew upstairs, the towel

wasn't there . . . so if somebody put that towel up there, it certainly wasn't Drew Peterson, because he wasn't there. Is this another conspiracy? Did somebody put that towel up there because they were down on their hands and knees? I don't know. They're all outside while [Rob] Sudd secures the scene. Who knows who put it there? Somebody put it there, or it was there and everybody forgot it was there.

Steve [Maniaci] arrives, and has some words with Drew; Drew denies having anything to do with it."

September 4 at 1:55pm · Like · 3

In Session

"They [the first responders] know it's an accident . . . it is what it is, it's an accident! It's a weird accident, but it happens . . . people win the lottery with longer odds than that . . . they walk through the scene, and they see nothing."

September 4 at 1:55pm · Like · 3

In Session

"They [the Illinois State Police] didn't even know Sgt. Peterson. They didn't have to protect him, didn't have to do anything for him . . . they never asked him if he killed his wife! Do you want to know to know why? Because they knew it was an accident . . . they never returned to question him again. Collins knew it was an accident. They went to interview Stacy . . . that's not proof of anything. Whatever was told to them they never went back and checked out. They were satisfied, because they knew it was an accident.

Dr. Blum said that Dr. Mitchell said the mark on Kathy's buttocks appeared to be healing. Even their own experts can't agree if the glass is half empty or half full . . . that is not proof beyond a reasonable doubt, that is nothing but doubt! And their own experts can't get it!.

Dr. Blum stated that Dr. Mitchell did a sound job . . . the tongue was partially clenched between the teeth; that's Blum, looking at Mitchell's autopsy . . . he [Dr. Mitchell] still found it was an accident, that her death was related to an accident, and that she drowned. The cause of death is drowning. Not only did Dr. Mitchell do the autopsy, but he also photographed the autopsy. He's the only one who actually saw how Kathy appeared shortly after she was found. He's not in a conspiracy to protect Sgt. Peterson . . . he looked at it, and that's how he came to his conclusion, based on all the evidence.

The coroner's inquest, Susan Doman testified, and never said anything about threats to kill her sister. Want to know why? Because they made it up later!

The coroner said it was an accidental death, just like Dr. Mitchell."

September 4 at 1:59pm · Like

In Session

“Blum agrees the head injury could have occurred when the head comes into contact with a surface, with enough force . . . the doctors all say it could be stellar, up, down . . . Kathy had thick hair. Look at that photo; she’s got thick hair.”

September 4 at 2:00pm · Like

In Session

“Dr. Blum also agreed with Dr. Mitchell: the heart stops pumping, and the blood stops flowing . . . if you heart stops, there’s no spatter . . . she hit her head, she was knocked unconscious, and she drowned . . . how many times have you hit your head on a cabinet, and you’re dazed, and your head hurts for ten minutes? . . . we don’t know if she was conscious or unconscious when she fell; we don’t know that, either . . . ‘slippery when wet,’ just like a bath tub. People slip and have household accidents all the time . . . at least 1.6 people out of a million die in the bath tub. And she was the one. And they want to make it a murder!”

The State objects, and the parties go to a sidebar.

September 4 at 2:03pm · Like · 3

In Session

The sidebar ends.

“If there’s 300 million people in the United States, then about 300 people a year die in the bath tub, in the United States. Blum and Mitchell, according to Dr. Baden, missed the diaphragm . . . three of the State’s witnesses disagreeing among themselves . . . the State’s own witnesses contradict themselves. That’s not proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

[Dr.] Mary Case, who doesn’t believe with anything unless she wrote it. You think she’s biased? She’s an expert in shaken baby syndrome . . . what’s her specialty? She examines brains. She didn’t even examine the brain here; why’d you hire her? . . . she didn’t do an examination of the brain, so that particular specialty she didn’t use in this case . . . she presumed Kathy was conscious when she fell, and then said the head injury wasn’t enough to cause a loss of consciousness . . . this book is in her library, but it’s wrong, because it wasn’t written by Dr. Mary Case? She disagrees with the book, because she didn’t write it. We got to her admit, though she didn’t want to, about a paper she wrote, in which she said there can be a head injury even from a padded surface . . .

Dr. Jentzen explained it to you in step-by-step detail . . . look at this book, this is a real book! Written by Dr. [Jan] Leetsma, right here . . . look at the gash on the back of her head! It’s as big as the Grand Canyon! You could stick your fist in there! Don’t you think that knocked her

out? Look at the photos! They're confusing an accident with a homicide, just like this book says . . . the book that sits in the Mary Case library. Why does she have this book? Because it's an authoritative treatise on the subject. Her opinion is not anymore authoritative than the opinion of any of the other forensic pathologists . . . she's just as qualified as the others.

If they can't prove it's a homicide, who cares what Schori says, what Anna Doman says, what Harry Smith says? If it's an accident, it doesn't matter anymore. It's got to be a homicide. And they can't prove that . . . all they've shown you is an accident."

September 4 at 2:12pm · Like · 1

In Session

"If she would have fallen and there was no water in that tub and she would have survived that, she definitely would have been in the hospital; she definitely would have had a lot of stitches in her head."

September 4 at 2:16pm · Like · 2

In Session

"Dr. DiMaio . . . he don't [sic] work for FOX; he don't {sic} use Steph Watts to film autopsies, for Girls Gone Wild." Objection/Sustained.

"He [DiMaio] goes to the U.N. . . . they chose him to look at victims of war crimes. They chose him! . . . you don't need that much water to drown. She slipped down into the tub, which the water made even slicker."

September 4 at 2:18pm · Like

In Session

"If you hit somebody when they are dead, you can get bleeding, even though the book says that you can't . . . when the heart stops pumping, the blood stops pumping; it just stops. No defensive wounds . . .

Dr. Jentzen talked about these little, tiny scratches. Kathy had a cat . . . he said they could be called by a cat . . . Jentzen didn't know Kathy had a cat; he just said that. Kathy was a feisty person . . . [but] there are house hold injuries . . . there's nothing around her neck, it's clean. Her hands are clean; she wasn't bound. That's because she slipped and fell and hit her head. He [Dr. DiMaio] knows what he's looking for . . . and he says there's no pattern of injuries or struggle."

September 4 at 2:26pm · Like · 3

In Session

“We’ve heard about the diaphragm . . . was it bruised, was it not bruised . . .”

Lopez then stops, and asks the judge to approach the bench (“I just have to ask you a question”).

September 4 at 2:26pm · Like · 4

In Session

The sidebar ends.

“They never really were able to prove that that was a deep bruise, like they said it was. Dr. Baden videotaped the autopsy, with Steph Watts, the producer. He conducted it with the FOX News producer beside him, who wasn’t medically trained and took notes. That goes right to the credibility of his findings. And they didn’t call him as a witness until our experts had testified. Imagine you’re a doctor and you work for FOX . . . did he [Steph Watts] know how to spell all the words he was asked to take down, or did he have to write them phonetically?”

September 4 at 2:27pm · Like · 3

In Session

They are speculating about what happened . . . because it’s an accident, not a homicide! . . . if you’re going to fall like that, something’s going to get compressed, and it’s her toes; she’s longer than the tub. That’s what DiMaio told you; that’s what Jentzen told you. And more importantly, Jentzen and DiMaio know what to look for. And they said these are not defensive bruises . . . all we know at the end of the day is that it’s an accident.”

September 4 at 2:31pm · Like · 7

In Session

“If it was a Sunday, it would make sense that she was found with her cross on; maybe she wanted to go to church . . . the State can’t tell you whether she had a seizure or not . . . while we’re throwing out speculation, like the State does, how do we know she didn’t have a seizure when she stood up? We know she would change her medication without their [her personal physicians] advice . . . remember Dr. Neri said he treated her for cervical vertigo? That was a State’s witness who told us that. She took aspirin, which could have continued to her passing out. Steve Maniaci said she bruised easily . . . and we talked about the orthostatic hypotension; your body is hot, and it’s trying to cool itself by dilating your blood vessels. So when you stand up, you feel dizzy or weak . . . that could be a contributing factor, along with a slick surface, which is the surface of the bath tub. At the end of the day, all we

know is it's an accident . . . Jentzen, DiMaio, and Spitz all said that it was an accident."

September 4 at 2:33pm · Like · 2

In Session

"It must be proof beyond a reasonable doubt, the highest level of proof in a court in the United States of America . . . who were her two best friends? It was Mary [Pontarelli] and Steve {Maniaci} . . . not one word about threats. Basically, Kathy made it up after she got the summons . . . if Drew went into that house without her permission, all she had to do was call up Harry Smith and get Drew held in contempt of court for violation of a court order. That would be enough right there for the court to take action. Never happened. Because she made it up! That raises a reasonable doubt right there . . .

Steve Maniaci, not one word; you saw Maniaci, you think he'd stand for that? Isn't the person you tell you're terrified the person you're with all the time? He never said she kept a knife under the mattress; he was the person ON the mattress. . . . Steve loved her, he adored her. And she never told Steve once about this stuff? That's ridiculous. She made it up . . . don't you think if it happened she'd get on the phone to Mary and say, 'That SOB just came over here, and you know what he did to me?'" Objection.

The State asks for a sidebar.

September 4 at 2:38pm · Like

In Session

The sidebar ends.

"Again, these are the people in the circle of trust.

The hearsay instruction; basically it says the statement rests upon the credibility of the person who said it. The two most trusted people in the world you would have expected her to tell, she didn't do it . . . that raises credibility right there . . . it's an accident. This bath tub's a hard surface; it's not a marshmallow.

Anna Doman says, 'My sister told me a hundred and fifty million times her husband was going to kill her.' So what does she do? She invites him over to the luncheon after the funeral. Does that make any sense? . . . isn't that ridiculous? Preposterous? Does that make any sense to anyone? . . . she didn't say one word, not one word . . . not one word! . . . not one word about any of this. She didn't even know the specifics of the divorce. 'Promise to take care of my boys' . . . she didn't do anything for those boys.

Remember the brief case? According to her, Kathy said it would tell the world what happened to her. What does she do with it? She puts it in the garage, where it collects dust . . . you didn't see one document out of that briefcase. It was empty! Susan Doman, she got the movie

contract. She has a movie and a book in the works, pending the end of the trial . . . she gets to have the final say in this movie, and she gives the producers the right to make it more colorful. Well, you know what? It's not going to be colorful, because the darn briefcase is empty! It's got to be a juicy story. And an accident is not a juicy story. The only movies they make about accidents are airplane movies, or train movies . . . not about someone who slips and falls in a bath tub."

September 4 at 2:46pm · Like

In Session

"Drew said he wouldn't kill the mother of his children. He loves his children more than he hates his ex-wife.

Kristin Anderson, she was just dying to testify, wasn't she? She couldn't wait to get on that stand . . . she never saw Drew in the house. She was so close to Kathy she didn't even go to her funeral, because she was too busy. She was so close to Kathy she didn't even know that Kathy got divorced when she was living with Kathy, in October of 2002. She didn't even know that Kathy was divorced."

September 4 at 2:50pm · Like · 1

In Session

"All the ISP [Illinois State Police] reports are inaccurate? It's all a big conspiracy to help Sgt. Peterson? When something like this happens, all the rats come out of the wood pile and start spewing vermin."

September 4 at 2:50pm · Like · 2

In Session

There is a new thread

September 4 at 2:58pm · Like · 1

In Session

September 4 at 2:57pm

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

Mr. Lopez now ridicules the testimony of police officer James Coughlin.

“We know in February this case was up only one time. This case was continued to 4/6/03, which is April. Coughlin says he remembers it because he looked at his calendar . . . well, you know what? It never happened. Here’s a court order that shows it.

And Susan McCauley, at the bowling alley . . . who knows what was really said over there?

And what different does it make? It’s an accident.

Jeffrey Pachter, the sex fiend, deadbeat gambler . . . his story is nonsense, and he knows it. Nothing backs him up. It’s ridiculous to think that a police officer would recruit this guy to kill his wife when he sees him every day at work when nobody’s around? He can’t even pay his taxes, like the rest of us! He cheats his bookie, too, cheats Uncle Sam, cheats the urine test, cheats the employer. Nothing backs up his story, not one thing . . . [he] made it up. Is that the kind of testimony you can rely on beyond a reasonable doubt? We say no.

Neil Schori, at Starbucks, brings a chaperone with him . . . something’s going on that nobody’s telling us about.” Objection/Sustained.

“He didn’t take any notes; Stacy started a rumor campaign hoping something would happen. And when Schori wouldn’t do anything about it, she went to Smith. And he didn’t do anything. Nobody did anything about it, because they knew she was lying, because she wanted a divorce.” Objection.

The State asks for a sidebar.

In Session

The sidebar ends.

“She [Stacy] started a rumor campaign . . . she knew it was an accident, she knew it was investigated. What does she want to do with this information? She told him [Schori] that he [Drew] killed his own men in the Army. Really? Does Oliver North know that? He killed his own men in the Army! That’s ridiculous. That’s as ridiculous as saying that Drew killed Kathy, because it’s an accident. She’s lying, and he [Schori] knows that.

And Harry Smith, remember him testifying? He thought it was a joke, because he knows it was an accident, and he can’t believe the State is prosecuting it! Objection/Sustained.

“He’s laughing, laughing . . . laughing at the State’s case. Just laughing.”

September 4 at 2:59pm · Like · 7

In Session

“Stacy wanted to squeeze money out of Drew by spreading a rumor, or a campaign of rumors . . . when that all failed, she came up with, ‘Oh, I’ve got something on the Bolingbrook

Police Department.' Campaign of rumors, campaign of lies. Let's twist it to make it a homicide.

We don't do that in America . . . put someone in a target and do everything they can to get him. You don't have to like him. You can hate him. You have to like America . . . the Framers of the Constitution would barf at this evidence! There's nothing but doubt in this case.

Mary Parks completely contradicts Kristin Anderson . . . people get on the TV and lie, just like they do in this courtroom . . . people lie when it's for their own agenda . . . it doesn't matter what was said to poor Rev. Schori, who had to bring a chaperone . . . because if it's not a homicide, it doesn't matter . . . we suggest to you that it's not credible."

September 4 at 3:03pm · Like · 3

In Session

"The State gets the last word, if they want. They don't have to have a rebuttal, if they think their case is so great . . . they go last because they have the burden of proof . . . I just ask you to do one thing: growing up as a kid, I never got the last word in with my mother, never! But think what our response would be to their rebuttal . . . what would Lopez and the others say? That's deliberations. You're going to go back, and then you can start your deliberations.

You don't have to come back at 5:00. You can come back whenever you want to . . . but when you go back there, I want you to think of that, how that lawyer [Harry Smith] laughed in this courtroom. Think about that!"

That ends the defense summation.

September 4 at 3:06pm · Like

In Session

The jury is now gone.

The judge announces that he extended the time for each side's closings from one hour, forty-five minutes to two hours, fifteen minutes.

The defense took two hours, twenty minutes. So the State has one hour, five minutes [left]."

September 4 at 3:07pm · Like · 17

In Session

The judge leaves the bench.

The trial is in a brief recess.

September 4 at 3:09pm · Like · 1

In Session

September 4 at 3:08pm

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

The jury is now gone.

The judge announces that he extended the time for each side's closings from one hour, forty-five minutes to two hours, fifteen minutes.

The defense took two hours, twenty minutes. So the State has one hour, five minutes [left]."

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

In Session

Judge Burmila returns to the bench.

He sends for the jury.

September 4 at 3:27pm · Like

09/04/2012: Prosecutor James Glasgow on closing rebuttal statements

In Session

September 4 at 3:33pm

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

The jurors are now in the courtroom, and Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow begins his rebuttal closing.

"I want to remind everybody that this trial is about the murder of Kathleen Savio . . . young, vibrant, and murdered within the prime of her life.

In Session

"You were just told that the laceration on Kathleen Savio's head was the size of the Grand

Canyon . . . there were no injuries to the brain whatsoever. Dr. Case has found a marker, a very thin layer of blood. You'd see why that could happen . . . they were implying that she said you could not be knocked unconscious without some sign of visible injury to the brain

That's not what she told you. But in this case, Kathleen Savio probably wouldn't even have suffered a concussion in a fall of this type. It didn't happen . . . all you heard during the defense closing was that this was a slip and fall accident. But you know much better than that,."

September 4 at 3:33pm · Like · 6

In Session

"If this piece of paper [Savio's death certificate] stood for what the defense says it does . . ."
Objection.

The parties go to a sidebar.

September 4 at 3:33pm · Like · 2

In Session

The sidebar ends.

The jurors are excused from the courtroom.

September 4 at 3:33pm · Like · 1

In Session

The jurors are now gone.

Attorney Greenberg states the defense objection, claiming the State "wants to impeach the document with some kind of conjecture."

Prosecutor Glasgow agrees to move to a different line of argument.

The judge then sends for the jurors.

September 4 at 3:35pm · Like

In Session

The jurors are back in the courtroom, and prosecutor Glasgow resumes his rebuttal

summation.

“There are two documents relating to the coroner’s office that are in evidence . . . one of them is the autopsy protocol of Dr. Mitchell. You heard Mr. Lopez say he found the manner of death to be accident; that’s not true. He made no determination of the manner of death . . . :”
Objection.

The parties go to a sidebar.

September 4 at 3:39pm · Like · 13

In Session

The sidebar ends.

“You heard the testimony of Dr. Blum, as to how he proceeded with the second autopsy . . . he gave an opinion as to manner [of death], which was homicide . . . with regards to Dr. Jentzen, the key thrust of the defense argument is that this is a slip and fall, an accident.

The evidence clearly shows that this a homicide.

There was only one neuropathologist who testified in this case, Dr. Mary Case.

He testified that she predominantly does autopsies on children’s brains. Clearly, that was a misrepresentation of what she does.

Also, Dr. Jentzen testified that she had said she couldn’t be rendered unconscious without a visible injury. She didn’t say that . . . she said there wouldn’t even be a concussion in this case.”

September 4 at 3:42pm · Like · 3

In Session

“It takes a fall of ten to fifteen feet, or a car accident to get diffuse axonal injury. Yet that’s what Dr. Jentzen says we have here . . . Dr. Baden found that diaphragm bruise . . . but that diaphragm bruise doesn’t fit this fall, so it’s gone; it’s an artifact . . . that buttock bruise, Dr. Mitchell saw it when it was fresh; that finding stands. But you can’t get that abrasion in this fall. So what do they do? It’s gone, it’s an artifact . . . you know beyond a reasonable doubt that what you’ve been seeing in these pictures is an abrasion, not an artifact.

Finally, Dr. Jentzen said it was possible this could be a homicide . . . none of our witnesses said it could be an accident.”.

September 4 at 3:47pm · Like · 10

In Session

"I would submit that Dr. Jentzen's testimony bears little weight in this case, especially with respect with Dr. Case and Dr. Blum.

And Dr. DiMaio . . . for all the evidence you heard about drugs, about cervical vertigo, Kathleen Savio was a healthy woman when she was in that tub that night . . . Dr. DiMaio, after admitting this was a neurological question, admits he's a gunshot expert. But this isn't a gunshot case. As to the hip bruise, he also brings it down to one bruise. But you saw the picture, the three single bruises . . . you heard the testimony from Dr. Blum, Dr. Case, and Dr. Baden that it would take a forceful blow to make those . . . those were deep bruises. As to the clavicle injuries, it doesn't fit this slip and fall, so [SNAPS FINGERS] artifact!"

September 4 at 3:49pm · Like · 1

In Session

"The orthostatic hypotension . . . Dr. Baden worked with patients that had that. And he indicated you'd normally see a history of this; it doesn't just come on. You know she didn't have orthostatic hypotension; that didn't happen here.

There's a laceration in Dr. DiMaio's book, and it's a wound caused by a baseball bat. That's just like the wound on Kathleen Savio's head. That injury could also have been caused by a pipe or a pool cue; it's a blunt injury.

Dr. Blum also said it could be caused by a weapon. If she's only stunned, and you go under water in a tub, are you going to stay there? Not hardly."

September 4 at 3:51pm · Like · 10

In Session

"I asked him [Dr. DiMaio] if he could give me one single case of a healthy adult drowned in a bath tub, and he could not. He could not give me one case where a healthy adult drowned in a bath tub."

September 4 at 3:52pm · Like · 13

In Session

"You know in your every day life if you have a problem with a brain injury, you're not going to your general practitioner, you're going to your neurologist. And she was unwavering in this case that this injury was not caused in that bath tub." Objection/Sustained.

“Look how she’s wedged in that tub . . . half of her foot is blanched. That’s not how someone would come to rest naturally . . . there was dried blood on her face. Dr. Blum said for that to happen, her face couldn’t have been sitting in water. You know that from your every day experiences.”

September 4 at 3:54pm · Like

In Session

“An issue was raised in regard to when she was killed.

Mike VanOver said the rigor was slight when he got there, and the next day the rigor was gone . . . if you go back, that puts you into the early morning hours of Sunday. And that’s the time that Stacy Peterson said that Drew Peterson was gone from the house.”

September 4 at 3:55pm · Like · 25

In Session

“The defendant made statements on national television, and the transcripts of two of those statements have been admitted into evidence.

You heard mention by Mr. Lopez of the three-day weekend. When he was on CNN, he was asked about what happened. ‘I don’t know . . . I was working; I was a watch commander at the police department, and the previous night she had failed to respond at the door to allow me to bring the children home . . . that was unusual for her, so I started calling on the phone, and I alerted the neighbors . . .’

Clearly, out of the defendant’s own mouth, that says that he didn’t think this was a three-day weekend. And there were 12 phone calls throughout the day to Kathleen Savio’s house . . . “
Objection.

The defense asks for a sidebar.

September 4 at 3:59pm · Like · 12

In Session

The sidebar ends.

“If we look at the defendant’s behavior, he committed the murder on the early hours of Sunday morning. He clearly emphasizes on national television how unusual it was for her not to be there. And he couldn’t go into the house without her accusing him of stealing stuff . . . he was afraid to go into the house. This isn’t a picture of a smooth relationship . . . he’s the watch commander, in uniform, and his wife isn’t there to pick up the kids, isn’t answering the

phone.

Mary Pontarelli is 35 feet away. And he doesn't reach out to her? He also doesn't try to reach out to her boyfriend, Steve Maniaci. He had his phone number . . . he's the watch commander, the top banana, he's in charge . . . he's a sergeant, and he's the watch commander. He takes the children home, and then a series of phone calls begins from his house to Kathleen Savio's house.

He did an interview on NBC News, and he said 'I was one of the first people there, and I was actually the watch commander . . . I went ahead and met with her best friend . . . I was planning the next day, Tuesday, to go into her home with the neighbor. But the neighbor wanted to go in that night.' The neighbor was upset, not the watch commander. 'Kathy didn't want me in her house; she was always afraid I was going to steal something.'

I would submit that as a police officer for decades, having gone on wellness checks, as a certified evidence technician, that his behavior shows consciousness of guilt.

That Sunday night, he doesn't go in, because no one has yet found the body . . . he collects a band of civilians, and they go in the house in the middle of the night . . . how many red flags would go off in a policeman's mind? There could still be an intruder in the house."

September 4 at 4:07pm · Like · 4

In Session

"You have police backup when you do these wellness checks. Instead, we have a woman and a 14-year-old boy going in there. Why? Because he knows what they're going to find in there. He hears this loud scream; he goes into the house . . . he's got a scream, he's in uniform; it should be his duty immediately to spring up the stairs . . . once he gets upstairs, you heard Chris Koch's description of what goes on there."

September 4 at 4:07pm · Like · 1

In Session

"You heard what Mr. Lopez said about Mary Parks . . . you know she had met Kathy Savio at school. And just before Thanksgiving, Kathy Savio appeared at school wearing a fleece pull-up . . . she saw marks on her neck, and Kathy Savio told her that Drew said, 'You should just die.'" Objection.

The parties approach the bench for a sidebar.

September 4 at 4:08pm · Like

In Session

The sidebar ends, and the jurors have left the courtroom.

Attorney Greenberg puts on the record the defense objection to this line of argument.

Prosecutor Glasgow responds, says that Mary Parks “saw red marks on her neck . . . and she told her that Drew Peterson hold her down and said, ‘You should just die.’”

The judge overrules the objection, and sends for the jury.

September 4 at 4:12pm · Like · 20

In Session

The jurors are now back in the courtroom, and prosecutor Glasgow resumes his rebuttal.

“Again, clearly Mary Parks was talking about an incident at Thanksgiving, 2003, not the July 5 incident. Yet you were told that it was the same incident.

Kristin Anderson came in there and testified she lived with Kathy Savio for a couple of months, and she moved out on the 25th of November. That’s just before the incident that occurred with Mary Parks.

Kristin Anderson indicated she had a heart-to-heart conversation with Kathy Savio . . . she’s a compassionate person, and she and Kathy were having a heart-felt moment, at which time Kathy told her Drew Peterson had said to her, ‘I could kill you, and make it look like an accident.’ She made three separate phone calls to the State Police . . . the records are there . . . she never got a call back, until much later. So she made effort to report it, and it fell on deaf ears. She made that effort to call. I think a lot of people wouldn’t go that far.”

September 4 at 4:16pm · Like · 14

In Session

“Anna Doman testified her sister told her just a few weeks before she was killed that Drew Peterson said, ‘I’m going to kill you’ . . . that statement rings true. And that’s what happened when Kathy and Anna had that conversation.

Susan Doman also had spoken with her sister, and was told the same thing Kristin Anderson was killed, that Drew Peterson said, ‘I could kill you, and make it look like an accident.’

We know how rare these drownings are in tubs, these accidental drownings . . . the evidence shows Drew Peterson drowned her; it was made to look like an accidental drowning.”

September 4 at 4:19pm · Like

In Session

“That brings us to Neil Schori, Pastor Neil Schori.

He told you he had been counseling Stacy Peterson, and got a call on the 30th of August, asking for an appointment the next day . . . he is very cautious in his professional life, to maintain his integrity. At one point, she was crying . . . and proceeded to tell him that Drew Peterson had killed Kathy Peterson . . . she said she'd gone to bed with Drew, woke up during the evening, and he was gone . . . she tried to reach him by phone, and was unsuccessful.

IN the middle of the night, he came back, all dressed in black, and put his clothes into the washing machine . . . she looked into the washing machine ,and saw women's clothes that weren't hers. . . she said she lied to the police on his behalf.

We know Harry Smith got a call from Stacy Peterson, asking if she could use in her divorce how Drew Peterson killed Kathy Peterson. She also said that Drew Peterson was very angry at her, because he thought she had told Tommy Peterson that Drew killed his [Tom's] mother . . . the same Tommy Peterson who came in her and testified.

And Jeffrey Pachter . . . he did not call the police; the police called him. The defense trashed him, made him look like the most demonic person who ever came into a courtroom. Drew chose him because he did have his problems and might not be believable . . . but he was believable, and he gave the statement that you heard. He didn't embellish it . . . so if he's coming in here to make a name for himself, write a book, or make a lot of money for himself, he'd come up with a better story than that . . . in fact, what did he get out of coming in here, except having the world know he's a registered sex offender? He basically paid a price for coming in here . . . he suffered embarrassment by coming in here.” Objection/Sustained.

September 4 at 4:24pm · Like

In Session

“The incident Kathy Savio reported, the July 5th incident . . . she wrote the knife in there, and then crossed it out . . . she told Ofc. Kernc that she did not want him to lose his job . . . she's trying to make ends meet. And if her husband does not have a job . . .” Objection.

The defense asks for a sidebar.

September 4 at 4:25pm · Like

In Session

The sidebar ends.

The jurors are excused from the courtroom.

Attorney Joel Brodsky addresses the judge, claims that the State has injected information before the jury that was previously stricken.

The State responds, reads from the transcript of Teresa Kernc's testimony.

Judge: "The [defense] objection is overruled."

He sends for the jury.

September 4 at 4:29pm · Like · 14

In Session

The jurors are back in the courtroom.

"Mr. Lopez talked to you about circumstantial evidence. The hearsay presented to you is substantial evidence, the same as if the person was here on the stand . . . circumstantial evidence can many times be more powerful than direct evidence . . . if you combine the circumstantial evidence, with the expert testimony, Stacy's evidence, the hiring of a hit man . . . when we combine the reasonable inferences from each of those pieces of evidence, you can absolutely see that this case has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt. It's solid, it's real, and it proves beyond a reasonable doubt that Drew Peterson murdered Kathleen Savio in cold blood.

And we ask you to go to the jury room and return a verdict of guilty."

September 4 at 4:35pm · Like · 9

In Session

That ends the closing arguments in the Peterson case.

The judge calls "a brief recess so that the jurors can eat their lunch."

He leaves the bench, and the trial is in a recess of undetermined length.

September 4 at 4:35pm · Like · 2

In Session

September 4 at 4:36pm

Glasgow: When we combine the reasonable inferences from each of those pieces of

evidence, you can absolutely see that this case has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt. It's solid, it's real, and it proves beyond a reasonable doubt that Drew Peterson murdered Kathleen Savio in cold blood. And we ask you to go to the jury room and return a verdict of guilty.

That ends the closing arguments in the Peterson case. The judge calls a brief recess. He leaves the bench, and the trial is in a recess of undetermined length.

In Session

The parties are heading back into the courtroom.

We should be resuming shortly.

September 4 at 5:10pm · Like · 11

In Session

Judge Burmila is back on the bench.

“We broke at the conclusion of the rebuttal argument, and I pointed out the parties in a sidebar . . . they've taken so much longer than I thought that would, and that's certainly not a criticism of anybody . . . it's 4:15, the jurors have just eaten their lunch, court's been in session almost continuously since 9:00 this morning . . . because of the late hour, I'm considering sending the jurors home for the evening, charging them on the law in the morning, and having them start their deliberations in the morning. There's certainly case law for that . . . so State, your position on my proposed way of proceeding?”

The State defers to whatever the defense wants to do, while the defense says that it is in agreement with the Judge.

With that, Judge Burmila decides to postpone the jury charge until the morning.

He sends for the jury.

September 4 at 5:19pm · Like · 3

In Session

The jurors have returned to the courtroom.

Judge Burmila: “The arguments are now at an end. I did not anticipate they'd take as long as they did; it was just a matter of chronology. Because of the lateness, I've made a decision to send you home for the evening. The Sheriff is going to attend to you in that regard. You're all to be back here tomorrow morning by 9:00 [CT] . . . you cannot begin to deliberate until I've

instructed you in the law, and you are all joined back together . . . all of the law I previously told you is still applicable up to this point. I will charge you in the law at 9:00 am tomorrow morning, and then you'll begin your deliberations."

With that, the jurors leave the courtroom.

September 4 at 5:20pm · Like · 1

In Session

Judge Burmila: "Folks, that's it. I'll see you at 9:00 tomorrow morning."

The judge leaves the bench, and the trial is in recess until 9:00 CT/10:00 ET Wednesday morning.

September 4 at 5:23pm · Like

In Session

September 4 at 5:22pm

We may get a verdict in the Drew Peterson murder trial tomorrow.

Deliberations will begin Wednesday morning after Judge Burmila gives them their jury instructions.

Judge Burmila: "Folks, that's it. I'll see you at 9:00 tomorrow morning."

The judge leaves the bench, and the trial is in recess until 9:00 CT/10:00 ET Wednesday morning.
