

SECOND ANNUAL
GOLD CUP
MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION
2024



PEOPLE V. GARCIA

OCTOBER 24-27, 2024

Synopsis

This case involves the disappearance and alleged murder of a troubled individual named Brandon Jack. Mr. Jack suffered from psychological infirmities as well as drug/alcohol addiction. He was placed by a social worker in a boarding house owned by the defendant Adriana Garcia. Mr. Jack disappeared in August of 2018 and was believed to have left the country to be with family in Canada. However, in November of 2023 his body was found buried in Ms. Garcia's yard, along with 6 other bodies.

Questions/Revisions

If you spot errors or have questions, submit them to Keith Hill at hillk@sacda.org with a subject line titled Fact Pattern Questions no later than September 20, 2024. We will release a list of responses and, if necessary, a revised fact pattern on or before October 7, 2024.

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We would like to thank Barbara Holmes and Tom Williams for helping us understand this very complex individual and taking the time to help us make this competition a success. They have been an excellent factual resource for information sprinkled throughout the fact pattern. Extremely long hours have been put into creating the final case file and special thanks go out to the members of the Gold Cup Committee for assisting in the review and revisions of the problem. Last, but certainly not least, we thank Adriana Garcia for allowing us to slander her otherwise impeccable character. She is an all-around awesome human and certainly not a callous serial killer.

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5 (555) 555-6218
6
7

8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**
9 **COUNTY OF GOLD**

10
11 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

No. 24FE187187

12
13 vs.

INFORMATION

14
15 ADRIANA GARCIA,

16 Defendant.
17

18 The People of the State of California upon oath of the undersigned, upon information and belief
19 complain against the defendant above named for the crime(s) as follows:
20

21 **COUNT ONE**

22 On or about and between July 26, 2018 and November 1, 2023, at and in the County of Gold,
23 State of California, the defendant, ADRIANA GARCIA, did commit a felony, namely: First
24 Degree Murder in violation of section 187(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that
25 said defendant did willfully murder BRANDON JACK, a human being, with deliberation and
26 premeditation.
27

28 **COUNT TWO**

29 On or about and between November 1, 2020 and November 1, 2023, at and in the County of
30 Gold, State of California, the defendant ADRIANA GARCIA did commit a felony, namely:
31 Grand Theft, a violation of Section 487(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that
32 said ADRIANA GARCIA did unlawfully take money and/or personal property of a value
33 exceeding Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950), Social Security checks, the property of
34 BRANDON JACK.
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COUNT THREE

On or about and between November 1, 2020 and November 1, 2023, at and in the County of Gold, State of California, the defendant ADRIANA GARCIA did commit a felony, namely: Felony Forgery, a violation of Section 470(a) of the Penal Code of the State of California, in that said ADRIANA GARCIA did unlawfully take money and/or personal property of a value exceeding Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$950), Social Security checks, the property of BRANDON JACK.

I declare upon information and belief and under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at Gold County, California, the 19th day of February, 2023.



SARON TESFAI
GOLD COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
(555) 555-6218
Telephone Number

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5 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
6 COUNTY OF GOLD
7

8 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,)

Case No. 24FE187187

9 Plaintiff,

PRETRIAL ORDER

10 vs.

11 ADRIANA GARCIA

12 Defendant
13

14 **General**

- 15 1. The government has charged defendant Adriana Garcia with first-degree premeditated
16 murder, grand theft and forgery. The defendant has pled not guilty. The parties may not
17 amend the pleadings at trial.
- 18 2. The Gold County Superior Court has proper jurisdiction over this matter. This
19 jurisdiction has adopted the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and Federal Rules of
20 Evidence.
- 21 3. The only legal authorities that may be cited at trial are this Pretrial Order, the Jury
22 Instructions, Jury Verdict Form, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and Federal Rules
23 of Evidence.
- 24 4. The prosecution must call Danny Lee and Celeena Winston as witnesses. The defense
must call Jordan Avey and Adriana Garcia as witnesses. No other witnesses may be
called in the preliminary rounds and witnesses may not be recalled.

25 **Exhibits**

- 26 5. The parties have submitted a Joint Exhibit List, which is attached to this order. Exhibits
27 retain their pre-marked numbers regardless of the order they are introduced. At trial, the
28 parties may not offer into evidence any exhibits other than those on the joint exhibit list.
6. If exhibit 3 is admitted the parties may play the audio with a phone, laptop or speaker.

1 **Evidentiary Rulings**

- 2 7. All witnesses are pre sworn and constructively sequestered.
- 3
- 4 8. If the defense intends to put on character evidence under Federal Rules of Evidence 404,
- 5 608, and/or 609, the Defense must provide written notice to the prosecution at least 30
- 6 minutes before the round. This is because the prosecution is not permitted to put on a
- 7 rebuttal case to rebut such character evidence. All other notice requirements under the
- 8 federal rules of evidence have been satisfied.
- 9
- 10 9. The *People v. Adriana Garcia* was assigned for all purposes to Judge Marnie Falck. The
- 11 prosecution initially charged Adriana Garcia with the murders of all 7 people found
- 12 buried in her yard. Following a preliminary hearing, she was only held to answer for the
- 13 murder of Brandon Jack and the remaining murder charges were dismissed. The Court
- 14 further ruled that evidence of those now uncharged murders shall only be admitted, if
- 15 offered, for an articulated FRE 404 purpose(s) at trial.
- 16
- 17 10. The prosecutors may not comment on Defendant's exercise of their right against self-
- 18 incrimination. All other objections arising under the Constitution and its Amendments are
- 19 overruled.

20 **Stipulations**

- 21 11. All witness statements, reports, and interviews, including the 911 call are accurately
- 22 transcribed.
- 23
- 24 12. Exhibit 19 is an authentic document that qualifies as a record of regularly conducted
- 25 activities under FRE 803(6) requiring no certificate or testimony from a custodian.
- 26
- 27 13. Exhibits 22-25 are authentic and accurately describe the information contained therein.
- 28
14. Exhibits 5 and 18, the Forensic Laboratory Reports and Exhibit 29, the Missing Persons
- Report are stipulated to be admissible. It is further stipulated that the first body found at
- 1426 F Street on 11/1/23 is accurately confirmed by Forensic Genetic Genealogy to be
- that of Brandon Jack.
15. Deputy Lee has previously reviewed all exhibits contained in the case file.
16. Adriana Garcia was released from prison on 6/22/15 and was placed on supervised parole
- for a period of 10 years.
17. Beginning in June of 2015 Brandon Jack received a monthly assistance check in the
- amount of \$1500 per month from the Social Security Administration. A hold or stop was
- never placed on these disbursements until January of 2024.

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- 18. Jordan Avey, TeriAnn Grimes, Megan Eixenberger, Kristen Anderson, Matthew Moore, Casey Sinclair and Allison Dunham all received minimum monthly assistance checks in the amount of \$1500 from the Social Security Administration.
- 19. Exhibit 21, the business card of Ryan Roebuck is stipulated to be admissible. The number on the back was written by Ryan Roebuck.
- 20. Exhibit 26, the purported letter from Brandon Jack is stipulated to be admissible.
- 21. Adriana Garcia had a valid prescription for Dalmane which was legally prescribed to her beginning January 1, 2018.

Date: 8/24/24


Judge Rochelle Beardsley



POLICE REPORT

1 **8/7/18 (Friday)** I, Deputy Danny Lee #187 was assigned to the Gold County Sheriff's Office
2 Central Patrol Division. I was wearing a full Sheriff's Office Uniform and was driving a fully
3 marked Patrol Vehicle.

4
5 1342 hours: I was dispatched to the Volunteers of America Inebriate Shelter (VAIS) to take a
6 missing persons report. VAIS is a primarily volunteer staffed shelter that focuses on the
7 homeless, elderly and mentally ill members of our county that suffer from severe drug and
8 alcohol dependencies in addition to other underlying problems. The report came from a Social
9 Worker identified as Vanessa Washington. Ms. Washington has been volunteering her time at
10 VAIS for the last several years and during that time had become well acquainted with an
11 individual identified as Brandon Jack. Ms. Washington requested to file a missing persons report
12 for Mr. Jack. Based on the information provided by Ms. Washington, I assisted her in
13 completing a formal missing persons report.

14
15 1552 hours: I responded to 1426 F Street, a boarding house owned by an older woman named
16 Adriana Garcia, where Mr. Jack had been living. Upon arrival I was greeted at the door by Ms.
17 Garcia. She was a very pleasant older woman dressed in a housecoat and slippers. She invited
18 me inside and was willing to answer any questions that I had. She explained that she had
19 operated her home at 1426 F Street as a boarding house for approximately the last 8 years. She
20 primarily took in those that were down on their luck and frequently had mental issues and
21 drug/alcohol addictions. She frequently was sent potential boarders by the Department of Social
22 Services or met them on her own on the street before taking them in. She stated that she
23 operated her boarding house out of compassion for those that were less fortunate. She assisted
24 her tenants with their finances and provided meals, housing, and other services for them. She
25 indicated that she often received compensation for her services from those that had an income
26 stream of some sort, typically Social Security.


27
28 The house was tidy and there were several tenants milling about. I briefly spoke to one of the
29 tenants, Jordan Avey, who indicated that she hadn't seen Mr. Jack for several weeks and believed
30 he may have gone to Canada. When I tried to ask her further questions, she shut down and began
31 shaking her head and mumbling to herself incoherently while pounding her fists on the table.

1 I was shown to Mr. Jack's room by Ms. Garcia. Clothes were in the closet and drawers and
2 multiple duffle bags were on the floor of the closet. There was nothing to immediately indicate
3 that Mr. Jack had left town. When I asked Ms. Garcia about it, she simply stated that Mr. Jack
4 had been gone since the end of July. She further stated he told her he was going to Canada to
5 visit relatives. She said he needed money to travel and had told her that he would not be able to
6 pay her anything at the moment.

7
8 1730 hours: I provided both Ms. Garcia and Ms. Avey with my card and asked them to call me
9 when they next heard from Mr. Jack. As I passed my card to Ms. Avey she slipped a small note
10 into my hand. I later glanced at the note and saw that it said "I need to tell someone the truth but
11 I'm afraid to." A copy of the note, marked as Exhibit 1, was later booked into property. I
12 dismissed it given Ms. Avey's obviously poor mental state. I then took a quick walk around the
13 outside of the premises. The house was well tended and Ms. Garcia appeared to be doing some
14 renovations and upgrading her landscaping. I gave my business card to the young man, Ryan
15 Roebuck, working in the yard and asked him to call me if he saw Mr. Jack. He stated that he
16 would call if he saw him and provided me with his business card and he wrote his phone number
17 on the back. Exhibit 21. I concluded that Mr. Jack had simply left the house, likely going to
18 visit family. I departed the scene and never heard anything further with regards to Mr. Jack.

End of Report

Dated: 11/7/18


Deputy Danny Lee - Badge #187



POLICE REPORT

1 **11/1/23 (Wednesday)** I, Deputy Danny Lee #187 was assigned to the Gold County Sheriff's
2 Office Central Patrol Division. I was wearing a full Sheriff's Office Uniform and was driving a
3 fully marked Patrol Vehicle.

4
5 1125 hrs: I was dispatched to 1424 F Street regarding the possible location of a human skull.
6 1424 F Street is a two story home owned by Celeena Winston. Upon arrival I immediately
7 contacted Ms. Winston on her front porch. Seated next to her was a large brown Standard
8 Poodle. Ms. Winston indicated that her dog, Arlo, had run up to her on the porch with something
9 in his mouth. Upon inspection she saw that it appeared to be a dirty human skull. Initially she
10 was unconcerned given that the night before was Halloween. However, as she looked at it more
11 closely, she realized that it may be real and called 911. I booked the 911 call recording into
12 evidence as Exhibit 3. She indicated that the only places her dog had access to were both her
13 yard and the neighbor's yard through a small hole in the fence.

14
15 After putting on plastic gloves I picked up the skull and placed it into an evidence bag, marked
16 as Exhibit 2, to be logged into the evidence room back at headquarters before being sent to the
17 Crime Lab for testing. Ms. Winston was cooperative and agreed to provide a full statement once
18 the testing was completed.

19
20 **11/15/23 1000hrs:** I received a call from the Gold County Crime Lab informing me that they had
21 completed testing on the skull received from Ms. Winston. In summary, the lab confirmed that
22 the skull was human and they had developed a full DNA profile. That profile was uploaded to
23 the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). Unfortunately, there were no matches in the system
24 and our victim was reclassified as a John Doe. I booked the DNA report into evidence as Exhibit
25 5.

26
27 **12/15/23 1030 hrs:** I went to the Crime Lab to pick up the skull, the DNA swabs obtained from
28 the skull and the associated paperwork generated by the lab. I placed all the materials into the
29 trunk of patrol vehicle in order to transport it back to headquarters and to be booked back into
30 Property. At this point I had no additional leads and needed to find a way to proceed on the case.

31
32 I had recently heard of the forensic technique known as Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG).
33 Utilizing IGG it is possible to determine the identity of a suspect or John Doe victim even when

1 no matches are found in the DNA database. The Gold County District Attorney's Office has a
2 Cold Case Unit that specializes in IGG. I contacted the unit supervisor, Keith Hill, and they
3 agreed to take on the case. A copy of my file was provided to the team so that they could attempt
4 to identify our John Doe.

5
6 **1/30/24 0900hrs:** I received a call from Mr. Hill at the District Attorney's Office. He told me
7 that they were successfully able to determine the identity of my John Doe. I was told the skull
8 belonged to a man named Brandon Jack. That name immediately rang a bell with me as a
9 missing persons case I had worked on several years ago from Adriana Garcia's boarding house
10 right next door to Ms. Winston. I have always had a bad feeling about that case and was anxious
11 to continue my investigation with the new evidence.

12
13 **1330 hrs:** I returned to 1426 F Street to continue my investigation into the disappearance of
14 Brandon Jack. Exhibit 7 is a photograph of the home at 1426 F Street. I knocked on the door
15 and waited several minutes for it to be answered. When Ms. Garcia answered the door she
16 seemed to have aged significantly over the last 5 years. She gruffly said "What do you want? I
17 told you I'd let you know if he ever came back." I asked to come in and briefly speak with her
18 and she opened up the door and stepped aside.

19
20 I asked Ms. Garcia if she had heard from Brandon Jack since he was reported missing in 2018.
21 She indicated that she had received a letter from him about a month after he left for Canada, but
22 had had no other communication with him. When asked to produce the letter she responded that
23 she would look around and let me know if she found it. She later provided me with the letter and
24 I booked it into property as Exhibit 26.

25
26 I asked Ms. Garcia for permission to look around outside and she responded saying "Do what
27 you gotta do." Upon entering the yard, I could see a gap in the fence where the Winston's dog
28 Arlo could apparently move freely between the two yards. Several feet inside the fence I could
29 see an area of disturbed dirt. Protruding slightly out of the dirt was a small white object. Upon
30 further inspection I saw what appeared to be a shoe with a small bone sticking out nearby. CSI
31 photographed the items as Exhibit 8. As I brushed the dirt away it was clear that there were
32 many bones in the area. I backed away and cordoned off the area to keep the quickly forming
33 crowds away from the scene. Exhibit 10 is a photo of the crowds. CSI responded to the area and
34 began to excavate the site. In a matter of hours they had located a nearly complete skeleton
35 wrapped in what appeared to be remnants of a rug. The only thing missing was the skull which
36 was likely the one found by Arlo. As work continued in the yard I could see Ms. Garcia standing
37 at the upstairs window watching.

38
39 **1/31/24 (Monday)** I returned to 1426 F Street with a team of 8 detectives as well as 3 CSI
40 officers to continue to search the yard for additional evidence. Exhibit 7 is a photograph of the
41 home at 1426 F Street. The area was thoroughly searched both visually and with metal probes. I
42 went to the area of the yard where I had seen work being done back in 2018. Within a matter of

1 minutes, I discovered another shallow grave with another skeleton in a fetal position.
2 Throughout the day a total of 7 bodies were found buried in the yard including Mr. Jacks. It was
3 apparent that Ms. Garcia was concerned about what we were finding based on the look on her
4 face as she watched from the upstairs window. Exhibits 9-14 are photos taken by CSI during the
5 search for bodies with true and accurate descriptions of the contents of the photos.

6
7 In the corner of the yard was a small shed. As I went into the shed, I could see that it was filled
8 with gardening tools including a shovel. I collected the shovel as evidence and had CSI take a
9 swab of the handle for potential contact DNA. Exhibit 16 is a photograph of the shovel. I put
10 the shovel and swabs into my trunk for safekeeping. As I was returning to the yard, I stopped to
11 talk to one of the other officers that was keeping the quickly forming crowds away from the
12 scene. Apparently, word had gotten out that multiple bodies were being pulled from the yard.
13 The officer asked me if we were planning to arrest Ms. Garcia when she got back. When I asked
14 him what he meant, he told me that Ms. Garcia had stepped away to go get coffee because the
15 crowds were making her anxious. He noted how sweet she had been to offer to bring him and
16 the other officer's coffee as well. Not surprisingly, Ms. Garcia never returned. I immediately put
17 out an APB for Ms. Garcia and returned to the yard.

18
19 As the bodies were pulled from the graves, they were put into body bags and hauled away on
20 stretchers. While on scene the coroner noted that the bodies did not appear to have any signs of
21 outward trauma. He speculated that he would need to take tissue samples to determine if they
22 may have been drugged. After hearing this I went into the home and conducted a further search
23 for any potential poisons. I found evidence of multiple bottles of narcotics and other items that
24 could have acted as poisoning agents. Notably, there was a large supply of Dalmane, a
25 prescription sleeping medication, which were prescribed to Ms. Garcia. I photographed one of
26 the bottles in place. Exhibit 17. I later learned that Dalmane is toxic and potentially deadly,
27 especially when combined with alcohol.

28
29 At the end of my shift, I went to Property to book in the shovel and swabs. When I opened my
30 trunk to grab the evidence, the trunk was empty. I have no idea what happened to it. That whole
31 day was a blur, and I was caught up in the excitement of being involved in what was clearly
32 going to be a high-profile case. It would make my career and almost certainly get me a
33 promotion to detective. I was devastated at the loss of the evidence. After I notified my sergeant
34 the next day that the evidence was gone, I was placed on two weeks leave without pay.
35 Thankfully CSI had taken photos of the evidence. Exhibit 16.

36
37 **2/16/24** (Friday) 1130hrs I received a lab report from the Gold County Crime Lab concerning
38 the six additional bodies located in the yard. Each of the bodies had been identified through the
39 use of dental records, DNA and fingerprints. A copy of the lab report is attached as Exhibit 18. I
40 did a quick background check and located basic information for each of the individuals as
41 follows:

- 42 • TeriAnn Grimes – 57 year old female tenant beginning in August 2015
- 43 • Megan Eixenberger – 62 year old female tenant beginning in December 2017

- 1 • Kristen Anderson – 49 year old female tenant beginning in March 2018
- 2 • Matthew Moore – 71 year old male tenant beginning in July 2020
- 3 • Casey Sinclair – 65 year old female tenant beginning in March of 2021
- 4 • Alison Dunham – 66 year old female tenant beginning in July 2022

5
6 Subsequent investigation revealed that all of the above victims had significant mental health
7 problems as well as drug and/or alcohol addictions. Prior to moving into the boarding house
8 they were either homeless and living on the streets or temporarily housed in local shelters.
9 Grimes, Anderson and Dunham were placed at the boarding house by Social Services, while it
10 appears that Eixenberger, Moore and Sinclair were befriended by Ms. Garcia at the Zebra Club
11 and brought back to the home.

12
13 I obtained certified bank records for Ms. Garcia for the period of 2015-2022. I had the records
14 analyzed by our High Tech Crimes Unit, who subsequently prepared a report attached as
15 EXHIBIT 19. I reviewed the report and found that it confirmed my hunch that Ms. Garcia had
16 been siphoning funds from each of the victims. The total amount exceeded \$750,000. It did not
17 appear that any of the victims had bank accounts.

End of Report

Dated: 11/7/18


Deputy Danny Lee – Badge #187

1 People vs. ADRIANA GARCIA (Case No: 24FE187187)

2 PRELIMINARY HEARING TRANSCRIPT OF **CELEENA WINSTON**

3 =====
4 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY COURTNEY MARTIN

5 Q: Good Morning Ms. Winston. I would like to start out with some background
6 information. Please tell me a little about yourself.

7 A: Sure. I am 53 years old, married and a long time Gold County resident.

8 Q: Have you always lived in Gold County?

9 A: No. I was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. I have a Bachelor's Degree in
10 Education from Tulane.

11 Q: What did you do with your degree?

12 A: I started off in early childhood education working at a couple of different local
13 preschools. After that, I bounced around to a couple of different elementary schools
14 teaching everything from Kindergarten to 5th grade. I felt like I was finally hitting my
15 stride when Hurricane Katrina hit.

16 Q: How did the hurricane effect you?

17 A: I lived in a small home with my grandmother in the Lower 9th Ward. When the levee
18 broke our house and most of our possessions were destroyed. There was nothing left
19 there for me. The damage was so bad that I couldn't even get copies of my important
20 legal documents. The entire hall of records was basically washed away. I couldn't even
21 get a copy of my teaching certificate or birth certificate.

22 Q: So what did you do?

23 A: I picked up and moved out here. That was late 2005-2006.

24 Q: Where did you go?

25 A: I spent a couple of years teaching down in San Diego. That was where I met my
husband, Tim. Not long after we were married, he got a job here in Gold County and we
made our move. That must have been somewhere around 2015.

///
///

1 Q: Where do you live now?

2 A: I live here at 1424 F Street with my husband and our dog Arlo.

3 Q: What do you currently do for a living?

4 A: I am, or rather was, a credentialed second grade teacher for the Gold County Unified
5 School District. I retired just after the New Year in 2017.

6 Q: What about your husband, what does he do?

7 A: He works the night shift as an Event Specialist over at the Golden One Center. It
8 was a bit stressful on our relationship having him work nights while I worked days. But
9 the perks of his job are amazing. I have been able to see a majority of the Kings home
10 games and a lot of really great concerts. I just wish Taylor Swift would have made it here
11 on her Eras Tour!

12 Q: Showing you Exhibit 20. Do you recognize it?

13 A: Yes. That is my house on the right and Ms. Garcia's house on the left. It looks like it
14 was taken before this whole thing happened.

15 Q: What do you mean by "before this whole thing happened"?

16 A: You know, before they found all those dead bodies buried in her yard. That was such
17 an awful time for all of us. I can't believe that sweet little old lady could do such a thing.
18 But she had a dark side you know.

19 Q: We will get to that in a moment, but there are a couple of other things I would like to
20 discuss first. How long have you lived at 1424 F Street?

21 A: Let's see, we moved in in around 2015 and have lived here ever since.

22 Q: Has Adriana been your neighbor that entire time?

23 A: Yes. I believe she had already been there for about 5 years when we moved in.

24 Q: You also mentioned that you have a dog named Arlo. Can you tell me a little bit
25 about him.

A: Sure. He is the sweetest Goldendoodle you will ever meet! He is about 3 years old
and fully trained as a service dog for the Gold County District Attorney. He is a beautiful
deep tan color.

///

1 Q: Showing you Exhibit 15, do you recognize the dog in the photo?

2 A: Of course, that is Arlo. I took that photo while we were spending a day at the beach.
3 He wasn't really a fan of all the sand, but he sure loved the water.

4 Q: Is Arlo an inside dog or an outside dog?

5 A: For the most part he is an inside dog, but he also loves to go outside to play. Besides
6 our daily walks we also let him out once or twice during the day to play in the yard and to
7 do his duty. Adriana Garcia was definitely not his biggest fan.

8 Q: What do you mean by that?

9 A: Arlo dug his way under the fence between our yards and frequently ventured over to
10 her side. I can understand her frustration since he sometimes pooped on her property.
11 But she was especially upset when Arlo would come over and dig in her flowers. She
12 had some of the nicest vegetables and the most beautiful flowers on the street. You could
13 find her out there working in her gardens at all times of the day and night. When I
14 offered to help, she immediately shut me down. She said she could do it all on her own.
15 And when she couldn't, she had her handyman Ryan Roebuck to help her out.

16 Q: Did you know Mr. Roebuck?

17 A: Just from seeing him working at her house. He did good work, so I asked for his
18 card. He gave it to me and even put his personal cell number on the back.

19 Q: Showing you Exhibit 21, you recognize it, right?

20 A: Yes. That is a copy of his card and number on the back. I saw him working out in
21 Adriana's yard one evening and he gave me his card and wrote his number on the back
22 just like this.

23 Q: So are you saying you recognize his card and his writing?

24 A: Yes. His printing was so nice and I loved how he wrote his numbers. So old school!

25 Q: Did Adriana ever tell you the secret to her green thumb?

A: She said it was some type of fish gut fertilizer. There were times when there was an
awful smell coming from her side of the fence. When I went to complain about it, she
told me that it was just her fertilizer and should clear up soon.

///
///

1 Q: How upset was she about Arlo coming into her yard?

2 A: I remember one day a few months ago around the 4th of July when she caught Arlo
3 digging in her yard. She dragged him back over to my house screaming and yelling that
4 he was “going to ruin everything.” I am not really sure what she meant by that. I was
5 more focused on her threat. She screamed “If you don’t take care of that damned dog, I
6 will!”

6 Q: Was it unusual for her to act like that?

7 A: She was really a Jeckyl and Hyde. Most of the time she was a sweet little old lady
8 but other times, like when she brought Arlo home, she would completely fly off the
9 handle. Her dark eyes behind that sweet exterior seemed to be a window into an equally
10 dark soul.

10 Q: Are you familiar with Ms. Garcia’s standing in the community?

11 A: Sure. Most people thought of her as a pillar of the community. She was reaching out
12 to help the underserved and was a frequent donor to multiple philanthropies and political
13 campaigns. I just don’t understand how a person so good could be so bad at the same
14 time.

15 Q: How would you describe your relationship with her over the years?

16 A: It definitely ran hot and cold. For example, she brought us a nice tray of cookies to
17 welcome us to the neighborhood, while at the same time she was very very clear that she
18 didn’t want any unannounced visitors at her house. She kindly took in the most needy
19 members of our community, but she refused to allow me to help her care for them. She
20 gave them a warm bed and hot food but didn’t really allow them to become a part of the
21 community.

21 Q: Was that always the case?

22 A: No. Back in the fall of 2017 I befriended one of her tenants named Brandon Jack.

23 Q: How did that happen?

24 A: As I mentioned, I often sit out on my front porch sipping my morning tea. I
25 frequently saw Brandon coming out of the boarding house, apparently taking a short walk
around the block.

1 Q: Then what happened?

2 A: Over time a quick glance turned into a wave and a morning greeting. Soon after he
3 was joining me for tea.

4 Q: What did you do during morning tea?

5 A: We just chatted about our lives and interests. He had good days and bad days.
6 Sometimes things were totally normal but other times you could tell he was struggling. I
7 think it helped for him to know that I was there for him.

8 Q: Well what about family?

9 A: I asked him a couple of times but he never mentioned that he had any close family, at
10 least not that he could rely on.

11 Q: What did you learn from Mr. Jack about his life?

12 A: He was actually a pretty amazing person. He had been a helicopter pilot in the
13 Vietnam. He saw some pretty awful things and had several friends that didn't make it
14 back. He clearly suffered from PTSD and he told me that he self-medicated with alcohol
15 and drugs. Things only got worse from there and he ended up homeless on the street with
16 mental health problems and multiple addictions.

17 Q: Did he expand on his past?

18 A: Yes. He said he ultimately found his way to the Volunteers of America Inebriate
19 Shelter where he met Vanessa Washington. It was ultimately Ms. Washington that set
20 him up to live at the boarding house with Ms. Garcia.

21 Q: Did he tell you about his time at the boarding house?

22 A: Yes. He said he moved into the boarding house in 2016. That's about the time that I
23 recall first seeing him there. He told me how nice it was not to have to worry about
24 anything. He had a roof over his head and food on the table. All he had to do was to sign
25 over his SSI checks to Ms. Garcia

Q: And he was OK with that?

A: He said he wished he had more money on his own to spend, but he thought it was
worth it for what he was getting. She treated him well, did his dishes and laundry and
even organized all of his medications to take every day. When he would come out to

1 breakfast, she always had the food all set out with a small cup holding his pills right next
2 to the plate.

3 Q: How long did your meetings with Mr. Jack last?

4 A: Right up until he disappeared in August of 2018.

5 Q: How would you describe him leading up to his disappearance?

6 A: He seemed to be going downhill. He was increasingly sluggish and was only
7 minimally responsive. I was concerned that he was using again.

8 Q: So what did you do?

9 A: I tried to go over to talk to Adriana about it, but she was no help at all. She just told
10 me that I needed to keep my nose out of their business.

11 Q: Did you keep your nose out of their business?

12 A: No. Brandon just kept getting worse and worse. I felt that I needed to do something
13 about it. At the end of July, somewhere around the 24th, I saw Adriana out on the
14 sidewalk and told her that I would be taking Brandon to the doctor the following week
15 and she ignored me and kept walking.

16 Q: Did you take Brandon to the doctor?

17 A: No. I never saw him again. I waited out on my porch the next day and he never
18 showed up. Ms. Garcia tried to tell me that he had left the country to visit family. I
19 doubted that very much as he had never told me about any family and he certainly didn't
20 have the money or ability to travel on his own.

21 Q: When did you next see Brandon?

22 A: I didn't. I never saw him again.

23 Q: Were you concerned about that?

24 A: A little. But like Adriana said, it was really none of my business. About a month later
25 I asked Adriana if she had seen or heard from Brandon. She told me that she had
received a letter from him letting her know that he was with family and doing well. He
told her that she could let someone else have his room as he wouldn't be coming back. I
never saw him again.

1 Q: I would like to move forward to November 1, 2023. What were you doing that
2 morning.

3 A: Well, it had been a long night the night before with all the trick or treaters. Given our
4 location downtown we had a ton of them. After sleeping in, I let Arlo out for the
5 morning.

6 Q: Who is Arlo?

7 A: He is our Standard Poodle. He is kind, sweet and lovable. An all-around great dog.

8 Q: What did you do after you let Arlo out?

9 A: I took a shower and got dressed for the day. I was headed out to the front porch to sip
10 my morning tea when I heard a commotion outside. I could hear Adriana screaming
11 "give me that you stupid mutt! Drop it, drop it!" I didn't know what she was talking
12 about until I saw Arlo crawling under the fence where he had dug a trench. Our porch is
13 up a level from her yard so I could see over the fence.

14 Q: What was Adriana doing?

15 A: She was chasing Arlo waiving a big stick all the way to the fence separating our
16 property. But when she saw me watching she quit yelling and turned to walk back to her
17 house. When I went downstairs to check on Arlo I found him laying down at the base of
18 the stairs with a round white object between his paws. He was gnawing on the object.
19 When I got close enough to Arlo, I could see that it was a skull.

20 Q: How did you react when you saw the skull?

21 A: Not much. You have to remember that the night before was Halloween. I figured that
22 Arlo had stolen one of Adriana's decorations. But the closer I looked at it the more I
23 thought it might be real. I began to freak out and called 911.

24 Q: Have you had the opportunity to listen to and review Exhibit 3 and 3A, a recording
25 and transcript of your 911 call?

A: Yes that is me on the recording telling the operator everything. I was just so upset
and didn't know what to do.

///

///

1 Q: So what did you do?

2 A: I took the skull away from Arlo and put it into a plastic bag. Then I just sat out on my
3 porch sipping my tea until the police arrived. Frustratingly, it had gotten lukewarm in all
4 the commotion.

5 Q: Showing you Exhibit 2, do you recognize it?

6 A: Yes. That's the skull that Arlo brought back to our house from her yard.

7 Q: What happened when the police arrived?

8 A: I talked to Detective Danny Lee. I told him everything I knew and gave him the
9 skull.

10 Q: Then what did you do?

11 A: I hung out in front of our houses and watched all the craziness unfold?

12 Q: What do you mean by craziness?

13 A: Detective Lee started looking through the dirt where Arlo had found the skull. He
14 found a full skeleton, without the head, buried in Adriana's yard and called for backup.

15 Before you know it a whole swarm of officers descended on the house and the
16 surrounding yard. Over the next day or two they totally dug up her flowers and vegetable
17 garden and were searching in and under her shed. It was really creepy once the coroner
18 started coming out with body bags on stretchers. I couldn't help but watch. I even
19 snapped a couple of pictures.

20 Q: Showing you Exhibit 9. Do you recognize it?

21 A: Yes. That was them taking one of the bodies out of the yard.

22 Q: What about Exhibit 10? Do you recognize it also?

23 A: Yes. That is a photo I took of all the dirt from the yard that had been piled out into
24 the street in front of the house. I also took a picture of all the deputies in the yard digging
25 up the bodies.

Q: Do you recognize Exhibit 11?

A: Yes. That is a couple of the officers digging up the bodies. They ultimately had to
bring in a backhoe to finish the dig.

///

1 Q: Do you recognize Exhibit 14?

2 A: Yes. That is a photo that I took looking into Ms. Garcia's yard as they were digging
3 up the side and back yard.

4 Q: Do all of these photos fairly and accurately depict the events as you saw them at the
5 time?

6 A: Yes.

7 Q: Thank you. No further questions.

8 CROSS EXAMINATION BY CHRIS ORE

9 Q: Lets start with your time back in Louisiana. That's where your criminal history
10 began, wasn't it?

11 A: How could you possibly know that? All the court records were destroyed in the
12 hurricane!

13 Q: It doesn't matter how I know it, my question is whether or not it is true. And it is?
14 Isn't it?

15 A: I don't recall.

16 Q: Showing you Exhibit 22. That's a fair and accurate copy of your RAP sheet isn't it?

17 A: Yes. But I don't see how that has any relevance to her murdering those poor souls.

18 Q: Welfare Fraud in 1995 and 2 Theft convictions in 1996?

19 A: Whatever you say. I was a struggling student just trying to get by.

20 Q: And that second theft conviction was a Felony wasn't it?

21 A: Yes but I just had to pick up trash and pay them back for what I took.

22 Q: And when you applied for your teaching job here in Gold County you lied on your job
23 application and said you had never been convicted of a crime.

24 A: I needed the work and didn't think there was any way they would ever find out about
25 it. I thought Katrina had wiped out all the records.

Q: And your "retirement" wasn't exactly a traditional retirement, was it?

A: It was an option the school board gave me. I had inflated my reimbursements for
classroom supplies to help make up for the meager salary they were paying me. They

1 said I could either retire or they would notify the authorities. So I retired. It ended up
2 being the best decision I ever made. Teachers are overworked and underpaid anyway.
3 My stress levels have gone down significantly since then.

4 Q: You mentioned about arguments with Adriana about Arlo a moment ago. The
5 problem was really that you didn't keep control over him, right?

6 A: What do you mean by that?

7 Q: Well, you let him dig under the fence?

8 A: That was no big deal.

9 Q: And you let him poop in her yard.

10 A: Yes. You can't always control him.

11 Q: And he dug in her flowers and garden.

12 A: Yeah, so what. She treated that yard like it was her baby, spending all hours of the
13 day and night out there. She just needed to chill out. Dogs will be dogs.

14 Q: Fair to say you never saw her ever do anything out there besides tend her garden?

15 A: Correct.

16 Q: And you certainly never saw her bury a body?

17 A: No. Just tending her garden.

18 Q: Until Arlo brought that skull home you never suspected that there were bodies in the
19 yard?

20 A: No, I guess not. Except for that rotting smell.

21 Q: And she had a reasonable explanation about that - the fish gut fertilizer, right?

22 A: Yeah. I had no idea that she was lying or that there were dead bodies in the yard.

23 Q: You have absolutely no evidence of how long those bodies were there?

24 A: No.

25 Q: Or who put them there?

A: No.

Q: And you certainly have no evidence that Adriana killed anyone?

A: No. I suppose it could have been her landscaper, Ryan Roebuck, or one of the other
tenants.

1 Q: And you saw Mr. Roebuck out digging in the yard late at night, didn't you?

2 A: A couple of times. It was weird, but I just chalked it up to him working late to finish
3 a project for Ms. Garcia.

4 Q: The only time you believed someone had died was when Arlo retrieved that skull?

5 A: Right. I didn't think she was capable of killing anyone.

6 Q: You didn't see where Arlo got the skull?

7 A: No. Just that he was coming from the direction of her house?

8 Q: There are several houses and businesses in that direction, aren't there?

9 A: Yes. We have several other neighbors and there is a restaurant and other businesses.

10 Q: Lets talk about Mr. Jack. You frequently saw him out in the community, right?

11 A: Yes. Taking walks around the block and when he came over to sit with me for tea.

12 Q: And those chats you had with him sometimes involved his past?

13 A: Yes. Mostly about his time in the military and not so much his personal life.

14 Q: But you do know that he had family in Canada?

15 A: With the emphasis on "had." He briefly mentioned one day that he had grown up on
16 a farm in Quebec. But I have no idea if he still has any living family there.

17 Q: It wasn't always easy to talk to Brandon was it?

18 A: Not always. Like I said, he had good days and bad days. The poor guy had mental
19 problems and addictions. He had lived on the street and saw things in the war that
20 nobody should ever have to see. He was never going to be normal. I worried about him
21 and gave him my number in case he ever needed me.

22 Q: Despite all his problems, Adriana still took him in and cared for him, didn't she?

23 A: Yes. And I admit that he was happy there. He liked the food and his room and the
24 other tenants in the house. He was thankful for Ms. Garcia. He didn't even mind paying
25 her for his expenses. He said it was worth it.

Q: And you had seen his addictions firsthand?

A: Yes. There were several times when I saw him that I suspected he was high or drunk.
I even drove down to the Zebra Club to pick him up one night. He had passed out on the
bar. They found my number in his pocket and called me to come get him. It was awful.

1 Q: A moment ago you talked about Brandon going downhill. You don't know why that
2 was happening, do you?

3 A: No, I guess not exactly why.

4 Q: It could have been the alcohol or the drugs?

5 A: Yes.

6 Q: Or maybe he was not taking his meds or even overmedicating himself.

7 A: That's certainly possible.

8 Q: You never took him to the doctor?

9 A: No

10 Q: Or called the police?

11 A: No.

12 Q: You didn't even reach out to his social worker?

13 A: No. Ms. Garcia told me it was none of my business.

14 Q: Showing you Exhibit 26, do you recognize it?

15 A: Yes. This is the letter that Ms. Garcia showed me that she had got from Brandon. I
16 can't explain why, but it just didn't sit right with me.

17 Q: You have no evidence that Ms. Garcia treated Brandon poorly in any way?

18 A: No. He always said she took great care of him and he really liked her.

19 Q: And you certainly have no evidence that she killed him.

20 A: No. But most of us don't have a garden filled with bodies and bones.

21 Q: And you have no evidence that he was even killed. He could have died of natural
22 causes.

23 A: I guess so. I'm not a doctor.

24 Q: Thank you. I have no further questions.

25 I have fully and completely reviewed this transcript and under the penalty of perjury
hereby certify that the statement is true and correct and that I have no further information
relevant to the matters discussed.

Dated: 4/1/24



Celeena Winston

3 =====

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY COURTNEY MARTIN

5 Q: Good Morning Ms. Avey. I would like to start out with some background
6 information. Please tell me a little about yourself.

7 A: Sure. I'm 69 years old, never been married, and never had a real job. I'm pretty
8 lucky to have lived this long given all I've been through.

9 Q: What do you mean by that?

10 A: I never knew my father and was basically raised on the street by a single mother. She
11 died when I was just 17 and I've been on my own ever since. In my early years I had to
12 beg, borrow and steal just to survive. Like most people on the streets, I developed drug
and alcohol problems.

13 Q: How long did you live like that?

14 A: Most of my life. I still remember it was Christmas of 2014 and I was living in a
15 homeless encampment down by the river. I had reached an all-time low and was using
16 heroin at that time. I overdosed and nearly died. I ended up in the hospital where I met a
17 young social worker that took an interest in me. He got me a bed at that Volunteers of
18 America Inebriate Shelter. They gave me a place to sleep and tried to help me with my
issues.

19 Q: Did things get better?

20 A: A little bit. They did what they could to get me off the needle and help me quit
21 drinking, but the voices in my head kept telling me that I could handle the drugs and I
22 didn't need to quit. They gave me a million chances, but it just didn't work out and they
gave me a week to figure out where I would go.

23 Q: Where did you go?

24 A: One of the women that used to volunteer at the shelter, Vanessa Washington, helped
25 me. She told me that she knew of a place I could go if I was willing to follow the house

1 rules. I really had no choice, so I agreed to go. Just after the 4th of July in 2015 I moved
2 into Ms. Garcia's boarding house at 1426 F Street.

3 Q: Showing you Exhibit 7, do you recognize that?

4 A: Yes. That is the boarding house where I stayed.

5 Q: What kind of arrangement did you have with Ms. Garcia?

6 A: She told me I could stay there as long as I wanted. I just needed to follow the rules
7 and pay my way. She would keep a roof over my head and help take care of me.

8 Q: What did it mean to "pay your way"?

9 A: It ain't cheap to cover all the expenses it takes to survive. I didn't have a job or
10 regular income. Ms. Garcia helped me fill out the paperwork to apply for Social Security.
11 So at that point I was getting \$1500 a month. All I had to do was sign it over to Ms.
12 Garcia and she would take care of the rest. I didn't really have another choice and it
13 actually worked for me. She fixed all my meals, made sure I had something to wear and
14 kept me taking all my meds. The voices mostly stayed away, and I was surviving.

15 Q: How many other tenants were there?

16 A: I was the only one at first. But about a month later a woman by the name of TeriAnn
17 Grimes moved in.

18 Q: What do you know about her?

19 A: Not a lot. She told me she was down on her luck and drinking herself into a stupor
20 when she met Ms. Garcia at the Zebra Club. Apparently, they got to talking and Ms.
21 Garcia agreed to take her in. TeriAnn told me that they had the same agreement. She just
22 had to sign over her Social Security to Ms. Garcia and she would take care of the rest. It
23 was a good thing she did that, because a few months later she got pretty sick.

24 Q: What happened?

25 A: She just never got any better and Ms. Garcia told me that she died in her sleep. I
really think they should have gone to the doctor, but Ms. Garcia said she used to be a
nurse and could handle it. I doubt that was true, but decided it was none of my business.
By the next morning TeriAnn's body was gone.

1 Q: What happened to it?

2 A: I don't really know. Ms. Garcia's landscaper, Ryan Roebuck, had been working in the
3 yard that day and she let him stay for dinner. She told me I should just eat in the living
4 room in front of the TV. Wheel of Fortune is my favorite show and it had just come on.
5 So I didn't argue. I could still hear them in the other room talking about what to do with
6 the body. Ms. Garcia was saying how she wasn't going to spend any more money than
7 she had to. I went to bed and when I woke up in the morning it was like TeriAnn had
8 never been there. She was gone and all her stuff was gone.

9 Q: I'll ask you again, do you know what happened to her body?

10 A: Nope. I just know I struggled to sleep that night. I don't know if I was just upset or
11 if it was all the banging around in the house and yard that night. I asked Ms. Garcia
12 about it and she said not to worry, she was just having the landscaper, Ryan Roebuck, do
13 an extra project and that he was working overtime on it. Everything would be fine.

14 Q: Were there any other tenants at the boarding house?

15 A: Sure. But they never really seemed to stay long. I don't get it because Ms. Garcia
16 was so kind and took such good care of us. I really liked her and never had a single
17 complaint. I sometimes wished she would give me a little more spending money, but I
18 didn't complain because I felt like I was getting my bang for the buck. It was just her and
19 me until that guy Brandon Jack moved in at the end of 2016.

20 Q: How did you first meet Mr. Jack?

21 A: I was going out to get the mail like I always did when I ran into Ms. Washington and
22 she had Mr. Jack with her. She introduced him as a new boarder that would be staying at
23 the house. He seemed like a nice guy, but he clearly had issues.

24 Q: What do you mean?

25 A: He didn't look so great, and I later learned that he had been self-medicating his
mental problems with prescription drugs and alcohol. He was always wanting to slip
away to the Zebra Club for a drink. I would go along with him, but mostly just to be sure
he got home OK.

1 Q: You mentioned that you got the mail. What type of mail usually came to the house?

2 A: Not much. You know – junk mail, bills and our Social Security checks. I would
3 leave the mail on the counter and sign my check over right then.

4 Q: Why did you say *our* mail?

5 A: Ms. Garcia's mail, my mail and mail for other tenants. Even TeriAnn was still getting
6 stuff sent to her, like her Social Security check. Ms. Garcia said she would take care of it.
7 The next week Ms. Garcia took me off of mail duty to make my life easier with fewer
8 chores and started getting the mail herself. She is so thoughtful that way.

8 Q: After Mr. Jack moved in, was it just the three of you at the house?

9 A: Pretty much. Except that jerk Ryan Roebuck was always there. It seemed like Ms.
10 Garcia might be afraid of him and he kept asking her for more money. I don't know why
11 she put up with him. I guess he did good work. The next Christmas in 2017 a woman
12 named Megan Eixenberger moved in. She said she had the same deal as the rest of us
13 and was so happy to have a place to live.

13 Q: How was she as a tenant?

14 A: Like everyone that Ms. Garcia helped, she had her own problems. Things seemed to
15 be getting better for her, but she just left.

16 Q: What do you mean just left?

17 A: Ms. Garcia was kindly helping Megan out with her meds and drug/alcohol treatment
18 right up until she got sick. The next thing you know she was gone. Ms. Garcia said
19 Megan had gone to the hospital, but she never came back. I was concerned and asked
20 Ms. Garcia if we should call someone.

20 Q: How did she respond?

21 A: She said it wasn't necessary. Megan had made contact with a family member in
22 Texas and had gone to stay with them. I didn't remember her having any family in Texas,
23 but I was happy for her. The next day Roebuck was in her room boxing up her stuff. I
24 guess he was going to send it to her. I really can't stand that guy! I talked to Brandon
25 about it and he agreed with me. We felt he might be stealing Megan's stuff.

1 Q: Are there any other reasons you don't like him?

2 A: He is not very respectful to Ms. Garcia; he never seems to actually finish a project;
3 and he just gives me a really bad feeling.

4 Q: Did any other tenants move in while you were there?

5 A: Oh yeah, quite a few. But it never seemed to work out for them. Kristen Anderson
6 moved in around March of 2018. She was there for about a year until she got a bed at a
7 facility that included a good rehab and job skills program. She said she was tired of
8 having someone else run her life and wanted to try to do it on her own. I know she
9 resented signing over her checks to Ms. Garcia, but I told her that there was no way she
10 could get the kind of care we were getting from Ms. Garcia for that price. She never
11 complained to me about it again.

12 Q: Anyone else?

13 A: From 2020-2022 there was a revolving door of tenants. Matthew Moore moved in
14 around 2020, Casey Sinclair in 2021 and Alison Dunham in 2022. They were nice
15 people. I'm sorry it didn't work out for them.

16 Q: What happened to them?

17 A: In 2021 Matt and Casey got really, really sick. I'm no doctor and Ms. Garcia told me
18 that she had tested them and they both had the COVID. I got up one morning and went to
19 check on them. Ms. Garcia stopped me and said that I should let them sleep. I needed to
20 go check in with my probation officer that day, so I left. When I returned they were gone.
21 Ms. Garcia said that they went to the hospital. About two days later she told me that they
22 didn't survive. That was when Alison Dunham moved in around July of 2022.

23 Q: Did things work out any better for her?

24 A: No. She had barely been there for a month when she had her accident.

25 Q: What accident?

A: I had just gone to bed when I heard a commotion outside.

Q: What kind of commotion?

A: She was arguing with that awful Ryan Roebuck. He was screaming at her "you crazy
witch, you need to just keep your nose out of my business. Bad things happen when you

1 don't keep to yourself." She was yelling back "I know what you've done and you won't
2 get away with it." Then I heard her scream. When I went to see what was going on I saw
3 Alison at the bottom of the stairs near the new planter bed that was being built and she
4 wasn't moving. Ryan Roebuck was standing over her and looking up at me. He told me
5 to shut up and go back to my room. I was scared of him, so I did what he said. I never
6 saw Alison again.

6 Q: Why were you scared of him?

7 A: He was that awful combination of big and strong and mean. I think Ms. Garcia was
8 scared of him too. He was always threatening her and demanding more money. I could
9 see the fear in her eyes.

10 Q: What kind of threats?

11 A: Strange things like "I know what you've done. Just think about what might happen if
12 I don't keep it to myself" and "I can make you disappear just as easily as one of your
13 tenants, old lady! Don't mess with me."

13 Q: How do you know that he actually made the threats?

14 A: One day Ms. Garcia's phone was buzzing on the counter. I couldn't help myself and I
15 looked at the message. That is where I saw the threats.

16 Q: Showing you Exhibit 27. Do you recognize it?

17 A: Yes. This is a copy of the text messages I saw on her phone.

18 Q: What did you do about the threats?

19 A: I talked to Brandon. But we decided we had a good setup here and shouldn't rock the
20 boat. I decided to talk to Ms. Garcia to be sure she was alright. She said she was fine
21 and not to worry about her. She told me that I had no idea what Roebuck was capable of,
22 and I should just stay out of it for my own safety. I could see how scared she was! I just
23 loved how her tenants were always her first concern, even before her own wellbeing.

23 Q: How did Brandon handle it?

24 A: I'm not really sure. He was considering confronting Roebuck and I am concerned he
25 may have done it. Brandon had mental problems and could easily have flown off the

1 handle and made some poor decisions. All I know is that that was about the time he left
2 for Canada to be with family.

3 Q: What makes you say that?

4 A: Ms. Garcia was bringing in the mail and was handing me my check to sign when we
5 noticed that one of the letters was from Brandon. It let us know he was safe and not to
6 worry about him.

6 Q: I want to show you what has been marked as Exhibit 26. Do you recognize it?

7 A: Yes. That is the letter we got from Brandon in the mailbox. But I'm not positive that
8 that is his handwriting though. I can't really say one way or the other.

9 Q: Did you ever see Brandon again?

10 A: No. It was just a few weeks later that the cops showed up and started finding bodies
11 in the yard. It was just too much for me, and I tried to go back to VAIS. They had no
12 room available, so I have been living on the street ever since.

12 Q: My next question is very important. Do you believe Adrianna Garcia had anything to
13 do with the other tenants' deaths?

14 A: Absolutely not! She would never have hurt a fly. She was old and pretty frail. Not
15 only did she have no reason to do it, I doubt she could have physically done it. It just
16 doesn't make sense.

17 Q: Why not?

18 A: Look – I lived with her for over 8 years. I probably knew her better than anybody
19 else. She cared for us, she treated us well, and she would never have done such a thing.

20 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. KANE

21 Q: Let me get this straight – you lived at 1426 F Street for over 8 years?

22 A: Yes. So what?

23 Q: And over that time you have watched 7 different tenants come and mysteriously go.

24 A: I wouldn't say mysteriously, but yes. They all had their reasons.

25 Q: You mean reasons like murder?

1 A: No. They may have died while living there but that doesn't necessarily mean they
2 murdered. And there is no way that that sweet old lady hurt any of them. She did
3 nothing but care for us.

4 Q: But isn't it true that during the investigation Ms. Garcia was making you lie for her?

5 A: No. That is ridiculous.

6 Q: Showing you Exhibit 1, this is a note that you slipped to Officer Lee while he was
7 investigating the case.

8 A: I recognize it. That's my handwriting.

9 Q: What did you mean when you wrote this note?

10 A: Just that I didn't want to lie about Ms. Garcia running a boarding home.

11 Q: Well, let's talk about that. Four tenants allegedly died of illness or passed in their
12 sleep, right?

13 A: Yes.

14 Q: And yet she never called a doctor or took any of them to the hospital?

15 A: Not exactly. Ms. Garcia told me that Megan had gone to the hospital before leaving
16 for Texas.

17 Q: But you never visited Megan or have any information that it actually happened?

18 A: No. I guess not.

19 Q: Kristin allegedly went to rehab. But you have no evidence that actually happened
20 either, do you?

21 A: Ms. Garcia told me it did, and I have no reason to disbelieve her.

22 Q: And Alison had an accident?

23 A: Yes. She fell down the stairs. I heard yelling outside and when I went to investigate I
24 saw her at the bottom of the stairs, dead at the feet of Ryan Roebuck.

25 Q: You signed over your entire Social Security checks to Ms. Garcia while you were a
tenant at the boarding house?

A: Yes. It covered my room and board and expenses. \$1500 seemed fair for what I was
getting.

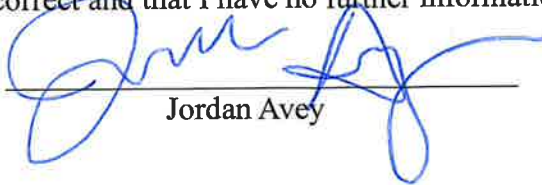
1 Q: So that's over \$120,000 for the over 8 years you were there.
2 A: I can't do math, so I will have to trust you. It seems about right.
3 Q: And to your knowledge she had the same agreement with the other tenants.
4 A: Yes. That's what they said.
5 Q: Even after they "disappeared" you know that she was still cashing their checks?
6 A: All I know is that I saw a couple of them in the mail before Ms. Garcia took over mail
7 duty. She told me she would get it corrected.
8 Q: And you have no evidence she actually did that, do you?
9 A: I don't know one way or another.
10 Q: Let's talk about what you do know. You don't want to see Ms. Garcia go to prison?
11 A: No. There is no reason she should. She did nothing wrong.
12 Q: You know what it's like to be in prison, don't you?
13 A: Who cares?
14 Q: We do. Because you did a three-year stint in prison for Felony assault after being
15 convicted on 8/10/11, right.
16 A: I was having a mental break and thought that lady was about to attack me. It turned
17 out it was only in my head.
18 Q: And your 2/12/09 Felony Robbery conviction, was that also in your head.
19 A: No. I was desperate because I was starving and needed money to buy food. So I
20 robbed a guy at an ATM. He had plenty of cash and I had nothing.
21 Q: On 1/23/08 you were convicted of Possession of Heroin, right?
22 A: Addictions are hard to break.
23 Q: Now, Ms. Avey, you have been visiting Ms. Garcia in custody since she was captured,
24 haven't you?
25 A: I just wanted to check on her. She is not a young woman and I wanted to see if she
needed anything and to give her moral support.
Q: Well, you're certainly doing that! I have no further questions.

1 Q: So that's over \$120,000 for the over 8 years you were there.
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I have fully and completely reviewed this transcript and under the penalty of perjury hereby certify that the statement is true and correct and that I have no further information relevant to the matters discussed.

Dated: 4/1/24



Jordan Avey



2/19/24 (Monday) 1730 hrs. I, Deputy Danny Lee #187, received a response on the APB I had put out on Ms. Garcia. She was located at the Gold County International Airport attempting to purchase a one-way ticket to Mexico. I immediately responded to the scene and arrested Ms. Garcia. After being placed in handcuffs Ms. Garcia spontaneously stated "You've got the wrong person. I never hurt anyone. Can't a tired old lady just take a vacation without being harassed by the cops!" I took her back to the station and took a full statement after reading her the Miranda Warnings from my preprinted card. Below is a full and complete transcript of Ms. Garcia's statement.

1 Q: Good Evening Ms. Garcia. I would like to verify a few things about your background. How
2 old are you?

3 A: I am 60 years old. Born 3/16/64.

4 Q: How long have you lived in Gold County?

5 A: I moved here at the beginning of 2010. I rented a small apartment for a couple of months
6 until I found my home at 1426 F Street.

7 Q: Have you always lived at 1426 F Street since then?

8 A: For the most part.

9 Q: Tell me about your life before moving to Gold County?

10 A: I had a really rough upbringing. I was born to a single mother and I never really knew my
11 dad. It was just the two of us and it was a struggle. She brought strange men home and they
12 often abused her and sometimes even me. Things a little girl should never have to see.

13 Q: How did you handle that?

14 A: I frequently ran away from home and had to learn to survive. I did some things as a young
15 woman that I'm not really proud of. I was not a stranger to selling sex and shoplifted a few
16 times. I did have my GED and worked odd jobs.

17 Q: Showing you Exhibit 24, do you recognize it?

18 A: Yes. It is my criminal history. It breaks my heart to look back on my life and everything that
19 has happened over the years.

1 Q: Looking at your RAP Sheet I see a 1996 conviction for prostitution and a 1998 conviction for
2 grand theft.

3 A: Yes. I did my time and I moved on.

4 Q: And when you moved on it was to a 2003 conviction for fraud.

5 A: No. I was acquitted in the fraud case. And I should point out that my 1998 conviction for
6 theft case has been expunged.

7 Q: Just a few years after moving into 1426 F, in 2012, you went to prison for forgery.

8 A: I'm not proud of it, but I took a roommates check and cashed it for myself. I went to prison
9 for a couple of years and I've been clean ever since. I checked in with my parole officer
10 regularly and did everything else I was supposed to.

11 Q: When did you get out?

12 A: Around March of 2015.

13 Q: Did you have job at that point?

14 A: No. I made ends meet by taking in boarders. The house was big and I was all by myself so it
15 seemed like the perfect fit. I ended up hiring a regular handyman/gardener by the name of Ryan
16 Roebuck to help me take care of the place. I love to garden but sometimes need the extra help.
17 I'm old and can't do a lot on my own. But that doesn't mean I don't want beautiful flowers and
18 delicious vegetables.

19 Q: How long has Roebuck been around?

20 A: Since about 2015. He does odd jobs for me and helps me keep the yard looking nice. He has
21 constructed a shed for my tools and planter beds for the vegetables. He also helps to prune the
22 larger shrubs and trees.

23 Q: Tell me about your boarders.

24 A: As I told you before, I had a really hard upbringing. I saw how life can chew you up and spit
25 you out. I'd been on the streets, I saw how drugs and alcohol took its toll on those around me
26 and I wanted to do something to help. I decided that I would take in those who needed it most –
27 even those that had psychological problems or addictions. It seemed to be a good fit. I gave
28 them a place to live, fed them and generally did everything they needed to get by.

29 Q: How did they pay you?

30 A: People like that don't normally have anyone that cares about them. No family and friends to
31 speak of. I am the only one in the world that is there for them. I took care of all their finances

1 and they would sign over their Social Security checks to me to cover expenses. It was all pretty
2 simple and I quickly became known in the community for my charity. Social workers even sent
3 prospective boarders to me when they thought I could help.

4 Q: What about at the Zebra Club?

5 A: I would sometimes go out for a nightcap and the Zebra was a quick cab ride away. It wasn't
6 that far, but I'm an old lady and the walking and getting around was difficult for me. Anyway,
7 on several occasions I met people in the bar that were down on their luck. I would strike up a
8 conversation with them and if I liked them I would offer up space at my home. I would ask
9 about what kind of job they had or if they were on Social Security. If they had a way to pay, then
10 we had a deal.

11 Q: Who was your first boarder?

12 A: A woman by the name of Jordan Avey. She moved in around July of 2015 and has been there
13 ever since.

14 Q: You asked Ms. Avey to lie to us about where Brandon Jack was back in 2018, didn't' you?

15 A: No. That woman has problems. I don't know why she would say such a thing.

16 Q: Showing you Exhibit 1, this is the note she gave us. How do you explain it?

17 A: The rantings of a crazy woman. I only asked her to not talk about the boarding house. It was
18 a violation of my parole to run one. That's why I wasn't always forthcoming with you. I didn't
19 want to get into any more trouble. I have put that all behind me and I am doing everything I can
20 to be a better person and give back to my community.

21 Q: Let's talk about your community. Do you know your next door neighbors at 1424 F Street?

22 A: Not really. They have been a real thorn in my side. I tried to have a good relationship with
23 them, but they just won't control that mongrel of theirs. I told them to keep him out of my yard,
24 but he just kept coming over and digging in my flowers and pooping on my lawn. More than
25 once I have had to drag him back onto their property. Once he tried to bite me – the vicious
26 monster. Not to mention that Celeena kept sticking her nose into my business and bothering the
27 boarders.

28 Q: How did you handle that?

29 A: I told her I was going to file a small claims case against her and get a restraining order to
30 keep her away from the borders. She just glared at me and told me I would regret it. I wouldn't
31 be surprised if she was telling you a bunch of lies about me.

1 Q: Let's not beat around the bush! We found 7 bodies buried in your yard and I know you killed
2 them.

3 A: I didn't kill anybody. I didn't bury anybody. My conscience is not bothering me. I'm an old
4 lady. I've got nothing to hide. Just look at me – do you really think I could kill somebody.
5 There's no way I could ever drag a body!

6 Q: Who is Donna Johansen?

7 A: I think you know by now that its my fake ID.

8 Q: Why were you using it to buy a ticket out of the country?

9 A: It's your fault. This whole thing with the bodies in the yard. You have already convicted me
10 in the press for something I didn't do. You told me I wasn't under arrest when I went to get my
11 coffee. I just couldn't take all the stress and anxiety that was being put on me for something I
12 didn't do. I just needed to get away for a while to recover my sanity.

13 Q: It does look pretty bad for you with 7 bodies buried in your yard.

14 A: I didn't put them there. The house is decades old. Who knows how they got there. I'm sure
15 many different people have lived and died there over the years.

16 Q: How many of them did you kill?

17 A: None. Did I cash a few checks I shouldn't have? Yes. Did I kill or bury anybody? No. You
18 have to remember who those people were. Not to be callous, but they had been through a lot and
19 had a lot of physical and psychological problems. Most of them were older and in poor health
20 when they first came to the house.

21 Q: Let's just assume I believe you and they died naturally. How was it that nobody was ever
22 notified about it and they ended up buried in the yard.

23 A: They had no friends or family to mourn them and funerals, cemetery plots and headstones are
24 all expensive. Not to mention the fact that I couldn't let my parole officer know that I was
25 running a boarding house. I didn't want to go back to prison.

26 Q: Who was the first tenant you ever had die?

27 A: TeriAnn Grimes. When she came to me I knew she wasn't well. She told me she had liver
28 cancer and was approaching end stages. I wanted to help make her comfortable for as long as
29 she survived. One morning she just never woke up. It was awful, but in the end, I think she was
30 at peace.

31 Q: So what did you do?

1 A: I picked out a nice shady spot near my flower garden and paid Ryan Roebuck to dig the hole
2 and bury TeriAnn. I didn't need the attention, so I had him do it late the next night.

3 Q: How much did he charge to do it?

4 A: He told me he was always available for me and would do anything to make extra money. I
5 believe I paid him 10% which came out to \$150. When her next Social Security checks came I
6 kept cashing them and gave him a small portion.

7 Q: You signed TeriAnn's name on the check and put it in your own account?

8 A: Yes. She wasn't gonna use it and I certainly wasn't going to send it back to the government.
9 They would just waste it.

10 Q: How about the next month?

11 A: I hate to admit it, but it was just too easy. I kept on cashing them. I felt justified given all
12 that I have spent of my own money to help care for all these people.

13 Q: Showing you Exhibit 19, a forensic analysis of your bank accounts. Do you recognize that?

14 A: No. I have never seen it before in my life. Where did you get it?

15 Q: That doesn't matter. I want to ask you about some of the entries?

16 A: I'm just gonna have to take your word for it. I will help you if I can.

17 Q: Looking at the portion related to deposits. How do you explain them?

18 A: Like I told you I wasn't going to give up free money. These were for the checks that just
19 kept coming. I'm not sure about each entry but they seem reasonably accurate.

20 Q: There are also several larger lump sum payments to Mr. Roebuck. What do you say about
21 those?

22 A: He did a lot of other special jobs for me. He was my handyman and gardener. I remember
23 him building a shed and putting in some raised flower beds and doing some remodeling projects
24 on the house for me.

25 Q: Can you explain the variety of pharmacies you were making payments to?

26 A: Sure. All of my tenants, as well as myself, had a variety of ailments. I took care of them
27 when they were ill and handled all of their ongoing medications. I picked them up and made
28 sure they took them appropriately.

29 Q: Who was your next boarder after TeriAnn?

30 A: It was a man named Brandon Jack who moved in around the fall of 2016. He was another
31 very troubled individual. He was there about 2 years when he took ill around June or July of

1 2018. He kept talking about his family and needing to see them before anything happened to
2 him. I suspect he was just delusional. The next thing I know I'm getting a letter from him
3 letting me know he is never coming back.

4 Q: Showing you Exhibit 26. Is that the letter?

5 A: Yes. I was just as shocked as anybody when you found his body in the yard. I believed he
6 was gone and had nothing to do with his death.

7 Q: He didn't just bury himself in your yard, did he?

8 A: Of course not. It all makes sense to me now. Ryan Roebuck did it! He was blackmailing
9 me. After I had cashed TeriAnn's check and paid him he saw how easy it was. So after Brandon
10 left Ryan demanded that I cash his checks as well and give him half the money. I had no
11 forwarding address and there was no return address on the letter, so I decided nobody would be
12 the wiser. Ryan said that if I didn't he would "drop a dime" on my Parole officer and get me sent
13 back to prison. At my age that just wasn't an option.

14 Q: It sure seems like a lot of people were getting sick and dying at your house.

15 A: Most of them were already very very unhealthy. And when COVID came along it was a real
16 death blow. I lost Matthew, Casey and Megan to what looked to me like COVID. At that point I
17 was stuck. People were dying, Ryan was blackmailing me and their checks just kept coming.
18 I'm not gonna turn down free money. After the life I've lived, I deserve it. You should also
19 know that some of the payments to Ryan in those bank records were actually blackmail payments
20 to keep him shut up.

21 Q: What about Kristin Anderson?

22 A: I don't really know. One day she was gone and Ryan said he saw her getting into a taxi. She
23 never came back. I really feel like he had something to do with her disappearance. He was
24 getting used to his cut of the monthly checks and kept saying we needed to find a way to make
25 more. And then he would give me a wink and a sly grin.

26 Q: Why didn't you call the police?

27 A: Are you kidding? I was too far down the road on this one. Not to mention Ryan was
28 threatening me. He told me that if I ever said anything to anyone about what was going on that I'd
29 "be pushing up daisies with the rest of em."

30 Q: Wasn't there also an Alison Dunham at the boardinghouse for a while?

1 A: I'm afraid Ryan got to her as well. She had been nosing around in the kitchen and I caught
2 her looking at the mail. I think she figured out what Ryan and I were doing with all the Social
3 Security checks. The next night I heard arguing on the back stairs and went out to see what was
4 going on. I heard a loud yell just before I got to the door. When I got there I saw Alison dead at
5 the foot of the stairs with Ryan standing over her. He claimed she was belligerent and fell down
6 the stairs on her own. He said "I'll take care of the body, you take care of her checks."

7 Q: You tell a good tale, Ms. Garcia. But you've got one little problem. We got the lab report
8 back, and they found traces of Dalmane while conducting toxicology tests. You know what that
9 is?

10 A: Sure. It is an anxiety and sleeping pill. I started taking it around 2018. Don't worry, I have a
11 prescription for it. I have no idea how they would have got it in their system unless they got into
12 my medicine cabinet.

13 Q: You know it can be deadly, right?

14 A: Yes. I know that it should never be taken with alcohol or other drugs. My guess is that they
15 got into my medication and took it without my permission. I should have kept a lock on the
16 cabinet. Either they took too much, intentionally or unintentionally, or mixed it with
17 drugs/alcohol. You know that they all had various substance abuse problems.

18 Q: You don't feel like you are at all responsible for their deaths?

19 A: No. Its tragic and my heart goes out to them. I know from my own experiences how hard
20 life can be. I wouldn't blame them if they tried to end it. There are certainly no winners here.

The next day, after this transcript of Ms. Garcia's interview was prepared, she was given the opportunity to review it and to make any changes, additions or corrections as she felt were necessary. None were made. Following her review of this transcript I asked her to sign it at the bottom.

I have fully and completely reviewed this statement and under the penalty of perjury hereby certify that the statement is true and correct and that I have no further information relevant to the matters discussed.

Dated: 2/20/24



Adriana Garcia

1 THIENVU HO
District Attorney
2 901 G Street
Gold City, CA 95814-1858
3 Telephone (916) 874-5678

4 Attorneys for Prosecution

5 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
6 COUNTY OF GOLD
7

8 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,)

Case No. 23FE187187

9 Plaintiff,)

JURY INSTRUCTIONS

10 vs.)

11 ADRIANA GARCIA)

12 Defendant)
13

14 The Court shall (constructively) read these instructions to the jury before closing arguments:

15 **Introduction**

- 16
- 17 1. Members of the jury, the case has been submitted to you, and I will now instruct you as to
18 the law before you hear the parties closing arguments. The law that applies to this case is
19 stated in these instructions, and it is your duty to follow all of them. It is your duty to
20 determine the facts and to determine them only from the evidence in this case. You are to
apply the law to the facts. Neither sympathy nor prejudice should influence you or your
verdict.

21 **Evidence**

- 22 2. From time to time it has been the duty of the court to rule on the admissibility of
23 evidence. Any evidence that was received for a limited purpose should not be considered
24 by you for any other purpose than that stated by the court. You should disregard
testimony and exhibits which the court has refused or stricken.
- 25 3. The evidence consists only of the testimony of the witnesses and the exhibits which the
26 court has received.
- 27 4. Neither opening statements nor closing arguments are evidence, and any statement or
28 argument made by the attorneys which is not based on the evidence should be
disregarded.

- 1 5. You should consider all evidence in the light of your own observations and experience in
2 life.
- 3 6. The evidence may be either direct or circumstantial evidence. Direct evidence is
4 testimony about what a witness personally saw heard or did. Circumstantial evidence is
5 testimony about one or more facts that logically lead you to believe the truth of another
6 fact. You should consider both direct and circumstantial evidence in reaching your
7 verdict. You may decide the facts in this case based upon circumstantial evidence alone.

8 **Charges, Burden and Elements**

- 9 7. The government has charged the defendant with a single count of premeditated murder.
- 10 8. The defendant is presumed to be innocent of the charges. This presumption remains with
11 the defendant throughout every stage of the trial and during your deliberations on the
12 verdict; It is not overcome unless from all the evidence you are convinced beyond a
13 reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty. The government has the burden of proving
14 that the defendant is guilty of the charges, and this burden remains on the government
15 throughout the case. The defendant is not required to prove the defendant's innocence.
- 16 9. "Proof beyond a reasonable doubt" does not require proof beyond all doubt, as such
17 certainty is not possible with human affairs. Instead, proof beyond a reasonable doubt
18 requires a moral certainty that leaves one without hesitation to act.
- 19 10. For you to find the Defendant guilty of first degree murder, the Government must prove
20 each of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt: (1) the Defendant caused the death of
21 Brandon Jack; and (2) he/she acted willfully and with premeditation.
- 22 11. The government proves causation either if the defendant personally killed Brandon Jack
23 or if the defendant engaged, ordered, or otherwise caused another person to kill Mr. Jack.
- 24 12. The defendant acted "willfully" if he/she intended to kill.
- 25 13. The defendant acted with "premeditation" if he/she decided to kill before completing the
26 act(s) that caused death.
- 27 14. The length of time the person spends considering whether to kill does not alone
28 determine whether the killing is deliberate and premeditated. The amount of time
required for deliberation and premeditation may vary from person to person and
according to the circumstances. A decision to kill made rashly, impulsively, or without
careful consideration is not deliberate and premeditated. On the other hand, a cold,
calculated decision to kill can be reached quickly. The test is the extent of the reflection,
not the length of time.

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- 15. The prosecution is not required to prove that the defendant had a motive to commit the crime. In reaching your verdict you may, however, consider whether the defendant had a motive. Having a motive may be a factor tending to show that the defendant is guilty. Not having a motive may be a factor tending to show the defendant is not guilty.

- 16. For you to find the Defendant guilty of Grand Theft, the Government must prove each of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt: (1) the Defendant took possession of property belonging to someone else; and (2) he/she acted took the property without the owners consent; (3) the Defendant intended to deprive the owner of it permanently; and (4) the value of the property exceeded \$950.

- 17. For you to find the Defendant guilty of Felony Forgery, the Government must prove each of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt: (1) the Defendant signed someone else's name to a document; (2) the defendant did not have authority to sign that name; (3) the Defendant knew that he/she did not have that authority; and (4) when the defendant signed the document, he/she intended to defraud.

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3 Telephone (916) 874-5678

4 Attorneys for Prosecution

5 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
6 COUNTY OF GOLD

8 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,)

Case No. 24FE187187

9 Plaintiff,

10 vs.

VERDICT FORM

11 ADRIANA GARCIA,

12 Defendant

13
14 **COUNT 1 – MURDER**

15 As to the crime of the First Degree Premeditated Murder of BRANDON JACK as charged in Count 1 of
the Information, we the Jury in the above-entitled cause, find the Defendant, ADRIANA GARCIA:

16 **GUILTY** _____

NOT GUILTY _____

17
18 **COUNT 2 – GRAND THEFT**

19 As to the crime of Grand Theft as charged in Count 2 of the Information, we the Jury in the above-entitled
cause, find the Defendant, ADRIANA GARCIA:

20 **GUILTY** _____

NOT GUILTY _____

21
22 **COUNT 3 – FORGERY**

23 As to the crime of Forgery as charged in Count 3 of the Information, we the Jury in the above-entitled
cause, find the Defendant, ADRIANA GARCIA:

24 **GUILTY** _____

NOT GUILTY _____

25
26 Dated: _____

27 _____
Foreperson