

ANNA MORIAH WILSON (25)

Moriah was born on May 18, 1996, in Littleton, New Hampshire. She grew up in Kirby, Vermont and attended Burke Town School, The Riverside School (2010), Burke Mountain Academy (2014) and Dartmouth College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Engineering in 2019. Moriah was a professional bike racer and worked as a demand planner for Specialized.

In alpine skiing, Moriah rose to the level of a nationally ranked junior skier, placing 3rd in the 2013 U.S. Junior National Championship Downhill event. While at Dartmouth, she was a member of the Alpine Ski Team and played soccer.

After just two seasons, she rose to the top of both mountain and gravel racing in the nation, having earned numerous victories and podiums. A few weeks before her death, she had chosen to leave her job at Specialized and become a full-time professional bike racer. Moriah also enjoyed cooking, writing, and traveling – she especially loved Italy, Taco Tuesdays, maple creemees and playing Catan with her friends.

[Moriah's Obituary](#)

[Mo's Blog - Mail from Mo](#)

[Getting to Know Mo](#) (Velo News article published May 11, 2022)

A Q&A with Moriah Wilson, the winningest woman in the American off-road scene

[Moriah Wilson: The Real Story](#)

"About a year ago she had coffee with [pro cyclist] Colin Strickland to talk about how to get sponsors," recalls her mother. Strickland was sponsored by Red Bull. The Meteor, a bike café with locations in Bentonville, Arkansas and Austin, Texas, sponsored them both.

Memorial at Burke Mountain Academy

Three people close to Moriah gave eulogies at the memorial.

Steve Berlack referred to Moriah and the young people she was raised with as having grown up in the *“Burke sphere,”* and who had childhoods that were magical.

Gunnar Shaw, Moriah’s former boyfriend who remained one of her best friends, spoke next. *“Moriah had been bike-obsessed for as long as I can remember.”*

He said Moriah had a fierce family loyalty and a love for all things Vermont. *“Mo loved Vermont maple syrup and maple creemees more than anyone I have ever met.”*

“Moriah lived with extreme intention,” and she believed in the good, he said.

“When she set her mind to something, Moriah was more driven than anyone I had ever met,” said Shaw.

“It was clear Mo wasn’t going to let anyone or anything stop her,” as she ascended in the competitive gravel bike racing world, said Shaw, saying she turned herself inside out to succeed and be the best bike racer she could be.

Another of those who shared a eulogy was **Allen Lim**, who shared how Moriah shone light on the mundane, making insignificant moments significant and special. In her last week of life, Lim said she was the happiest he had ever seen her; she had recently moved to Boulder, Colo., and she was training and settling into her new life there, including taking naps. She had begun singing. She felt safe and secure, he said.

TIMELINE

MARCH 6, 2018

Kaitlin Armstrong [has a \\$650 botox procedure done at a Travis County spa](#) and leaves without paying for the service

2019

Colin Strickland and Kaitlin Armstrong meet on a dating app

FALL 2019

Moriah Wilson starts her gravel racing career

SPRING 2020

Colin and Armstrong briefly break up

JANUARY 2021

Armstrong moves in with Colin after her apartment floods

APRIL 19, 2021

Armstrong purchases [property](#) at 4924 Manchester Circle in Austin, Texas

MAY 14, 2021

Armstrong purchases [property](#) at 1109 Speer Lane in Austin, Texas

MAY 18, 2021

Kaitlin Armstrong and Colin Strickland purchase [property](#) at 758 S Blanco Street in Lockhart, Texas for \$105,040 and pay with cash

JULY 2, 2021

Armstrong takes her first [real estate class](#)

OCTOBER 2021

Colin and Armstrong break up following a race in Bentonville, AR (they split for approximately 5 weeks)

Colin has a brief relationship with Mo during his break with Armstrong

OCTOBER 26, 2021

Wheelhouse Mobile LLC paperwork filed with the Texas Secretary of State; Armstrong and Strickland are listed as the managing members

OCTOBER 28, 2021

Armstrong calls and confronts Mo [6:34 pm]

TEXT EXCHANGE BETWEEN STRICKLAND & ARMSTRONG

ARMSTRONG: *"I know you know better than to show up at meteor with that girl."*

ARMSTRONG: *"Aside from that, enjoy your eve."*

STRICKLAND: *"Could you please be an adult?"* [6:53 pm]

STRICKLAND: *"Mo left for meteor with friends an hour ago. I am not going because I am trying to respect you."* [7:45 pm]

STRICKLAND: *"Yet, I'm not feeling respect from you."*

ARMSTRONG: *"Not the best feeling is it."*

STRICKLAND: *"Yeah, you sure are paying it back."*

STRICKLAND: *"Did you call Mo? Wtf?"* [8:05 pm]

STRICKLAND: *"Can you talk? I need to understand what is going on."* [9:20 pm]

ARMSTRONG: *"Sorry, I can't talk right now."* [9:37 pm]

NOVEMBER 2021

Armstrong tells friend, Nicole Mertz, that if Colin dates someone else, she'll kill her

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Armstrong texts a friend while traveling in Tulum, Mexico

DECEMBER 2021

The Kuper Realty office in Austin publishes a blog post and Facebook post (both have since been deleted) introducing Armstrong as a company sales agent. The post describes Armstrong as a “tenacious agent” and “avid cyclist” who also teaches yoga and co-founded Wheelhouse Mobile, the vintage trailer renovation company. Wheelhouse’s website says Armstrong founded the company in 2021 with her partner, Strickland, who is a Red Bull athlete

DECEMBER 6, 2021

Colin purchases two handguns – one for himself and one for Armstrong

JANUARY 7, 2022

TEXT EXCHANGE BETWEEN WILSON & STRICKLAND

STRICKLAND: *“Hey, just did something to my phone - checking to see if this message goes through?”*

STRICKLAND: [Photo of a flatbed truck] *“Did you receive it?”*

WILSON: *“Hahaha yesss”*

JANUARY 13, 2022

Armstrong purchases a 50-round box of ammo at The Range during a target practice session with her sister and her sister’s neighbor, Jill Zann

JANUARY 30, 2022

Armstrong is visibly upset and shaking after seeing Mo at the Meteor in Bentonville, AR; she tells Jacqueline Chasteen she wants to kill Mo and says [something to the effect of], *“no, you don’t understand... I bought a gun”*

MARCH 12, 2022

Colin posts a video from a race finish on Instagram and Mo is visible in the background, prompting Armstrong to text Colin *“send my love to Pete and Mo”*

MARCH 29, 2022

An arrest warrant is issued for Armstrong on Class B misdemeanor theft charges for Botox (bail is set at \$3,500)

MAY 2, 2022

Colin has ongoing text conversation with Mo while traveling in California

Armstrong logs into Colin’s Gmail and Instagram accounts and subsequently looks up pictures of Mo on her phone

Armstrong books a flight to Phoenix, AZ and flies out to meet Colin to ride back with him to Texas

MAY 9, 2022

Colin and Armstrong arrive back in Austin, TX

MAY 10, 2022

Mo arrives in Austin to visit with a friend, Caitlin Cash, for several days before a scheduled race in Hico, TX

Armstrong accesses Mo’s profile on Strava 4x

MAY 11, 2022

Morning - Colin goes on 3-hour bike ride with a male friend and Armstrong (Armstrong turned back after 30 minutes)

1:23 - 4:23 pm - Mo goes on a solo bike ride

4:24 pm - Armstrong calls Colin [call lasts 3:04 minutes]

4:32 pm - Mo texts Colin that she’s back at Cash’s apartment

4:49 pm – Mo texts Colin her location

4:54 pm – Armstrong views Mo’s Strava profile and views the map showing where Mo started and ended her bike ride that day

5:43 pm – Colin picks up Mo from Cash’s apartment on his motorcycle

5:52 pm - Colin has missed call from Lance Tindle

6:24 pm - Colin has missed call from Armstrong

7:20 pm - Armstrong leaves home driving her Jeep

7:30:22 pm – Armstrong’s phone is powered off

7:35 pm - Armstrong arrives in the vicinity of Cash’s apartment

8:02 pm - the Jeep moves slowly down 18th Street, near the corner of Chestnut Street (per witness Vuong’s camera footage)

8:08 pm - the Jeep slowly travels down Maple Avenue (per witness Donlin’s camera footage)

8:16 pm - Colin’s motorcycle leaves Pool Burger (per footage from 68 Degrees Kitchen located across the street)

8:23 pm - the Jeep moves back down 18th Street in the opposite direction and circles the block before stopping completely for 2-3 minutes (per Vuong’s footage)

8:26 pm - the Jeep slowly travels down 18th Street (per witness Palao’s camera footage) and in the opposite direction on Maple Avenue (per Donlin’s footage)

8:35 pm – Colin drops off Mo at Cash’s apartment

8:36 pm – Mo unlocks the door to the apartment

8:37 pm – the Jeep stops in the alley next to the apartment

8:38 pm – Colin sends a text to Armstrong

9:07 pm - Colin answers a call from “Allen Able Owner” [call lasts 8 minutes, 58 seconds]

9:13 pm – the Google Drive app is accessed on Mo phone

9:13:44 pm - Mo sends a text to podcaster Christopher Stricklen

9:15 pm – Mo's screams and 3 gunshots are heard (per Donlin's camera footage)

9:37 - 9:42 pm – the Jeep stops near the dumpsters at an apartment complex down the road from Armstrong/Strickland's house (per GPS data)

9:47:40 pm – Armstrong's phone is powered back on

9:48 pm - Armstrong arrives home driving her Jeep

9:54 pm – Cash arrives home, calls 911, and administers CPR

10:00 pm - Alan Burrows stops by Colin's house to pick up bike parts

MAY 12, 2022

Between 9:00 - 10:00 am - Colin agrees to go to APD HQ for questioning

12:46 pm - APD detains Armstrong and brings her to HQ for questioning

2:35 pm - Armstrong walks over to a neighbor's house hoping to use his phone; the neighbor is out of town but speaks to Armstrong through his Ring doorbell and suggests she try another house [per arrest affidavit]

Armstrong deletes a note from her iPhone Notes app containing the address of 1704 Maple Avenue (**this address doesn't exist but Cash's apartment is shown at this address on Google Maps*)

MAY 13, 2022

An UNSUB pushes Colin's motorcycle into Armstrong's Jeep at their house and knocks over some stone pavers

Colin arrives home from Lockhart, TX that evening to find a note from Armstrong and never sees her again

Colin met with a real estate attorney who advised him to retain a criminal lawyer; the criminal attorney advised him to separate from Armstrong and stop speaking to her while the police were fact-finding

Armstrong loads \$500 onto a prepaid debit card and buys a cell phone at Walmart

Armstrong creates a new yoga-related email address using the name “Kai”

Armstrong receives an offer from CarMax to buy her Jeep Grand Cherokee for \$12,200 (she’s seen on camera at CarMax selling the Jeep later that same day)

Armstrong takes an Uber to the airport at approximately 9:30 pm (per Uber email receipt)

The Instagram account ‘kaitlinarmstrong’ associated with Armstrong’s previous email address is deleted (per information obtained from Meta)

MAY 14, 2022

Armstrong travels from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport to LaGuardia with a layover in Houston (per itinerary email from Southwest Airlines)

Colin sent text to Armstrong asking her to pull \$100,000 from a Schwab account and put into his account to settle attorney fees but never got a response (two weeks prior, Armstrong told Colin that the real estate case was taking too long to resolve – he had refinanced his home and received \$350,000; most went into his trailer business but he had Armstrong invest the remaining \$100K – and suggested he invest the funds in a Charles Schwab account)

MAY 17, 2022

Colin has a second interview with APD

MAY 18, 2022

Armstrong purchases a plane ticket departing Newark, NJ [at 5:09 pm] and arriving in San Jose, Costa Rica [at 8:19 pm] using her sister’s name and passport

MAY 25, 2022

Armstrong purchases a VPN subscription (per email from Surfshark VPN)

Armstrong purchases a Skype account (per email receipt from Skype)

MAY 27, 2022

Armstrong uses her phone in Costa Rica to conduct internet searches about the murder investigation

- search for *"Kaitlin Armstrong"*
- views KVUE article related to Armstrong fleeing
- search for a news story with the title *"Moriah Wilson murder: Colin Strickland 'in hiding' until suspect..."*

MAY 28, 2022

- search for *"can imei be tracked if not making phone calls"*

JUNE 2, 2022

APD learns that Armstrong's Jeep is located at Carmax in North Austin

JUNE 10, 2022

A Grand Jury indicts Kaitlin Armstrong for the murder of Anna Moriah Wilson

JUNE 22, 2022

Armstrong pays \$6,425 for plastic surgery in Costa Rica

JUNE 23, 2022

The reward for Armstrong's capture climbs to \$21,000 – \$5,000 is being offered by the U.S. Marshals, \$1,000 by the Capital Area Crime Stoppers, and an anonymous donor contributes up to \$15,000

- Armstrong has a brow lift and rhinoplasty procedure under the name *"Allison Paige"*
- internet search for *"can pineapples burn your fingerprints"*
- internet search for *"TIL workers who cut up pineapples eventually lose their fingerprints"*
- numerous searches are made for rhinoplasty plastic surgery

JUNE 29, 2022

Armstrong is [apprehended in Costa Rica](#) at a [hostel on Santa Teresa Beach in Provincia de Puntarenas](#) by local authorities working with the U.S. Marshals, Homeland Security, and the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service

Armstrong was reportedly staying at Don Jon's Surf and Yoga Lodge [under the name "Ari"](#) and studying new yoga, possibly to instruct again. Staff repeatedly turned down Armstrong's requests to work as a yoga instructor but eventually relented, and she began helping with the classes when the teacher was scheduled to be off. She also worked shifts at the front desk in reception

- Armstrong resets her phone to its factory settings and erases all data

JUNE 30, 2022

US Marshals issue press release -

Armstrong will be deported and returned to the US, where she will be held on a \$3.5 million bond. If bond is posted, she must surrender her passport prior to release, an 8 pm curfew will be enforced, and her movements will be GPS monitored.

US Marshals said one of the primary ways they tracked Armstrong was by searching for local yoga studios to see if Armstrong had signed up for courses. They found that Armstrong had signed a log-in book at a yoga studio under the same alias she was using to travel under.

JULY 3, 2022

Armstrong is [booked into a Harris County jail](#) under two charges: first-degree murder and a class B misdemeanor charge for theft of service equal to or greater than \$100 and less than \$750. Bond is officially set at [\\$3,503,500](#)

JULY 6, 2022

News reports indicate that Armstrong is now the subject of a [federal detainer](#)

JULY 7, 2022

US Marshals hold press conference

Armstrong traveled in three areas while in Costa Rica: San Jose, Jaco, and Santa Teresa. She also used three different aliases: Beth Martin, Liz Martin, Arie Martin.

The [US Marshals filed a criminal complaint](#) against Armstrong for willfully and knowingly using, or attempting to use, a passport issued or designed for the use of another.

A new [federal arrest warrant](#) affidavit related to Armstrong's unlawful flight to avoid prosecution says "laboratory test-firing of Armstrong's pistol confirmed that it fired the spent shell casings that APD found at the scene of the murder".

JULY 8, 2022

The Justice Department announces that Armstrong [faces new federal charges](#) for [misusing a passport](#).

On or about May 18, 2022, Armstrong entered Newark Liberty International Airport ("Newark Airport") in Newark, New Jersey. Armstrong, who traveled alone, boarded a flight bound for Juan Santamaria Airport, Costa Rica and presented a ticket in another individual's name ("Individual-1"), 1 a person known to Armstrong and whom Armstrong presented as herself. Video surveillance footage shows Armstrong presenting a passport while at Newark Airport. According to records maintained by the Department of Homeland Security, Armstrong presented a United States Passport ("Passport-1") in the name of Individual-1 in connection with her departure from the United States. The ticket contained what appears to be a slight misspelling of Individual-1's name.

JULY 20, 2022

Armstrong [enters a plea of not guilty](#) and exercises her right to a speedy trial. The State says Armstrong should not jump cases that are pending due to COVID-19 delays and requests that Armstrong be required to waive her right to effective counsel if the request is granted, as her attorneys have not yet received the full discovery.

[Cofer says he has questions](#) about why Austin police officers “seemingly ignored a tip about the former boyfriend of Ms. Wilson” and wants to know “who vandalized the home of Kaitlin Armstrong and Colin Strickland the night of Wilson’s death and why?”

Vandalism – Strickland told police that an unknown person pushed his motorcycle over onto Armstrong’s Jeep in their driveway (which put a small dent in her front fender), flipped over stones at the front of the property, and left two \$1 bills under one of the stones. This happened sometime in the early morning hours of May 13.

The judge sets the docket call for this case for October 19, 2022 with jury selection scheduled for October 24.

AUGUST 18, 2022

The State files a Motion for Order Prohibiting Comment to Media

AUGUST 23, 2022

Parties sign order agreeing to prohibit comments to the media

OCTOBER 11, 2023

Armstrong attempts to flee from sheriff’s deputies while at a doctor’s appointment with an outside provider

TRIAL BEGINS

PRESIDING JUDGE: HON. BRENDA KENNEDY

JURY SELECTION - October 31, 2023

STATE - tells jury they will need to prove intent but not motive or premeditation

DEFENSE - tells jury their job is not to decide guilt or innocence; their job is to decide if the prosecution is able to climb the “burden of proof” mountain

JURORS SELECTED: (8) women (6) men; (8) White (5) Hispanic (1) Black

OPENING STATEMENTS - November 1, 2023

STATE OPENING - ADA Rickey Jones; [Video](#)

Jones lays out the timeline of events (see timeline above).

DEFENSE OPENING - Geoffrey Puryear; [Video](#)

The State talked about what you'll see and hear throughout the course of the trial, but we want to talk about what you DIDN'T HEAR – there were no witnesses to the murder, there's no video footage showing Armstrong at the scene of the murder, there's no direct evidence that shows Armstrong is responsible. *"Not one witness saw Kaitlin Armstrong allegedly commit this murder. Because there isn't one."*

The detective had never been the lead of a murder case. The forensic and ballistic evidence were eye-balled and not expertly conducted. Ballistic evidence isn't a science at all and isn't the "gold standard" depicted on TV. The evidence is *"inaccurate, unreliable, and unscientific"*.

Law enforcement had tunnel vision and jumped to conclusions. You will hear that "weird" things were happening at Armstrong's home that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety.

Armstrong is passionate about traveling and yoga and was known to travel at the drop of a hat, at a moment's notice. She is *"trapped in a nightmare of circumstantial evidence."*

At the end of this, if you don't know the answers – the appropriate verdict is not guilty. The State has a job to do, and you will find at the end of this, the State has fallen short of meeting the burden of proof.



State Witness # 1 - [MATTHEW WILSON](#)

EXHIBIT: Picture of Mo and the Wilson family dog, Brooke, in 2015

EXHIBIT: Picture of Mo with her bicycle at the Mid-South race

- Mo's brother
- They grew up in Kirby, VT (population: ~500)
- They were very close growing up and spoke daily
- Mo competed in alpine ski racing at Dartmouth
- Mo lived in San Francisco at the time of her death but was moving to Boulder, CO
- She was killed a week before her 26th birthday [DOB: May 18, 1996]
- Mo began gravel racing in the fall of 2019 and was considered one of the best racers despite having only trained for 3 years
- He knew Mo was in Austin in May 2022 and his parents notified him that she was dead while at school in Middlebury, VT

EXHIBIT: Mo's Instagram with pictures of Mo competing and training

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He knew Colin was a professional cyclist and that Mo and Colin had met at a race and continued to talk from there
- He knew Colin and Mo discussed Mo becoming a professional racer and knew them to be professional colleagues
- He was also aware the two had been romantic in the past; he says Mo and Colin were not in love and were not dating when she was killed
- He only knows of one night Mo and Colin spent together in Austin during the fall of 2021

State Witness #2 - [CAITLIN CASH](#)

EXHIBIT: Map of Maple Avenue with pinpoint on Cash's apartment

- There is an alley next to her unit
- Mo was staying at her apartment on the night she was killed
- Mo woke up that morning around 8:30 am and arrived the night before
- She went on a solo bike ride around 1:30 pm (Cash was at work when she left but was at home when she returned)

EXHIBIT: Screenshot of the locking/unlocking of the deadbolt at Cash's apartment

- When Cash returned home that evening, the door was unlocked
- She saw Mo's feet sticking out from the bathroom about 15-20 feet away
- Mo was covered in blood and lying on her back
- She bent down and tried to wake her up before she called 911

EXHIBIT: 911 Call Audio [9:54 pm]

Cash is frantic and asks for EMS. She tells the dispatcher that she's found her friend on the floor and blood is everywhere. She doesn't know what happened, but Mo is not awake and there's blood all over her face and head. She's advised to administer CPR as the dispatcher counts out loud. She's on the brink of exhaustion when police officers arrive nearly 10 minutes later.

EXHIBIT: Screenshot of Cash's call log

- She's had CPR training but didn't know if Mo was still alive at the time
- She received an alert when Mo unlocked the door upon her return to the apartment, but she never received an alert showing that she locked it back

EXHIBIT: Photos of the interior of Cash's apartment

- The apartment is small with hardwood floors
- A staircase leads to a loft area
- The door has a lock with a keypad and deadbolt and electronically sends timestamps to Cash's phone

EXHIBIT: Photos of the exterior of Cash's apartment

- A staircase leads to the front door of the apartment
- Crime scene tape blocks it off from a back driveway
- Cash's car is parked underneath an overhang
- Mo's bike bag is located at the base of the stairs on the grass (earlier in the day, it was at the top of the stairs on the porch)

EXHIBIT: Photos of the crime scene

- Mo's legs and feet are lying outside of the bathroom and her body is covered by a wall from the knee up

EXHIBIT: Photo of Mo's racing bike thrown into heavy brush

- Cash explains the brush is a bamboo forest close to her apartment
- She spoke to police at her apartment and at the police station that night

RE: MO & COLIN'S RELATIONSHIP

- She knew about Mo's relationship with Colin; the two were romantic in October 2021 but not May 2022
- She recalls a night at The Meteor in Fall 2021; Mo and Cash had a conversation about a phone call that Mo had just received; Mo was agitated and caught off-guard by it

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- Mo also had a college friend who lived in Austin
- [October 2021] Mo and Colin were *"not dating but more than a friendship, not a fling but a casual relationship"*; Colin and Armstrong were broken up at the time and Mo and Colin's time together was short

REDIRECT

- Mo cleaned her bike while traveling after every heavy ride and before she put it back in the bag; she estimates the bike cost between \$10-13K

EXHIBIT: Picture of a stick of gum found sitting on the pantry

- Cash says the gum was out of place when she arrived home

State Witness # 3 - [MARTIN SALINAS](#)

- Salinas is a former APD officer
- He was working on patrol with a Field Training Officer (FTO) on 5/11/2022
- Dispatch advised them of a "check welfare: urgent" call
- Dispatch relayed that CPR was in progress; the call was upgraded to a "hotshot" call (respond with lights and sirens)
- They initially had trouble finding the apartment; the dispatch note said entry only through a hidden back driveway above the garage
- Upon entering the apartment, he immediately saw two legs sticking out from the doorframe and heard Cash begging for help
- He took over CPR upon arrival

- While administering CPR, he noticed a brass shell casing on the ground beside Mo's body
- After EMS arrived, he noticed additional spent shell casings
- He contacted homicide and the apartment and alley were established as a crime scene
- He collected background information from Cash, who appeared to be *"in shock and disbelief"*
- Cash was later transported to HQ by homicide detectives, while he returned to the scene to collect Mo's bicycle; the bike was placed in the back seat of his patrol vehicle
- Cash told police that Mo had intended to hang out with Colin Strickland and Salinas located his driver's license after conducting a search on his laptop
- Nothing seemed out of order inside the apartment; nothing was disturbed or thrown around and there was no obvious sign of forced entry

EXHIBIT: Salinas' Body Cam Footage

Salinas arrives on scene with his FTO (timecode is 22:01:30). They initially arrive at 1708A, not 1708B and knock on the wrong door. After locating the apartment, Salinas takes over CPR for Cash and continues for what seems like forever. Salinas tells his FTO that he sees a shell casing by his right knee. Blood gathers around Mo's body. Additional officers arrive and tell Salinas they see three shell casings. EMS arrives and tells Salinas to continue CPR and then ask him to pause while they examine the body and gunshot wounds. EMS tilts Mo's head and locates an exit wound. EMS takes charge and can be heard saying they're going to call it (meaning call the doctor to obtain a time of death). Timecode reads 22:07:15. Salinas questions Cash outside in the alley about what she knows about Mo's whereabouts that evening. Cash tells him about Mo's plans with Colin and says she doesn't know if they argued. Salinas pulls up Colin's license on his laptop in his patrol car.

State Witness # 4 - [CHRIS LESTER](#)

- Lester has been with Austin-Travis County EMS for 18 years
- At the time of the murder, he was working as a District Commander (he went on medical calls and performed administrative tasks)
- He arrived on scene while CPR was in progress; the fire department was trying to determine if CPR should continue
- There was a large pool of blood visible around the patient's head

- There were obvious signs of death upon arrival, so EMS was able to obtain a time of death from the medical director

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- 4 firefighters and 2 police officers were already present on scene when he arrived; he estimates being there less than 4 minutes
- The bathroom was small and narrow; there were two people in the bathroom and one officer was on his knees
- He can't recall if everyone was wearing gloves but he was

State Witness # 5 - [NATHAN TAYLOR](#)

- APD officer working patrol on May 11, 2022
- He didn't enter the apartment but secured the perimeter

EXHIBIT: Taylor's Body Cam Footage

Taylor approaches the scene from the back driveway with a non-uniformed civilian ridealong (timecode 22:03:53). He moves the bike bag from the bottom of the stairs and places it in the grass to prevent first responders from stepping on it.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- His role was to provide assistance with scene security
- There was only one access point to the apartment
- He moved the bike bag because preserving life trumps maintaining evidence

State Witness # 6 - [OFFICER PADILLA](#) (APD Officer)

EXHIBIT: Padilla's Body Cam Footage

Padilla observes the bike bag at the bottom of the stairs and kicks it to make sure nothing is in the bag. He enters the apartment as Cash is being moved from the bathroom to the couch. She is crying and immediately moves to the outdoor balcony. She can hardly breathe. She tells an officer that Mo went swimming with Colin and she last spoke to her around 5:30 pm.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He completed a supplemental report after he inquired about previous family disturbances involving Mo
- He inquired about them because it's important to gather all relevant details during an investigation

REDIRECT

- He has previous experience working with Major Crimes in Puerto Rico
- In his opinion, the crime appeared as if the perp knew the victim

State Witness # 7 - OFFICER LOPEZ

- He's been an officer with APD for 28 years and was working patrol in East Austin on 5/11/2022

EXHIBIT: Lopez's Body Cam Footage

Lopez walks down the back alley toward Cash's apartment and uses her flashlight to scan for evidence. EMS arrives on scene and heads up the stairs. The garage door under the apartment is partially open. Officers are heard asking about the bike's whereabouts. Lopez can't find it. [Fast forward] While putting up crime scene tape around the perimeter, she notices the bike ditched in a wooded bamboo forest. She calls on her radio that she's located the bike.

State Witness # 8 - SGT. ROLANDO RAMIREZ

- APD Officer for 24 years and has worked as a homicide detective for 5 years
- They had multiple calls about suspicious or overdose deaths on 5/11/2022
- Two other deaths were on hold at the time Mo's death was called in
- Salinas relayed details about the crime scene that indicated the death might be suspicious, so he alerted his supervisor and the homicide team
- At the scene, he searched outside for blood stains that other officers pointed out (the stains were later determined to be paint)
- He conducted a walkthrough of the apartment with other detectives after Mo's body had already been removed
- The apartment was organized and there were no clear signs of a struggle
- A small cabinet was open and a candy bar was on the ground, but there were no signs of theft

- The location of the bike didn't make sense to him
- He canvassed the neighborhood to look for cameras
- He located a camera and contacted the homeowner the next morning; the homeowner allowed him to review the footage, which showed a dark SUV passing through the alley before stopping by the apartment

EXHIBIT: Ring Doorbell Camera Footage

The black Jeep is seen driving down the driveway at 8:37 pm. It stops at the end of the driveway, out of frame.

- Ramirez observed the bike rack on the back, which triggered his suspicions
- He believed the person who entered the residence was known to the victim
- After observing the location of the body and the injuries sustained, he determined the suspect was intentional with their shooting; the crime seemed personal, the suspect was likely angry

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He inadvertently changed the date on his report
- His philosophy for investigating a murder is to let the evidence tell him what happened and not the responding officers
- He says there is no routine/pattern/standard operating procedure for doing things because every case is different
- By the time his shift ended, Colin was the person of interest and no motive had been identified
- Factors that led him to believe the murder was personal: no sign of forced entry, the clean apartment, the victim's phone was still left in the charger, and the gunshot wound locations on the victim

State Witness # 9 - CAITLAN LONGORIA (Crime Scene Specialist)

- Crime Scene Specialist (CSS), City of Austin
- She was tasked with photographing the scene on 5/11/2022
- She works from the outside in, taking overall shots and closeups
- She took more than 400 photographs of the crime scene

EXHIBIT: Crime Scene Photographs

1. The front door to the apartment
2. The balcony
3. The view from the front window on the balcony shows Mo's body lying on the bathroom floor
4. The lock on the front door shows no damage or sign of forced entry
5. The back alley and crime scene tape
6. The staircase leading to the apartment
7. The bike bag left outside
8. A red stain on a cinder block next to the bike bag
9. The living room with Mo's legs sticking out of the bathroom
10. A view from the kitchen shows Mo's full body with blood dripping down her legs
11. The kitchen floor shows a fanny pack on the floor by Mo's left leg and an opened candy wrapper by her right leg
12. Spent shell casing at the base of the kitchen cabinet
13. Spent shell casing on the kitchen floor
14. A full body shot of Mo; her blue dress is pulled up to her waist and she's covered in blood
15. A different CSS rotates Mo's body to show the pool of blood underneath
16. Spent shell casing inside the bathroom on the mat at the base of the sink
17. Closeup of Mo's right hand; an open wound on her index finger is bloody and a bag is lying next to her left hand
18. Closeup of a hole directly in Mo's chest
19. Closeup of Mo's back where the projectile exited
20. The floor after Mo's body was removed (Longoria points out a missing tile on the floor with an embedded projectile)
21. Wide shots of the crime scene with yellow tent evidence markers placed at different locations on the floor
22. Spent shell casings and a possible projectile marked with evidence markers 1, 2, & 3
23. Mo's bike in the bamboo forest (approx 200 ft SW of the apartment)
24. Stains on the street (it was unclear at the time if it was blood)

State Witness # 10 - [KATIE FERRARA](#) (Crime Scene Specialist)

- Crime Scene Specialist (CSS), City of Austin
- She was responsible for collecting evidence the night of the murder, including from the bicycle, a projectile, and fingerprints
- They err on the side of caution and submit things that appear to be prints but may not be
- She collected prints from the door and window and took DNA swabs from blood stains on the floor and Mo's body
- It can be difficult to lift prints from doors because of the nature of their surfaces

EXHIBIT: Mo's bicycle fully intact inside the evidence bag

The black bike has a red water bottle attached to it. Ferrara shows the jury where she swabbed the handlebars and seat.

EXHIBIT: 22 fingerprint cards taken from the apartment (a diagram on the card shows where each print was lifted)

EXHIBIT: 9mm fire cartridge casings

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- Ferrara is asked to place the bike in the position it was found in the bamboo
- There were no obvious bike tracks visible in the grass
- She admits anyone could have placed it there
- She can't remember who transported the bike to the lab and/or who was in charge of its safe delivery
- There was no disagreement among CSSs about which items to process

State Witness # 11 - [SGT. TIMOTHY PRICE](#)

- Price has been an APD officer for 14 years
- He was working on-call as a homicide detective the night of the murder
- Price and his team checked the bike for possible fingerprints at the scene
- Upon entering the apartment, he observed Mo's body on the bathroom floor and the spent shell casings; the apartment was otherwise clean
- The ME was the only person who manipulated the positioning or touched Mo's body and he oversaw the process

- If the ME sees something of interest, they point it out to an officer and/or CSS
- The ME pointed out the smaller injuries on Mo's body (there was an injury to her right index finger, one of her legs, defects on her ear and chin, and her face and hair were covered in blood)
- Mo was clutching a black hat in her hand and was wearing sandals and a summer dress
- During the exam, the ME located a projectile in Mo's hair and turned it over to CSS Ferrara
- When the body was moved, an exit wound was discovered on Mo's back and the projectile was located in the floor tile
- He made contact with Cash's landlord, David Harris, who lived in a separate house at the front of the property
- Harris gave him permission to look through his backyard (which backs up to Cash's apartment) but nothing was found
- The ME told him there were three gunshot wounds – one entered the right side of her face and exited the left jaw, one entered near her right temple and exited the chin, and one entered her chest and exited her back
- Mo also had abrasions on her index finger and knee

EXHIBIT: Crime Scene Video Footage

The video begins outside near the alley and was filmed by a Crime Scene Supervisor (CSS) – there's no audio. The CSS holds up his watch to show the date and time is 5/12/22 at 12:59 am. The CSS walks down the alley toward the apartment. Crime scene tape surrounds the perimeter. The CSS climbs the stairs leading to the apartment and shows the door with no sign of forced entry. There is open luggage on the floor and electronics on the couch (a laptop and two phones). One phone is still plugged in. From the fridge, you can see Mo's body sprawled on the floor. The CSS zooms in on the shell casings in the kitchen and blood on the floor. Closeups of Mo's shoes and blood stains, along with wounds and abrasions on her body, and close ups of a projectile. There is a blurred out closeup of Mo's bloodied face. A closeup of her dress pulled up past her waist. More closeups of shell casings. The CSS heads into the bedroom but no evidence is taken from there. They exit the apartment and walk down the stairs. The CSS walks to the bamboo forest and captures the bike tucked in the brush. The video ends.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- Price says he did not engage in confirmation bias
- The landlord was helpful but didn't have information about anything that was going on; it surprised him that Harris didn't hear gunshots
- He's not aware if anyone followed up with the Harris family

REDIRECT

- There was no reason or probable cause to enter the Harris home
- Harris was calm, helpful, and non-evasive but unaware of what occurred in Cash's apartment

State Witness # 12 - DAVID HARRIS

- Harris is Cash's landlord and has lived at 1708A Maple Ave since 2014 (Cash lives at 1708B)
- He lives with his two teenage sons and works as a civil engineer
- He saw ambulances in his neighborhood and officers near his unit, but he didn't inquire about what was going on
- After he went to bed, two officers knocked on his door and he cooperated
- He told police he didn't hear anything concerning but says he was disoriented at the time because he'd just woken up
- He approached an officer outside talking to neighbors several days later to let them know what he remembered after having time to reflect on it
- He recalled going into the garage and hearing someone rush down the stairs; he heard a bicycle traveling south and felt whoever rushed off heard him open the garage
- He was in the garage to take a bong hit before going on a walk; when he opened the garage to smoke, that's when he heard someone running off
- He tried to remember the timeframe this happened but can't remember an exact time; he knew there was some light out because it wasn't totally dark yet; it was dark when he returned from his walk

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He wasn't inebriated from the bong hit
- He can hear muffled sounds from his garage but can't discern conversations
- He doesn't agree that he could definitely hear gunshots from his house, but he could definitely hear them from his garage

State Witness # 13 - [MARTHA PALAO](#)

- Palao lives near Cash's apartment on 18th Street
- She has four Ring cameras (two in the front and two in the back)
- The front cameras capture 18th Street and the back cameras capture a back alley where she parks her car
- The police contacted her on 5/12/2022 at 6:30 am and asked to view her camera footage; she played the footage for the officers on her laptop and saw a black Jeep stop in her back alley
- The crime scene is about 100 meters from her home

EXHIBIT: Palao's Front Ring Doorbell Camera Footage

8:26 pm - the Jeep slowly passes by on 18th street (the Jeep has a bike rack)

EXHIBIT: Palao's BackRing Doorbell Camera Footage

8:37 pm - the Jeep passes by her house via the back alley

This footage is in the direction of Cash's apartment

- The Jeep wasn't familiar to her
- She was awake at the time of the murder but didn't hear gunshots
- Around 10:00 pm, she began to see police lights around her home
- She turned over the footage to a detective on 5/15/2022

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- The officer pointed out the Jeep to her; she didn't point it out to him
- She agrees the hill on 18th Street is steep and the alley is narrow
- She's never seen Armstrong before today
- Her camera wouldn't capture someone going up the stairs to Cash's apartment

State Witness # 14 - [MICHAEL DONLIN](#)

- Donlin lived a couple houses down from Cash (on Maple Avenue)
- His home had a doorbell camera that continuously recorded audio and video but only stored a month of footage at a time

- He read a post on NextDoor about APD canvassing the neighborhood for camera footage, so he emailed his footage from the requested time frame to a detective
- Donlin could hear people talking prior to the screams but couldn't make out what was said

EXHIBIT: Donlin's Doorbell Camera Footage

The footage shows a view of the road from his front porch. There is no timecode. (Donlin said he verified the time before and after sending the footage to police.) The black Jeep slowly passes by his house sometime after 8:00 pm. A second video from the same viewpoint shows the Jeep slowly passing by at a different time. The timecode reads 8:08 pm. At 8:26 pm, the Jeep slowly travels in the opposite direction on Maple Street. At 9:15 pm, a woman is heard screaming before two consecutive gunshots. After a pause, a third gunshot is heard.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- Police did not come to his house to ask for the footage; he only turned it over after he saw the post on NextDoor
- He never saw the Jeep in person and has never seen Kaitlin Armstrong before today

State Witness # 15 - [ANDREW VUONG](#)

- Vuong lived on 18th Street for two years and owned a closed circuit video system, which stores video on a hard drive and records 24/7
- On 5/11/2022, officers asked to view his camera footage
- A few days later, a detective followed up with him and he uploaded the footage to a USB drive that was picked up by an officer
- He wasn't at home at the time of the murder

EXHIBIT: Vuong's Video Camera Footage

The video shows the side of his home with a fence separating it from Chestnut Street. You can see the intersection of Chestnut and 18th. At 8:02 pm, the black Jeep moves slowly down 18th Street. At 8:23 pm, it heads in the opposite direction and circles the block. For 2-3 minutes, the Jeep is stopped directly in front of his house and doesn't move. The Jeep then crosses Chestnut St and moves slowly down 18th.

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

State Witness # 16 - DANIEL SHEER

- Sheer lives on Maple Avenue and has a Nest camera under his carport
- Police left a card at his door a few days after the murder requesting footage from his camera; he didn't know that a crime had occurred when he submitted the footage
- He left home around 8:30 pm to see a movie with friends and noticed police lights nearby when he returned home

EXHIBIT: Sheer's Nest Video Camera Footage

Sheer's black vehicle is parked under the carport. The carport is slim and only fits one car. A door on the right leads into his house, and a fence on the left separates his home from neighbors. Sheer is seen exiting his house and walks toward his car. At the same time, a motorcycle is seen passing by his house.

State Witness # 17 - SGT. JASON AYERS

- Ayers works for the APD and has worked in organized crime, robbery, and other units; he began working in homicide in 2021
- He says the last person to see a victim is almost always a person of interest
- He and another detective paid Colin a visit in person, as they knew he was a competitive cyclist, was the last person seen with Mo, and had a past romance with the victim
- They arrived at Colin's house just before 9:00 am on 5/12/2022
- Colin was in the garage working on his bikes when they arrived and they noticed the black Jeep parked in the driveway
- Detective Spitler told Colin that Mo was dead and that her death was being considered a homicide

EXHIBIT: Ayers's Body Cam Footage (17 minutes in length; the video and audio were played outside of the jury in the courtroom)

Colin is seen working in his garage in a gray shirt and green shorts. One of the detectives approaches him and asks, *"Do you know Anna Moriah?"* Colin appears confused until the detective clarifies, *"Everybody calls her Mo?"* Colin replies, *"Oh yes, yes, I do."* Spitler tells him about Mo's death. Colin appears to be at a loss for words and his mouth is wide open. He has his hands on his hips and looks down at the ground silently. The police are silent as they observe Colin's behavior. They ask him for Mo's mother's address, but he doesn't know it and doesn't say much. He rubs his face and crosses his arms.

He tells APD that he went to Deep Eddy with Mo yesterday afternoon and dropped her off a little before dark. He estimates they were together between 5:30 and 7:00 ish. APD asks if there was anyone weird hanging around them or lurking around and he says no. He dropped her off in the alley at the base of the apartment stairs just before dark. *"She's the best female bike racer in the country right now,"* he says. Detectives continue to question his timeline, as if checking for consistency. He says he went to the dentist earlier in the day, and Mo went on a training ride before they hung out.

Colin describes what Mo was wearing the day before. He says he didn't go inside the apartment when he dropped her off. He stayed at the base of the stairs, took the helmet she'd been wearing, helped her get her bag, and left. *"She's passed away?"* he asks. A detective responds, *"yes sir"*. He covers his mouth in disbelief.

He says they met at a couple of bike races last fall in Idaho. He says during her visit to Austin in October 2021, they had a brief relationship. They went on rides together. He says their relationship was intimate and that he was on a break with his current girlfriend at the time. He says Mo went back to California and he eventually got back together with Armstrong, but he maintained a professional relationship with Mo and helped her obtain sponsors. Because he was a sponsored rider for Red Bull and she was an up-and-coming racer in the pro circuit, they stayed in touch and continued to see each other at events, but they hadn't been intimate since October 2021. *"She's an awesome and cool person,"* he says.

They didn't talk again after he dropped her off at the apartment. He says he's met Cash and calls her a sweetheart. He says there was no anxiety or anything out of the ordinary about their night; Mo didn't appear to be worried about anything. The last thing he said to her was see you tomorrow, in reference to a pre-race dinner. He clarifies with detectives, *"I was the last person who saw her in her inner circle?"* They confirm that he was and he agrees to go down to headquarters to give an official statement.

The judge rules the video can be shown in its entirety to the jury, but the audio must be stopped at a certain mark.

- Ayers says his questioning of Colin was a surprise, as unannounced visits prevent persons of interest from coming up with excuses and alibis
- He noticed a female pass by the window two or three times as he was outside talking to Colin

EXHIBIT: Edited footage from Ayers's body cam footage

The audio drops when Colin begins to go through his memories of the events from the day before.

- Later that evening, Ayers helped execute a search warrant at Colin's home
- Armstrong stood in the driveway with her attorney while the search was executed
- The black Jeep Grand Cherokee was also searched
- A second search warrant was also executed at 4924 Manchester Circle, a home being renovated by Armstrong, but nothing was taken from that location

ITEMS RECOVERED DURING THE SEARCH

- (2) Macbooks
- (2) cell phones
- DNA swabs of the steering wheel
- (2) 9mm handguns

Digital photographs were also taken.

EXHIBIT: Photos taken during the execution of the search warrant

1. Inside the master bedroom closet, a gun case sits on the top shelf with a cardboard box on top of it
2. Inside the box is at least 5 boxes of 9mm ammo, magazines, an owner's manual, and pistol holder
3. Inside the gray gun case with the insignia "SIG" are two handguns – a black Sig Sauer, fully locked with a cable, and a silver Remington
4. The boxes of ammo contain 50 bullets, fully intact
5. A different make/model of ammo is opened and contains 25 bullets, fully intact

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- His involvement with this case was limited; he was a supplemental detective and only assisted on 5/12/2022
- Detective Spitler was the lead investigator on this case and the newest detective in the unit
- They observed Armstrong at the home when they questioned Colin but didn't ask to speak with her or ask for her ID
- The boxes of ammo appeared untouched and most are primarily used for target practice at the range; one box of ammo is typically used for self-defense
- He's never seen a retailer sell ammo in single rounds
- It's possible that Colin tipped off Armstrong about Mo's death when he went inside to put on his shoes before going down to HQ

REDIRECT

- Detectives never told Colin how and/or where Mo died
- Ammo primarily used for target practice can also be used to kill someone

State Witness # 18 - [MIREZHA GUEVARA](#)

- Former CSS with the City of Austin; now works as a consultant
- She took photos during the execution of the search warrant

EXHIBIT: Search Warrant Photos

1. Exterior of Armstrong/Strickland residence
2. Black Jeep with bike rack parked on the right side of the driveway
3. BMW motorcycle parked on the left side of the driveway
4. Closeup of the rear of the Jeep (the upper reflector on the right side of the bike rack is missing)
5. Closeup of the Jeep's hubcap and tire
6. Interior hallway and front door from the porch looking in
7. Hallway entrance with living room in the background
8. Wide shot of the living room (messy, red couch, guitar, record player and records, books)
9. Kitchen: boxes on the floor and counter
10. Kitchen table with laptop with pink case and an iPad; various bags hang from chairs
11. Kitchen counter: medicine, bags, and boxes, a plugged-in phone
12. Closeup of plugged-in phone (time displays 5:27 pm on May 12, 2022)
13. Black backpack on kitchen counter with vehicle keys on top
14. View of the Jeep's driver's seat and steering wheel with the door open
15. Closeup of the Jeep's center console (interior of the Jeep is dirty/dusty)
16. Box on the floor of the passenger seat
17. View of the backseat: seats are down; table and stools are in the trunk
18. Bedroom: wooden desk with a laptop on a stand and a monitor
19. Second bedroom: exercise equipment and electronic tablet
20. Living Room: a counter holds various containers of a leafy green substance
21. Various items spread out on kitchen table: yoga mat, (5) \$100 bills, credit cards, TX license plate, passport and passport cards, notepads (the investigators laid these items out on the table after finding them)
22. Closeup of Kaitlin Marie Armstrong's U.S. Passport (issued June 2021 and expires May 2031; next to the passport is at least 90 pesos)
23. Closeup of Christine Elizabeth Armstrong's U.S. Passport Card
24. Closeup of COVID vaccination card and healthcare cards
25. Wide shots of garage: at least half a dozen bicycles pictured – some hang on the wall, other stand on the ground; cycling uniforms hang on the walls, along with helmets

ON THE STAND

- She wasn't privileged to the facts of the case; she only knew it was a homicide investigation and was tasked with documenting possible DNA and firearms evidence
- She swabbed the Jeep for DNA at the house and swabbed the firearms, magazines, and firearm locks the next day
- She processed the firearms for prints; no fingerprints were collected; samples were submitted into evidence
- She says it's not unusual to not find fingerprints on a gun; she did observe an oily substance on the firearms that was noteworthy

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- She left APD for career advancement and now works as a consultant
- The lead investigator of the search warrant was Ayers
- She didn't take custody of electronics but documented them in photos

Witness # 19 - [KAELI ARHELGER](#)

- Former general manager of the tiki bar near the Deep Eddy swimming pool
- She provided investigators with camera footage of the day Colin and Mo hung out at the pool and bar

EXHIBIT: Pool Burger Video Footage

Mo and Colin are sitting at a patio table. In a different clip, Mo exits the table and picks up a phone. In another video clip with a street view, a black Jeep is seen passing by.

- She confirms that two receipts from the pool bar (one with Wilson's signature and one with Strickland's) are authentic

State Witness # 20 - [COLIN STRICKLAND](#)

RE: HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH ARMSTRONG

- He met Armstrong on a dating app in 2019
- They had a 2.5 year "sometimes tumultuous" live-in relationship
- He says he loved Armstrong and believes that she loved him
- He was highly unsure if he wanted to form a long term relationship with her

- Armstrong moved in with him when her apartment flooded in January 2021; the move wasn't designed to be long-term but that's what happened
- He can't be sure if Armstrong monitored his conversations with other women but he believes she did; she confronted him about his communications with other women
- He met a woman in Colorado in late 2020 before Armstrong moved in; they were never intimate but would occasionally text each other
- He visited the woman in Colorado in 2021 while dating Armstrong and notified Armstrong via text that he was there; Armstrong responded by sending a semi-nude photo of the woman that she'd pulled from his old text messages
- He'd never shared or talked about the photo with Armstrong and was angry with her for what he considered an *"unfair response to the situation"*
- This confrontation made him hesitant to be transparent with Armstrong in the future

RE: HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH MO

- He met Mo at a racing event; she was the most exceptional female racer and had an obvious immense talent, and he wanted to support her career
- At a race in Bentonville, AR in October 2021, Mo won the race and the next day a friend invited him to go on a mountain bike ride with other cycling professionals, including Mo
- The ride caused friction with Armstrong because she felt left out, but he says she wasn't skilled enough to go on the ride
- Armstrong was angry during the drive back to Austin and he ended the relationship at that time; it was clear to them both that they were no longer dating after that
- He saw Mo in Austin 5-6 days after the bike ride in Arkansas
- Mo sent him a text about being in town and recently ending a relationship, and they became romantic at this time
- They traveled to Marfa, TX together for three days of training
- He doesn't recall texting or telling Armstrong about the relationship, but one day Armstrong called Mo and confronted her; Mo found the phone call *"strange and unnerving"* because they'd never met face-to-face
- At the end of the Marfa trip, Mo stayed in town for another 2-3 days before she moved on to her next cycling event

- He and Mo never talked about having a more serious relationship, as they would have needed more time together to make that decision
- They had regular conversations moving forward and he saw her at various cycling events in January and March of 2022

RE: HIS RECONCILIATION WITH ARMSTRONG

- Armstrong dated at least two other men while living in a separate bedroom at his home; he asked her to move out at one point, but they eventually reconciled and began dating again
- In December 2021, he purchased two guns with Armstrong
- He bought the guns because Armstrong was paranoid about road rage incidents, being alone on her bike in the woods, and the massive homeless population near their home; she was also concerned about a B&E that occurred at a house across the street
- In January 2022, the couple traveled to a world championship racing event in Bentonville, AR; Armstrong was acting as a manager to his business interests at the time, so she controlled his passwords, social media accounts, financial accounts, and records
- Mo was also at the Bentonville event; he didn't approach her but saw her a few times; at another event that same week, they interacted when Armstrong wasn't there
- Later that week, Armstrong mentioned her; he says she was jealous of Mo
- At another event, Strickland posted a video on Instagram of a race finish and Mo was visible in the background of the video; Armstrong responded to the Instagram post by sending him a text that said "*send my love to Mo*"; he felt that her behavior was extremely passive aggressive at the time
- In April 2022, he planned to spend a month on the road training in California; he went alone but talked with Mo during the trip, giving her advice and congratulating her on her finishes; they also chatted on Instagram and other apps
- They also met up in Santa Cruz and went on a ride together
- In May 2022, he drove to Tucson, AZ for training; Armstrong flew out to meet him with the intention of driving back to Texas with him, and they stopped in West Texas for a race along the way
- He describes his relationship with Armstrong at the time as "*very smooth*"
- He didn't communicate with Mo at any point during their drive

- He had a text thread going with Mo during his California trip, but he had deleted it before meeting up with Armstrong in Arizona because he *“didn’t want to agitate the defendant”*; he also changed Mo’s name in his phone to “Christine Wall” to avoid confrontation
- He and Armstrong arrived back in Austin on 5/9/2022
- Mo sent Colin a text on 5/10/2022 saying she’d be in Austin before competing at a race in Hico, TX; he suggested they go on a short training ride together and the texts were on a device that Armstrong had access to

RE: EVENTS OF MAY 11, 2022

- He went on a 3-hour bike ride with a male friend and Armstrong; Armstrong couldn’t keep up and turned back after 30 minutes
- Mo went on a solo ride that afternoon; she sent him a picture of herself on the ride and they discussed meeting up later
- Their plans to meet up later were finalized via text and Mo provided the address where she was staying
- He picked her up at Cash’s apartment and they went swimming at Deep Eddy pool (the temperature was 100+ that day); they left on his motorcycle with Mo wearing his helmet
- When he arrived at the apartment, he went inside while Mo gathered her things but were inside for less than 10 minutes
- They swam, ordered food and drinks, and he recognized a few friends
- He didn’t go in when he dropped Mo back off at the apartment
- He didn’t tell Armstrong he was meeting up with Mo
- Armstrong called and also sent him a text while he was at Deep Eddy, but he didn’t respond to either
- Before he headed home, he stopped and sent Armstrong a text with a fake alibi about his whereabouts; he said he’d been to deliver marijuana to a friend in North Austin (she didn’t respond)
- When he arrived home, he tried calling Armstrong but didn’t get an answer
- He had a 7-8 minute phone call with his friend Allen about bike parts and then prepped his bike for an upcoming race; he didn’t leave his house for the rest of the night
- Armstrong later arrived home driving her Jeep while he was in the garage working on his bikes; she was carrying a bag with a yoga mat in it
- He later packed for an upcoming race, drank some whiskey, and watched a documentary on his laptop at the kitchen table with Armstrong

- Armstrong's demeanor didn't strike him as out of the ordinary, and they both slept at the house that night
- He was "*shell shocked*" by the news he received from APD the next day
- Armstrong seemed shocked when he told her about it, but he can't recall exactly what she said
- He didn't know how and/or where Mo had been killed at the time
- APD took his cell phone when he went in for questioning and was there for 6.5 hours; he describes the interrogation as unpleasant
- He was told that Armstrong's Jeep was seen 15 feet from Cash's apartment
- He was fully cooperative and gave police details about the Jeep and the firearms that he and Armstrong owned
- He went to his dad's house after the interrogation because the police told him a search warrant was being executed at his home
- When he arrived home that evening, Armstrong was already there; they discussed what happened but not extensively
- He urged Armstrong to write down a timeline of her whereabouts, and she gave him with a list that didn't include Mo
- She said she went to a waxing appointment, a yoga class, and to a healer
- The next morning, they went to a coffee shop 5-10 minutes from their house to maintain a sense of normalcy
- Armstrong was paranoid that there were microphones in the house
- He then went to Lockhart, TX (where his business is located) and never saw Armstrong again
- When he returned home, she'd left him a note saying she had tried to go to Lockhart but her car smelled like gas and didn't continue
- He believes Armstrong's sister was living in NYC at the time of the murder
- He's never fired either of the guns they purchased but knew Armstrong had because he'd seen pictures of her at the shooting range
- At some point, he realized that at least four women were blocked in his cell phone (one of the women was Mo)

TEXTS FROM STRICKLAND'S PHONE

10/28/2021

ARMSTRONG: *"I know you know better than to show up at meteor with that girl."*

ARMSTRONG: *"Aside from that, enjoy your eve."*

STRICKLAND: *"Could you please be an adult?"*

STRICKLAND: *"Mo left for meteor with friends an hour ago. I am not going because I am trying to respect you."*

STRICKLAND: *"Did you call Mo? Wtf?"* [8:05 pm]

STRICKLAND: *"Can you talk? I need to understand what is going on."*

ARMSTRONG: *"Sorry, I can't talk right now."*

Other texts between Armstrong and Strickland discuss investment capital (June 2021) and a property dispute in Lockhart (October 2021).

1/7/2022

WILSON: *"Hey, just did something to my phone - checking to see if this message goes through?"*

STRICKLAND: [Photo of a flatbed truck] *"Did you receive it?"*

WILSON: *"Hahaha yesss"*

1/11/2022

STRICKLAND [to ARMSTRONG]: *"Please send me an image of the McBrides gun receipt for the pistols. It should be in the pistol case on the barstool in the living room."*

Colin explains he wanted to exchange his gun for one that fit his hand better.

PHOTO EXHIBIT: Gun receipt dated 12/6/2021

VIDEO EXHIBIT: Armstrong shooting handgun at firing range (she texted the video to Strickland)

3/12/2022

ARMSTRONG: *"Send my love to Pete and Mo"*

STRICKLAND: *"Can you please stop"*

This is the text she sent Colin after he posted a video on Instagram of a race finish and Mo can be seen in the background of the video. He says he found her text passive aggressive.

4/11/2022

WILSON: *"You make it to Santa Rosa?"*

STRICKLAND: *"V close"*

WILSON: *"Did you end up in a swanky hotel? I would be very jealous as I need a shower."*

Mo asks Colin about cycling rules and strategy. Colin says this was the type of professional communication he had normally had with her

5/10/2022

WILSON: *"hey hey"*

WILSON: *"Are you back in Austin?"*

WILSON: *"I'm flying there today to hang out with Cash for a few days before gravel locos."*

STRICKLAND: *"Heyeee! I just arrived last night. Out in Lockhart projecting, about to go ride in this."*

STRICKLAND: *"What are you guys up to tonight?"*

WILSON: *"Woww yea it is hot here, my God."*

WILSON: *"Gonna grab some food somewhere, not sure where yet. You?"*

Colin replies that he'll eat out in Lockhart and sends a movie. Mo likes the movie. Mo asks if he has a training ride for the next day on 5/11. He explains he had a solo ride planned and asks her if she wants to join.

5/11/2022

On May 11, Mo followed up about the bike ride but Colin had already left with a friend. Because of the delayed response, Mo questioned whether they were dealing with “phone issues again”.

STRICKLAND: *“Want to go swimming? Maybe swimming and a beverage. What do you think?”*

WILSON: [Photo of herself on a bike ride]

WILSON: *“Sounds great. I’m dying out here.”*

STRICKLAND: *“Oh god. You are still out??”*

WILSON: *“Yaa”*

STRICKLAND: *“When are you done? Want a moto ride to pool?”*

WILSON: *“Just got back!”* [4:32 pm]

STRICKLAND: *“Ok. Shall I head to Cash’s now?”*

WILSON: *“Sure! I’ve got nothing going on rest of the day!”*

WILSON: *“What’s your timing?”*

STRICKLAND: *“Heeere”* [5:43 pm]

Later...

STRICKLAND [to ARMSTRONG]: *“Hey! Are you out? I went to drop some flowers for Alison at her son’s house up north and my phone died. Heading home unless you have another food suggestion.”*

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He, Armstrong, and Mo were all at a race in Fayetteville, AR in January 2022; Armstrong and Mo didn't communicate at all but were at the same restaurant; he doesn't recall Armstrong being jealous that week
- There are 10-20 vehicles at any given time between his house and his business in Lockhart, TX; his mom's white Honda Fit was often at his home because she lived with him for months at a time
- He previously owned a black SUV similar to Armstrong's but got rid of it two years before the murder of Mo
- He's driven Armstrong's Jeep once or twice over the course of their relationship and can't say for certain if others have or haven't
- He doesn't remember the passwords to his laptop and iPad because he changed them multiple times; he sometimes uses a numeric code for multiple devices
- The defense asks who he was with before the trial started and if he talked about his testimony with anyone over the weekend; he says he talked to a friend who had been in the courtroom the whole time
- His text conversations with Mo were never sexual
- He doesn't remember if Mo held on to his waist or his body when she rode on the back of his motorcycle
- He confirms the same motorcycle seat that Wilson sat on is the same seat that Armstrong sat on
- He says he actively tries to forget the events of 5/11/2022 and chose not to review interviews with police prior to giving his testimony
- The defense asks him if he knows Armstrong well and he says no
- His home had five doors and at least one had an electronic keypad; he confirms that he's shared the code with others
- It wasn't rare for cyclists to come to his house even when he wasn't there
- Armstrong didn't seem frazzled on 5/11/2022
- He confirms he told Armstrong that he was with Mo the night before as he put on his shoes to go down to APD HQ; she didn't seem upset about that
- He met with a defense attorney on 5/13/2022 and decided to separate himself from Armstrong completely at that time

- He had a second interview with APD on 5/17/2022 and mentioned the vandalism that occurred at his home on 5/13/2022 (his motorcycle was pushed over onto Armstrong's Jeep and someone knocked over some stone pavers; he believes it was a homeless person)
- He initially believed APD was trying to push a narrative to lead him along and manipulate him
- He agrees that his relationship with Armstrong never included verbal assault, physical assault, harassment, or abuse, calls to the cops, etc; there was no real trauma within their relationship
- He confirms that Armstrong is athletic and yoga was a large part of her life; she often asked him to go to yoga but he had no interest in it
- He knows she took a spontaneous trip to Mexico after their breakup; he also knows that she's been to Bali, lived in Indonesia and Singapore, traveled to Iceland and Thailand for yoga
- They were in an exclusive relationship that began October 2019 and he didn't date others or have sex with other women while they were dating
- They broke up briefly in the spring of 2020; he can't recall if he had sex or flirted with other women during that time; he broke up with her because he didn't think they had enough in common to continue the relationship
- He says Armstrong didn't manipulate him into their living arrangement but did ask if she could move in
- The breakup in October 2021 lasted about 5 weeks, and he intended for it to be final
- He says he told APD he didn't know Mo very well because they'd spent very little time together on this earth
- He confirms he told police that Armstrong was a wonderful person who went out of her way to help others
- He doesn't know if a third party allegedly warned Mo not to get involved with him
- He believes Armstrong had a problem with Mo, specifically; he can't recall her being jealous of his previous relationships with other cyclists
- He paid for the guns found in his home and it was his idea to buy them, but Armstrong chose the gun she wanted
- He says he encouraged Armstrong to train with the gun; it was his opinion at the time that all women should have a gun for protection, but he no longer agrees with that philosophy

- He says he put the cable locks on the guns and Armstrong didn't have prior experience with them
- He's never seen Armstrong clean a gun and he's never cleaned one; he doesn't know if the substance used in cleaning kits smells like anything

DEFENSE EXHIBIT: the two pistols purchased by Colin, along with magazines and gun locks

Colin locks the cable lock on the gun, at the defense's request, but says he doesn't know how to unlock it.

REDIRECT

- Most of the numbers and emails blocked in his phone were spam
- Armstrong arrived home driving her Jeep the night Mo was killed
- Armstrong had her own motorcycle helmet; he doesn't believe she could ride the motorcycle without him
- The vandalism that occurred on 5/12/2022 was the first time his house had been vandalized, but his neighbor's had been vandalized in the past
- He doesn't remember when he realized Armstrong had been going through his phone; he says this experience has been long and traumatic for him and he doesn't remember timelines very clearly anymore
- He confirms he didn't take the gun out of the closet, load it with a magazine, or remove the lock before Armstrong went to the shooting range
- When asked if he killed Mo, he says no

Testimony - Day 2 Cross-Examination

State Witness # 21 - KENNETH ALAN BURROWS

- He goes by Alan and purchased a bike from Colin
- He's lived in Austin since 1995 and met Colin in April 2020; they're friends but not close
- He describes Colin as a *"really great guy"*
- He says he's hung out with Armstrong a few times, but his friendship is primarily with Colin
- He spoke to Colin on the phone for 8 minutes on 5/11/2022 at 9:07 pm, and Colin agreed to lend him some bike parts
- He stopped by Colin's around 10:00 pm that evening to pick up the parts

- He saw Colin and Armstrong talking inside from the window, but he didn't interact with him

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He's an energy lobbyist for the Texas legislature
- He's also a cycling enthusiast but doesn't perform very well
- He is friends with Colin but he's not in his inner circle; he first met Armstrong in the summer of 2020
- He describes Colin's relationship with Armstrong as dating but says he didn't think Colin was that into her
- He only saw Armstrong a few times at the Meteor after wrapping up a ride
- His phone call with Colin on 5/11/2022 was audio only, so he can't be certain that Colin was in his garage during their conversation but that was his understanding based on what Colin told him

State Witness # 22 - LANCE TINDALL

- He lives in Austin and works in real estate
- He met Colin through cycling friends and has known him for three years; he's familiar with Armstrong but specifically knows her as Colin's girlfriend; they've met at various races that he's attended
- He stopped by Colin's house on 5/12/2022 to buy some wheels
- When he arrived, he saw a police car and Colin leaving
- Colin told him that he was going to the police station; he recalls Colin saying [about Mo], *"they think she was murdered last night"*
- He says Colin seemed shocked and surprised
- After Colin left, he went inside to see about his wheels
- Armstrong asked if he'd heard about what happened and said that it was Mo; he only knew of Mo and her accomplishments
- Armstrong described who she was and explained why she was in Austin but didn't say anything about the circumstances of her death
- They discussed if Austin was becoming more violent
- He says he was surprised and shocked about Mo's death and Armstrong acted surprised and shocked, too
- He says Armstrong asked him if Cherrywood was a dangerous area, and he told her that he thought it was safe; she specifically brought up Cherrywood (the state earlier clarified that Cash lived in the Chestnut neighborhood)

- Armstrong went to the back of the house for about 10 minutes and was gone longer than he expected
- He later spoke with APD about his relationship with Colin and Armstrong; he recalled Armstrong going out of her way to make it clear that she was Colin's girlfriend, while it was clear to him that Colin was uncomfortable with Armstrong wearing his gear at his races

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He works in real estate, so he's familiar with Austin neighborhoods, including Chestnut and Cherrywood
- He says neighborhoods sometimes get blended

State Witness # 23 - DET. RICHARD SPITLER

- Lead homicide detective on this case
- He was notified about the murder on 5/11/2022
- He interviewed Cash to ask about her whereabouts and find out if any guns were owned by her or the victim
- He was the first to make contact with Colin, along with Ayers, and noticed the black Jeep in the driveway that was seen on surveillance
- Colin seemed surprised by the news of Mo's murder, but he was calm, cooperative, and willing to help out
- He determined he needed to speak to Armstrong while interviewing Colin and alerted the tactical team and fellow detectives
- He says it became clear there was an element of jealousy; he became clued into that jealousy when he learned Colin changed Mo's name in his phone
- The plan was to arrest Armstrong and bring her in for questioning (as she had an active warrant for an unrelated Class D misdemeanor); a different detective spoke to her before she was released and APD drove her home
- He learned about the search warrant results the next day – two firearms were seized, which was important because he recognized they were 9mm, just like the shell casings found at the scene
- He contacted and introduced himself to Mo's family on 5/13/2022 and asked them if they knew of anyone who might've wanted to harm her
- He asked them for the passcodes to her phone and looked for possible suspects; he was able to access her phone by the end of the day

- He canvassed the neighborhood and asked neighbors to post about their desire to obtain video footage on the NextDoor app; he followed up with 8 neighbors who had cameras
- He returned to the crime scene and interviewed Cash's landlord
- Mo's last text message was sent at 9:13 pm to a podcaster named Christopher Stricklen
- He interviewed Colin again on 5/17/2022 after the ballistics report came in, as the spent cartridges matched a gun found in his home
- He later issued an arrest warrant for Armstrong; he felt there was probable cause after receiving the ballistics report and comparing it with the other evidence
- Other civilians came forward with information on 5/18/2022 and 5/19/2022
- He combed through Strava app data and determined Armstrong had used the app several times on 5/10/2022 and 5/11/2022 to geolocate Mo

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

State Witness # 24 - [JOAN GILLCRIST](#)

- Owner of 68 Degrees Kitchen (across the street from Pool Burger)
- The restaurant has various interior and exterior cameras and footage from 5/11/2022 was turned over to APD during the investigation

68 DEGREES KITCHEN CAMERA FOOTAGE

An outdoor patio adjacent to Deep Eddy Avenue is visible. The footage is dated May 11, 2022 at 8:15 pm. Pool Burger is in the background.

8:16 pm - a white motorcycle with two passengers pass by

From a different angle, the interior footage of the restaurant overlooks a parking lot and the road can be seen. The state pauses the video at a moment where you see the same motorcycle with two people on it.

[DETECTIVE SPITLER'S TESTIMONY CONTINUES](#)

- He met with the U.S. Marshals and took possession of Armstrong's property that was collected in Costa Rica

- The arrest warrant included details from the ballistic investigation and some of the data was later discovered to be inaccurate; when the warrant was submitted he believed it was accurate to the best of his knowledge; NIBIN is a good lead to follow, but a ballistic exam is much more accurate
- He talks about Mo's relationship with an ex-boyfriend named Gunner Shaw
- He located Shaw and he cooperated; Shaw sent him flight information and rental car receipts that put him 700 miles away when Mo was killed
- He also looked into a man named Allen Lim, who was close to Mo
- He requested proof of Lim's location and he cooperated; Lim provided cell records, Strava data, and an airport receipt for a flight to Austin that landed at 9:15 pm, just as the murder was taking place
- He didn't believe there was probable cause to investigate these leads, but he did so out of an abundance of caution
- He was notified that Armstrong's DNA was found on Mo's bicycle on 10/20/2022
- They also collected records from The Range
- He mentions a washer/dryer at Cash's apartment that was discovered to have a defect, which could have been caused by a projectile; he doesn't know for sure what caused the defect but it was documented
- Approximately 25-30 search warrants were issued for cell phone data, cell phone devices, Google accounts, vehicle warrants, residence warrants, social media accounts
- He learned that Armstrong's Jeep was at Carmax in North Austin on 6/2/2022
- He contacted Carmax and advised them not to touch the Jeep; he obtained a warrant, removed the infotainment system at Carmax, and delivered it to a forensics expert to examine
- The GPS data led him to an apartment complex in South Austin down the street from Colin and Armstrong's house
- He went to the complex to look for video surveillance and scan the area; he located two dumpsters where the GPS indicated the Jeep had stopped
- He later looked through Armstrong's iCloud account data and discovered a deleted Notes folder that contained a note with an address of 1704 Maple Avenue; that's not a real address but Cash's apartment is listed on Google Maps as 1704 Maple Avenue (Wilson died at 1708 Maple Avenue)
- The note was deleted May 12, 2022

EXHIBIT: Hard drive containing information about the search warrants

PHOTOS: Closeups of a defect in the washer/dryer unit

- He believes the defects were caused by ricochets from the initial bullets that were fired into Mo's head

EXHIBIT: Google subscriber information belonging to Armstrong that indicates the creation of a new email address days after Mo's murder

RECORDS SENT TO THE NEW GOOGLE EMAIL ADDRESS

Google - welcome email for the new yoga related email address registered under the name Kai (dated 5/13/2022)

Carmax - an offer email for a Jeep Grand Cherokee for \$12,200 (dated 5/13/2022)

Uber - a confirmation/receipt for a ride taken at approximately 9:30 pm totaling \$21.26; the ride began at Armstrong's address and ended at the airport

Southwest Airlines - itinerary email with "Kaitlin Armstrong's Trip" written in the subject line; the itinerary included a flight from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) to LaGuardia (LGA) with a layover in Nashville; \$327.98

Southwest Airlines - itinerary change email with a layover in Houston instead of Nashville

The Instagram account "kaitlinarmstrong" associated with her old email address was deleted on 5/13/2022.

Armstrong's iCloud account was accessed using one of the new email addresses on 5/14/2022

Netspend Visa Prepaid Card - welcome email address sent to "Kaitlin" (dated 5/16/2022)

United Airlines - reservation/confirmation email for a flight from Newark (EWR) to San Jose, Costa Rica (SJO); \$146.66 (dated 5/18/2022)

United Airlines - flight itinerary email for "Christie Armstrong" indicates the flight leaves EWR at 5:09 pm and arrives at SJO at 8:19 pm

Surfshark VPN - subscription confirmation email for a VPN; \$47.99 (dated 5/25/2022)

Skype - email receipt for a Skype purchase with a billing address listed at 4924 Manchester, which matches Armstrong's business address

ICLOUD SEARCH ACTIVITY

5/27/2022

- search for *"Kaitlin Armstrong"*
- viewed KVUE article related to Armstrong fleeing to Costa Rica
- news story search with title *"Moriah Wilson murder: Colin Strickland 'in hiding' until suspect..."*

5/28/2022

- search for *"can imei be tracked if not making phone calls"*
(Spitler says imei refers to a digital fingerprint and a way for a cellphone to be tracked.)

6/23/2022

- search for *"can pineapples burn your fingerprints"*
- search for *"TIL workers who cut up pineapples eventually lose their fingerprints"*
- numerous searches for rhinoplasty plastic surgery

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He confirms he hadn't worked as a homicide detective prior to this case
- No one in the area heard gunshots on the night of the shooting and no one saw Armstrong in person at the scene
- He confirms there's a history of domestic violence between Mo and Gunner Shaw
- Shaw's alibi checked out and didn't match with the timeline
- Colin mentioned Gunner Shaw by name because he wasn't happy about Mo's relationship with Colin

- He spoke to Shaw and Lim in June 2022, in an effort to work against his theory that Armstrong committed the murder
- He admits he told Lim that he called not to exclude him but because he *“didn’t know what the defense was going to pull”*
- He says he essentially lied to Lim by telling him he wasn’t a suspect to get him to cooperate
- A rape kit was performed on Mo during the autopsy and collected as evidence, but the results were not forensically analyzed, as there was no evidence of sexual assault
- He agrees that Colin’s laptop should have been forensically examined
- He concedes that 5/12/2022 wasn’t the first time he’d met Colin; they previously met at Taco Deli while he was on patrol 3 years earlier

– THE DEFENSE MOVES FOR A MISTRIAL –

The defense moves for a mistrial on the basis that the district attorney didn’t turn over key evidence related to the vandalism report that was taken days after the murder.

MOTION DENIED.

- Spitler says he doesn’t know who investigated the vandalism report and believes Armstrong was the person who pushed over the motorcycle
- He recounts all of the data from Colin’s phone that helped prove his innocence: primarily his cell phone location and the fact that he was talking to a friend on the phone at the time she was murdered
- He says he’s very comfortable with the digital evidence and it’s not the result of confirmation bias or tunnel vision
- There was never any evidence of sexual assault or evidence that Strickland could have committed a sexual offense in the time it took for Mo to unlock the door and his motorcycle to be seen driving down the alley

EXHIBIT: Defense enters the vandalism report

- Spitler agrees that he is the author of the report but says it doesn't appear APD officers took any action related to the vandalism

State Witness # 25 - [NICOLE MERTZ](#)

- Mertz lives in Austin and first met Armstrong in 2019; she was one of her best friends
- They became close in 2020 and typically saw each other every day
- She knew Colin pretty well, but she was closer to Armstrong
- She didn't know Mo but was familiar with the name given her profession
- She says Colin and Armstrong loved each other and worked well together, but their relationship was always off and on
- She and Armstrong stayed with Colin following the ice storm in Texas in 2021; she says she left after one night but Armstrong never moved out
- She says Colin referred to Armstrong as his *"lady friend"*, while Armstrong described their relationship as *"casual but not casual"*
- She knew Armstrong was logged into Colin's iCloud and had access to his accounts because she'd seen Armstrong access his accounts on a laptop
- In October 2021, Armstrong told her that she and Colin were *"breaking up for good"* but said they would *"still be in business together and would still be very close and in each other's lives"*
- In November 2021, there was a big group outing at the Meteor and Armstrong was being very quiet; Armstrong then told her that Mo was in town with Colin; she said Colin had taken her to Justine's the night before, which she'd discovered from an OpenTable email
- Mo was at the Meteor for a brief time that night but left pretty quickly; Armstrong pointed her out to Mertz and was visibly angry; she says she'd never seen Armstrong act like that before
- She says she asked Armstrong what she'd do if Colin ever dated someone else and Armstrong said she'd kill her
- Armstrong also revealed to her that she'd called Mo earlier that same day; Armstrong said she'd told Mo that she and Colin still lived together and were in business together
- Later that same night, Armstrong told Mertz that she was going to Mexico and then left the next day
- She suggested to Armstrong that she come stay with her when she got back from Mexico, but she continued to stay with Colin

- She says Armstrong would occasionally tell her about dating other men and said she did it to make Colin jealous; one of these dates was with an NBA basketball player
- When she read about Mo's death in a news article, her first thought was that Armstrong might have something to do with it
- She called police 2-3 days later to share what she knew
- She says she had no contact with Armstrong after 5/11/2022; she sent her a text after she heard about Mo but the text didn't go through, and Armstrong had deleted her Instagram account
- She eventually spoke to Armstrong's sister, who said that she was safe

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- The defense asks her questions about Armstrong – her shoe size, favorite TV show, and others, but she can't answer most of them
- They suggest she and Armstrong aren't as close as she claims

State Witness # 26 - JACQUELINE CHASTEEN

- She and her husband live in Arkansas and are heavily involved in the cycling community, as her husband is a photographer who shoots races
- She met Colin first and then met Armstrong through him
- They initially met in 2019, when she and her husband were staying with Colin for his birthday and she and Armstrong became friends
- They saw each other a few times a year
- She describes Colin as being head over heels for Armstrong in the beginning of his relationship with Armstrong, but they weren't doing well in 2021
- She says Colin kept Armstrong at "an arm's distance" and would tell people that he didn't have a girlfriend
- She recalls being at an afterparty at the Meteor in Bentonville on 1/30/2022
- Armstrong was visibly trembling and shaking and she told her that Colin had cheated on her with Mo but they'd gotten back together
- Mo was also at the Meteor that night, which is why she thinks Armstrong seemed so upset
- Armstrong told Chasteen that Mo had still been texting Colin and reaching out; she said that Colin was trying to keep her away but she just wouldn't leave him alone
- Chasteen didn't see Mo and Colin interact that night, nor Mo and Armstrong

TEXTS BETWEEN CHASTEEN AND ARMSTRONG

1/31/2022

CHASTEEN: *"Was really good seeing you this weekend. I appreciate you sharing last night and I'm really sorry you're going through this right now. You deserve someone that makes you feel loved. Whoever that might be. Let's go on a trip soon. I'm thinking March."*

ARMSTRONG: *"So nice to see you. Sorry to unload so many emotions, it just all came spilling and you being there for me really meant a lot. Definitely available. I would love that."*

CHASTEEN: *"I'm happy you felt comfortable talking to me. Anytime you need someone to listen, don't hesitate to text or call."*

- When Armstrong was talking about how Colin had cheated, she said in so many words that she wanted to kill Mo
- Chasteen says she didn't take it seriously at the time, but Armstrong said something to the effect of... she was going to kill Mo and *"no, you don't understand... I bought a gun"*
- She knows the words "kill" and "gun" were used
- She didn't know Armstrong liked or owned guns before that and had never seen her shoot one
- In the spring of 2022, she saw Armstrong post pictures of herself alone in Mexico on Instagram; she asked Armstrong if she and Colin were doing okay and Armstrong told her yes
- Her husband was the one who called to tell her that Mo had been killed; he didn't have much info but said it might have been a burglary
- He called back later to tell her that Colin was the last person seen with her
- She says she gasped and immediately recalled her conversation with Armstrong at the Meteor
- She says she reached out to APD the next morning and told them what she knew; she remained anonymous at first but later revealed her identity

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- Her husband did social media for various cycling sponsorships, which is why he was initially notified of Mo's death

State Witness # 27 - [KEITH COX](#)

- General Manager at Carmax
- He describes the process that happens when someone sells their car – Carmax checks in with the seller, reviews the vehicle, makes an assessment; the seller's driver's license is scanned and the title is verified
- An offer was made to Armstrong for a 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee on 5/13/2022 for \$12,200
- The Certificate of Title shows the car was sold the same day it was appraised

EXHIBIT: CARMAX VIDEO

Armstrong is seen sitting in a lounge wearing a t-shirt, leggings, and green hat. She plugs a cell phone into a wall outlet and has two phones in her lap.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- The transaction occurred at the Carmax in Southeast Austin
- The appraisal process takes about an hour
- Conditions that were accessed of the Jeep: damage on passenger rear door, damage on the quarter panel
- They appraise 20-50 vehicles a day

REDIRECT

- There's no specificity to the level of damage on the assessment
- After the sale, a reconditioning will be done on the car at the North Carmax location

State Witness # 28 - [BRIAN BELL](#)

- VP of Global Communications and Social Impact for Strava
- Strava provided data to APD that included dates certain athletes used the app and viewed data
- He can't explain how the data reaches Strava; his role is to speak to the information provided in the documents

The judge will allow the two images the state produced to be introduced for demonstrative purposes with the understanding that Bell cannot authenticate it.

EXHIBIT: Excel spreadsheet with email addresses, unique ID numbers, the subscriber status and creation date for Mo, Armstrong, and Colin

- Colin has been a Strava user since 2012, Mo since 2014, and Armstrong since 2018
- Bell points out the number of times Mo's profile was accessed on the days leading up to the murder (at least 6 instances are on the spreadsheet)
- The user ID assigned to Armstrong requested information on Mo's profile at 4:54 pm on 5/11/2022

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- The source of the data comes from a proprietary aggregate software
- If someone is logged into Strava on one device, they can log in and view information from another/multiple devices but can only record activity on one device
- He doesn't know how accurate data collection is in relation to the model of iPhone used
- The platform and software were recently updated due to security issues, so the 2022 map no longer exists
- The spreadsheet data was pulled for dates May 9-12, 2022

REDIRECT

- He agrees that he's not testifying as to what type of iPhone Armstrong used

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

State Witness # 29 - [DET KATY CONNER](#)

- Detective with the APD homicide unit
- She learned that Colin was being interrogated at APD on 5/12/2022 and watched the interview from a TV in another room
- Information was provided by Colin that made them realize they needed to speak with Armstrong right away
- They learned Armstrong had an active Class B warrant for an unrelated offense, so they picked her up and brought her to HQ for questioning
- She offered to interrogate Armstrong, as Spitler was interrogating Colin

EXHIBIT: INTERROGATION VIDEO

Armstrong walks into the room wearing handcuffs and asks for water. The date on the video reads 5/12/2022 at 12:46 pm. Conner introduces herself and an officer removes her handcuffs. Conner explains to Armstrong that she has a “theft of service” warrant. Armstrong doesn’t know what she’s being accused of and asks if she needs an attorney present. Conner explains that she’ll need to read Armstrong her rights. A loud knock at the door prompts Conner to briefly exit the room. Conner returns and tells Armstrong the date of birth on the warrant is incorrect and she’s no longer under arrest, but she says that she’d like Armstrong to stay and answer some questions. Armstrong says she would like an attorney present. Conner tells her that she’s free to leave at any point because she’s not under arrest. She says the door is open and you can leave whenever you want. Armstrong tells Conner that Colin mentioned someone in the cycling community had passed away. Conner says she believes there’s a lot more to it than that and says she wants to hear her side of the story. She says it sounds like Colin went out with this girl and you might’ve been upset about that. Armstrong says that’s not accurate. Conner asks her what she was doing yesterday and she says she’d like to leave. Conner tells her that’s her choice, but then they’ll only have one story to go on and tries to convince Armstrong to tell her side of the story. Armstrong again says she’d like to leave and says she doesn’t actually know anything about Colin hanging out with Mo. Conner reveals that her Jeep was seen near the crime scene and wants to hear her side of the story. Armstrong repeats that she’d like to leave if she’s free to go.

ON THE STAND

- She says it was her goal to find the truth
- Armstrong wasn’t yet considered a suspect but was a person of interest
- When she was first told she could leave, she didn’t shift her body or move towards the door; she sat virtually still except for a head nod
- Armstrong agreed that it would be a good idea to share her side of the story but never did
- When she actively tried to pin Colin against her by insinuating that he was revealing everything in the other room, she didn’t show any emotion
- Armstrong did pop up her head and roll her eyes after she suggested she was upset about Colin going out with Wilson

- In her opinion, when Armstrong said she wanted to leave but didn't move from her seat, she was trying to gain information about what APD knew
- Her suspicions about Armstrong were raised after the interview
- She says Armstrong made no denials, didn't explain why her vehicle was seen there, and acknowledged that it didn't look good
- She wrote up a DNA search warrant for Colin and Armstrong, but neither were at the residence when it was served
- Spitler coordinated with Colin to collect his DNA at another time, but they were unable to locate Armstrong
- Armstrong was brought back to the Houston PD homicide unit from Costa Rica on 7/2/2022 and she traveled to Houston to interview her

EXHIBIT: Photos of Armstrong's property collected at the time of her arrest

1. Black roller bag and brown zippered bag
2. United boarding pass from EWR to SJO for Christie Armstrong dated 5/18/22
3. Wallet with various cards – healthcare cards, 3 drivers licenses, social security card, credit card (most belong to Armstrong but one belongs to Colin), AAA card
4. Piece of paper with debit card numbers listed
5. Piece of paper with a phone number and two names – Brian Roark and Jason Snoll
6. Receipt for cosmetic surgery totaling more than \$6,000 for a patient named Allison Paige
7. Prescription receipt also shown for an Allison Paige
8. Christine Armstrong's passport stamped by Costa Rica on 5/18/2022 (there was no stamp in Kaitlin's passport)
9. Cellphone and two SIM cards
10. Two Walmart receipts from 5/13/2022 – one for loading a debit card with \$500 and another for a cellphone for \$449
11. Handful of cash (US dollars, pesos, and currency from Costa Rica)

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- She describes her time spent with Armstrong as an interview, not an interrogation
- She planned to read Armstrong her Miranda Rights but when she learned she was no longer under arrest, she never did

- She says it must be clear and unequivocal that someone has demanded an attorney to stop an interview/interrogation; when Armstrong mentioned an attorney, she was asking about her rights rather than asserting her rights
- The warrant was ultimately valid, despite saying otherwise at the time, but she never verified her date of birth and didn't realize it was valid
- She says she would've let Armstrong leave if she'd stood up and walked out
- She confirms that one told Armstrong to stay in Austin or remain in Texas; they never instructed her not to travel
- She agrees that Armstrong was free to travel anywhere she wanted on 5/12/2022

REDIRECT

- At no point did APD instruct Armstrong to use her sister's passport to leave the country

State Witness # 30 - [MICHAEL ALLEN](#)

- U.S. Secret Service Forensics Lab Manager
- He assisted APD with recovering data from a locked iPhone 11
- He was able to recover the passcode using brute force and generated an extraction of all the possible data
- An imei is the number that identifies a specific phone

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He can't recall if pictures were taken of the phone
- APD didn't try to extract the data because they didn't have the tools
- Extracting data from an infotainment system is done with specific software and requires a certification

REDIRECT

- He's certified on Berle (the software used to extract info from an infotainment system) but wasn't asked to extract anything from an infotainment system

State Witness # 31 - [EMIR PEREZ](#)

- U.S. Marshals Deputy

- He assists police departments with locating fugitives
- He was asked to assist APD with the apprehension of Armstrong on 5/18/2022
- They searched various locations in town and didn't exercise the full capacity of the U.S. Marshals until they believed she'd fled the immediate area
- Old-fashioned police work led them to Santa Teresa, Costa Rica
- Santa Teresa is a small, touristy town with only one paved road
- He flew to Costa Rica to help immigration authorities locate Armstrong
- He met with local authorities, interviewed others in the service industry, and conducted beach surveillance looking for Armstrong
- On June 29, he received information that Armstrong may be staying at a hostel and concentrated his surveillance efforts there
- He encountered her on a patio at the hostel but didn't recognize her at first; she had a bandage on her nose and her lips looked swollen
- He began talking to her in Spanish and when she couldn't respond without a translator, he recognized her based on her eyes
- He then left the hostel and alerted the local authorities, who had to make the arrest
- He watched authorities arrest Armstrong from a car parked down the road, and she was transported to a jail a block away
- His partner asked Armstrong for her name and she eventually told him she was Kaitlin Armstrong
- She was using at least 3-4 different aliases in Costa Rica

EXHIBIT: Spanish document saying Armstrong entered Costa Rica illegally

- A hearing was held in Costa Rica and Armstrong was deported; he boarded the plane with her in San Jose
- They landed in Houston, TX and she was turned over to Customs and Border Protection officials

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He agrees that Armstrong was polite and friendly during their interactions
- She hesitated to give up her name at the local police station but did eventually (at first, she said her name was Ari Martin)
- He concedes the chain of custody would probably not hold up here in the U.S. but says they were in a different country with different rules
- He confirms there are a lot of yoga studios in Santa Teresa

State Witness # 32 - [ELIZABETH STONEKING](#)

- Interpreter
- She reads a Spanish document related to cosmetic procedures
- Jorge Bodilla was Armstrong's plastic surgeon in Costa Rica
- A surgical procedure was performed on 'Allison Paige' on 6/23/2022

EXHIBIT: Chat messages from 'Allison Paige' to Bodilla's office

- The procedure referenced in the messages on 6/14/2022 is Juvederm
- Other messages include an inquiry about a rhinoplasty procedure and the associated costs
- 'Allison Paige' asks multiple times if the surgeon would be willing to throw in extra filler

EXHIBIT: 7 post-op photos of Armstrong after the brow lift and rhinoplasty

Bruising and bandaging are seen on her face. Stitches are visible on her nose and eyebrows. There's an 8-hour time gap on 6/23/2022 between messages from 'Allison Paige' and the doctor; then they discuss antibiotics and stitches

EXHIBIT: Photos of Armstrong on the operating table

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- She agrees she can't verify the authenticity of the documents; she can only translate them

State Witness # 33 - [DANIEL PORTNOY](#)

- Certified Forensics Computer Examiner with APD
- The digital forensic unit performs extractions and examinations on all kinds of digital devices
- The intake process includes seizing the property, inspecting the device for damage, removing the SIM card
- An extraction is just removing the data from the device in a forensic manner without "stepping on" the evidence or altering it in any way
- He was certified in Berla in January 2022
- He was unable to extract information from some of the devices

EXHIBIT: Vehicle case report for Jeep Grand Cherokee

- The document contains information about the Jeep's navigation events
- The data is collected every time the vehicle is turned on and stops when the vehicle is turned off
- He used surveillance video to verify the GPS data times
- The data matches within 4 seconds when compared to surveillance
- The GPS data is accurate within 15 meters 95% of the time

ANIMATION: NAVIGATIONAL EVENTS FOR THE JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE (JGC)

5/11/2022

7:20 pm - the Jeep travels north on S Lamar Blvd, travels to the downtown area, near Whole Foods off 5th Street, down W 6th Street and then takes a side street to travel eastbound and circles around the block

7:29 pm - travels eastbound down 5th Street

7:35 pm - approaches I-35, turns onto MLK Jr. Blvd, turns onto Cedar and then Maple Avenue, travels down various blocks in the immediate vicinity and doesn't leave the neighborhood

7:52 - 7:55 pm - the Jeep may be at rest but the track log continues running, which indicates the electronics of the vehicle are still turned on

8:00 pm - the Jeep starts moving again

8:05 pm - travels on 18th Street and then on Maple

8:08 pm - travels down 16th Street and keeps going around the general area

8:29 pm - the Jeep is located at 18th Street and Chestnut and then becomes stationary

8:37 pm - the Jeep appears to be at the alley on Maple Avenue

9:17 pm - a new track begins (something went wrong with the track point at this time – an anomaly – where it didn't accurately predict the vehicle's physical movement)

9:17 pm - the Jeep heads westbound on 17th Street and then travels northbound on I-35

9:26 pm - the Jeep uses an underpass to travel on the frontage road of I-35 and then travels in the opposite direction on I-35

9:31 pm - the Jeep passes through the downtown area, through South Austin, passes by St. Edwards

9:36 pm - leaves I-35 and turns onto Battle Bend Blvd

9:37 pm - the Jeep briefly stops in the area

9:42 pm - resumes driving and turns south on a side street before being stationary for another period of time

9:46 pm - resumes driving

9:47 pm - the Jeep pulls slightly off the roadway

9:48 pm - the track ends at Fort Clark Drive

RE: MO'S PHONE

- He extracted 123 GB from Mo's iPhone 13 mini
- Cellebrite Extraction report shows Mo's applications usage log, which shows which apps were used; the report shows use of text messages, Instagram, and switching between apps
- @ 8:37 pm - uses Instagram
- @ 9:13 pm - uses the Google Drive app
- @ 9:13:44 pm - Mo sends a text to podcaster Christopher Stricklen: *"Just dropped some in! Lemme know if these will work."*
- Mo sent text messages back and forth with Christopher Stricklen at 4:21 pm on 5/11/2022 about providing photos to Stricklen, who requested a vertical and horizontal photo
- The phone was in continuous use from 8:37 pm until 9:13:44 pm
- There are multiple ways to collect location data (Wi-Fi, towers, metadata)
- Geolocation data from Mo's phone is 440 pages; it begins on 5/11/2022 at 12:01:09 am and ends 5/11/2022 at 11:58:29 pm
- Over 2,000 data points were collected during that time

RE: ARMSTRONG'S PHONE

- GrayKey Progress Report indicates the phone is an iPhone 13 Pro but the device name is iPhone 11 Pro (the device name can be changed by users and transferred over from older phones)
- 17 GB of data were extracted from the phone, which is a 'limited' amount
- KA's iPhone SE had two imei numbers; this is associated with SIM card usage and allows you to have two numbers contained within one phone
- The phone was powered off at 7:30 pm and powered back on 9:47 pm
- Cache data files dated May 2, 2022 contain an image of a person on a bike (items saved in cache aren't purposefully saved by the user)
- Photo thumbnails were viewed on Instagram and saved in the cache; there are multiple photos of Mo saved in the cache
- Another photo in the report is a screenshot of American Airlines flight info for Armstrong from Austin, TX to Phoenix, AZ on May 2, 2022
- An image and video clip sent via text from the phone on 1/13/2022 are of Armstrong pointing a gun at a shooting range target

TEXT MESSAGE SENT TO KYLE SANDERS

11/7/2021

ARMSTRONG: *"Well today is his birthday. He's at home with a 24 year old who may or may not have moved to Austin. And I'm in Tulum solo. Mostly practicing sound healing, meditating, teaching some. Heading to massage now then temazcal ceremony for a detox and rebirth."*

RE: COLIN'S PHONE

- GrayKey Progress Report for an iPhone 13 Pro
- 219+ GB was extracted from the phone
- The call log indicates an active call beginning at 9:07 pm on 5/11/2022
- The contact interaction report shows if a number or contact was blocked
- An email associated with Mo shows a 'blocked' status but the contact 'Christine Wall' is not blocked
- A spreadsheet of blocked contacts show 98 contacts were blocked
- @ 4:24 pm - received call from Armstrong [3:04 minutes]
- @ 6:24 pm - unanswered call from Armstrong
- @ 9:07 pm - received call from Alan Burrows

- The geolocation data captured was 460+ pages
- He was unable to extract data from a pink Macbook belonging to Armstrong
- He was unable to extract data from a Lenovo ThinkPad belonging to Mo
- The iPhone SE screen indicates the phone was either factory reset or turned on for the first time
- Two SIM cards were located in the box for the iPhone SE (the phone can only hold one) and one SIM card has an ICCID that didn't match the data from the extraction

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He has limited knowledge about the events of this case outside of the data
- Technology has advanced in terms of what's available to examiners and consumers
- He has almost 100 cases in his queue at any given moment and some cases are given priority over others
- Accounts can be open on two devices (such as Instagram on an iPad and iPhone); if they are synced, you will see the message on both devices
- He didn't find any data to indicate location-sharing was set up between Colin and Armstrong's phones
- The infotainment device data indicated the track logs occurred in 2002 when the data was extracted and needed to be calibrated; this is commonly known as a "GPS rollover event"
- GPS data is more accurate than phone location data
- The infotainment system doesn't us whether a device was connected to it or when a door was opened or which key fob was used
- He can't prove Armstrong manually turned her phone off when it was powered off; he concedes the battery could have died
- He agrees that scrolling through Instagram or a download could create a cached image
- He never analyzed Strava data

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[Testimony from Portnoy 11/13/2023](#)

REDIRECT

- Every single track point and the entire extraction was calibrated with the correct time and dates
- The system uses 4 satellites to obtain its GPS data
- He can't change the data to fit a case better

State Witness # 34 - [BRANDI STANDFIELD](#)

- Digital Forensics Analyst

EXHIBIT: Photos and videos extracted from Armstrong's phone

An Instagram story shows Armstrong pointing a gun in a home and is captured "gun safety"; the story was posted on Christie Armstrong's account and KA was tagged [1/12/2022].

A forensic examination report [generated 1/5/2023] included 54 messages from a WhatsApp extraction. The messages are in Spanish with a translation in English and include an inquiry into rhinoplasty.

WhatsApp Messages to Plastic Surgeon's Office

6/7/2022 - 6/8/2022 - back and forth chats from 'Arie Roberts' about how appointments are scheduled; appointment made for 6/10/2022 at 3:00 pm

She says she's incredibly motivated to have the surgery and insists on an initial consultation date on a day when the surgery room is also available for the procedure to be performed.

6/10/2022 - photo of a sign-in sheet with Allison Paige listed

6/14/2022 - photo of Armstrong with lighter reddish-brown hair and a bandage around her nose

6/23/2022 - photo of Armstrong's face, photo of healing stitches at the hairline, photo of Armstrong's face with a bandage on her nose and upper lip

6/24/2022 - photo of an Rx for Ciprofloxacin prescribed to 'Allison Paige'

6/26/2022 - photos of Armstrong's face with a smaller bandage on her nose from several different perspectives

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- She agrees Instagram photos can be posted after they were actually taken
- The Instagram account *@storiesofchristie* posted the photo of Armstrong holding the gun

State Witness # 35 - DAVID LUPPINO

- General Manager of The Range in Austin, TX
- The Range is a shooting range, retail store, and private club
- A signed business records affidavit signed by Luppino certifies the authenticity of the documents about to be shown to the jury

EXHIBIT: Business Records from The Range

1. Vendor bill from Ammo Inc shows The Range purchased 9mm ammunition totaling \$44,000
2. Single Day Sales Report at The Range between 12/6/2022 and 1/12/2022
3. Report from The Range that includes a credit card sale on 1/12/2022 for Christine Armstrong in the amount of \$13.53 for a "lane rental and target"
4. On 1/12/2022, a box of 50-round 9mm ammunition was purchased in the amount of \$25.27 under the account of Jill Zann; this is the customer account for the person who purchased ammo but Kaitlin Armstrong's credit card was used

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He agrees Ammo Inc is a very popular brand for gun enthusiasts to buy

State Witness # 36 - JILL ZANN

- She lived in the same building as Christine Armstrong for 2 years
- She has experience as a shooter; she used to shoot air rifles at camp, had an ex that owned several firearms and eventually bought her own
- In January 2022, Christie contacted her and said Armstrong had just gotten a firearm and asked if she would teach them gun safety and take them to target practice
- They met at her place and she reviewed gun safety basics with them, including how to load the gun, etc.
- Armstrong used her black 9mm gun and fired at a target 7.5 feet away

EXHIBIT: Video clip of Armstrong firing at the gun range

- She can't remember if Armstrong was "a good shot" but she hit the target

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- She says Armstrong was sweet, calm, and friendly
- Armstrong was a good student who paid attention to the instructions
- Armstrong brought the gun to her house in the case
- She doesn't know what a cable lock is and didn't teach or instruct Armstrong how to apply a cable lock
- She says Armstrong seemed like an amateur and they went to the range for fun just to practice

State Witness # 37 - STEVEN ASTON

- Forensic Scientist who specializes in firearm ballistic testing
- He studies tool marks on projectiles and the tool markings on the cartridge to determine the firearm source
- He's licensed as a forensic analyst
- He's been deemed an expert in firearms; training takes multiple years
- He test fires the firearm using certified laboratory ammunition
- He test fires 4 times – 2 times with a nickel cartridge case and 2 times with a brass; the tested casings are the "knowns", which are compared to the "unknowns" (the evidence found at the crime scene)
- He's testified in dozens of cases about firearms and toolmark comparisons
- Unique grooves and cuts inside the barrel of a gun give each bullet a distinct marking and add stability to the spiraling projectile
- As the bullet travels down the barrel, the outside wall of the cartridge case presses/marks the inside wall
- He views the projectiles with a microscope at upwards of 60x magnification to compare the markings on the known and unknowns, side by side
- He was asked to perform two different sets of analysis and was provided 3 fired cartridge casings, two firearms, a magazine, a loader, and a pistol case
- Two guns were examined (Sig Sauer 9mm pistol and Springfield Armory EMP Roman 9mm pistol)

EXHIBIT: Projectiles

1. Projectile with minor impact damage

2. Projectile with heavy impact damage
3. Five lead fragments

A 9mm Luger cartridge case is shown with the headstamp JAG.

EXHIBIT: Photos of projectiles

The first bullet has a red stain on it and is nearly flat. The second bullet has hair attached to it. The third has reddish brown stains on it.

- He compared the casings found at the scene to those test fired at the lab
- The first side-by-side comparison shows “significant agreement”
- Slight disagreements are expected because of the pressure it takes to fire a bullet from a gun, which may cause the images to not line up perfectly but he looks for a majority agreement
- The two photos are lined up perfectly so that one photo seemingly blends into another
- The Springfield gun was not a match; the Sig Sauer 9mm *was* a match
- The testing was completed on 8/16/2022 and the report was issued 8/17/2022
- His conclusion is that the crime scene projectiles were fired from Sig Sauer 9mm

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CROSS-EXAMINATION

- His opinions are subjective in every case
- The defense has him read from an article from the Association of Firearms and Tool Mark Examiners, which posits that agreement lines found in test firings might closely resemble two different guns
- He maintains that he’s had perfect scores for over 10 years
- He concedes that a colleague failed a serial number proficiency testing but was taken off that line of work, as a result
- He is a tool mark examiner, which means that he can also study markings from screwdrivers, hammers, and other tools
- He doesn’t deal with numbers or data, so his work is subjective by nature
- There is no “quality of agreement”; no minimum points of agreement to meet a threshold
- He estimates that tens of thousands of 9mm are owned in Central Texas

- His comparison was verified by a colleague
- He points out the individual characteristics of the magnified shell casings on the screen that led him to believe there is significant agreement between the crime scene casings and the test firings

State Witness # 38 - BERNADETTE DERUSSY

- Deputy Medical Examiner, Travis County Medical Examiner's Office
- Expert in forensic pathology
- She performed the autopsy on Mo the day after she died
- An external exam was performed first to look for signs of disease and injury
- The organs are removed and dissected to look for evidence of disease during the internal exam
- Her body arrived in a sealed body bag and was wrapped in a trace evidence blanket; she had not been cleaned up and was in the same state and condition in which she was found at the crime scene; no clothing had been removed
- Photos were taken and trace evidence was collected; she cleaned the body after the photos were taken
- First injury: GSW to the right side of the face with an exit wound on the left side of the jaw; the bullet entered by her nose, traveled through the front of her face and exited the jaw (right to left, slightly downward, slightly front to back); associated injuries include bruising around the left eye, bleeding of the whites of the left eye, and bleeding and bone fragments along the bullet pathway
- Second injury: GSW to the right temporal scalp (side of the head) with the bullet exiting the area beneath the chin; associated injuries include bleeding beneath the scalp, hemorrhaging around the brain, and bone fragments along the bullet's path
- Third injury: GSW to the left side of the chest; the bullet entered the chest and exited the back; the exit wound was consistent with a shored exit wound (there was a wide irregular abrasion—the top layer of skin was scraped away) and is consistent with the body being pushed against a firm surface upon entry (meaning, she was lying on the bathroom floor when the shot was fired)
- Fourth injury: GSW to the right index finger; there were two defects on the finger, so she was unable to tell the entrance from the exit; she can't say for certain the wound was a defensive wound

- Additional injuries to the lower extremities: scrape on the left thigh, bruising on the thigh, scrape on the right leg, additional bruising on the legs (indicative of bullet grazes)
- Official cause of death: gunshot wounds
- The toxicology results show a blood alcohol content of .04 and no evidence of controlled substance use

EXHIBIT: Autopsy photographs

The right eye is slightly open. The left eye is swollen shut. Her hair was shaved by the ME to clearly show the GSW. Possible graze wounds on legs, projectile fragments found in the head.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- She looks for a muzzle imprint, soot, abrasions around entrance wound and tissue scarring during the autopsy
- There was no soot, muzzle imprint, or scarring, which means they couldn't determine the distance the shots were fired from

REDIRECT

- When a distance cannot be determined, it's likely because the shot was fired from more than 2-3 feet away and/or something (like clothing) blocked the path to the entrance wound

State Witness # 39 - [OFFICER ROSALBA JOHNSON](#)

- Travis County Sheriff's Officer
- She was assigned to hospital visitation and was responsible for transporting Armstrong from jail to a medical appointment on 10/11/2023 at 8:00 am
- Armstrong was patted down head-to-toe, a belly chain was placed around her waist, and she was walked to the vehicle, where she was going to be put in leg irons
- Armstrong provided her with a note from a doctor, which instructed that leg irons were not to be used
- She and another officer were inside the vehicle and she was the passenger; Armstrong sat behind her
- She led and opened the door of the doctor's office to exit with Armstrong between her and her partner

- When a nurse approached her to say they'd forgotten their paperwork, her partner announced that Armstrong was escaping
- She began to pursue Armstrong but she'd evaded all custody

EXHIBIT: Video taken from inside a car

Armstrong is seen running in her jail uniform. She jumps to try to climb a wooden fence. She doesn't make it over the fence and then runs in the opposite direction. It's clear that Armstrong has freed herself from the handcuffs.

- She was eventually captured in a driveway approximately a half mile away at 3811 Wilson Street
- Armstrong didn't say anything when she was captured and a supervisor transported her back to the hospital

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- The appointment was with an orthopedic doctor for a shoulder injury
- The note from the doctor at the Travis County jail was authentic
- She's unaware of any abuse or mistreatment that happened to Armstrong at the jail

State Witness # 40 - ALEJANDRA GIL

- Forensic DNA Scientist, Texas Department of Public Safety
- 8 items were on her lab report: swabs from the handlebars of Mo's bicycle, from the top of the bicycle seat, from the underside of the seat, from the exterior of a gum wrapper, from the firearm grip, trigger guard, safety, magazine release, magazine base, loading port, as well as Armstrong's saliva and a known blood standard from Mo
- A different form included known saliva standards from Strickland and Cash
- A third form included swabs of a stain on floor and a cinder block
- A fourth form included swabs of a stain on the left thigh of Mo
- She collected and packaged the DNA; she didn't perform the analysis

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- The evidence was sent to them from APD
- She can't vouch for how APD collected or handled the evidence before she received it and can't speak to possible contamination

- DNA doesn't explain when it was deposited or how it was deposited
- She only tested for the presence of blood
- The only samples that tested positive for blood were the swabs from the floor and Mo's leg; it's unclear whose blood that is

State Witness # 41 - [SAMANTHA PERKINS](#)

- DNA Supervisor and Technical Leader, Texas Department of Public Safety
- She has specialized training in molecular biology, statistics, and other physical sciences
- PowerPoint presentation of DNA analysis:
 - she explains what DNA is
 - ~1% is highly different from other individuals
 - an analysis consists of extraction, quantification, amplification, and detection-generation/interpretation of a DNA profile
 - STRmix is used to interpret the DNA profile
 - she looks at every location to determine if the sample contributes to the profile or if it should be excluded
 - the software performs a statistical calculation called a likelihood ratio
 - the likelihood ratio includes two conditional probabilities: 1) DNA came from a known suspect or 2) DNA came from an unrelated, unknown individual
 - DNA profiles are never a 100% match

Swabs from the handlebars: 3 contributor matches that include Wilson, Armstrong, and an unrelated individual (Armstrong is considered a possible contributor with "strong support"; Strickland and Cash were excluded); **Armstrong is 49,000x more likely to be a contributor** of the DNA on the handlebars than an unrelated, unknown individual

Swabs from the bicycle seat: Mixture of 3 individuals profiles that include Wilson and two other individuals (Armstrong is considered a possible contributor with "very strong support" – there is no higher likelihood than very strong support; Cash and Strickland were excluded); **Armstrong is 224 billion times more likely to be a contributor** of the DNA on the bicycle seat than an unrelated, unknown individual

Swabs from the firearm grip, trigger, trigger guard, safety, magazine release, and side serrations: 3 contributor matches that include Armstrong, Strickland, and an unrelated individual (Cash and Wilson are excluded); **Armstrong's is 3.87 septillion times more likely to be a contributor** than an unrelated, unknown individual

- No interpretable DNA profile was obtained from the magazine base and loading port, the underside of the bicycle seat, and exterior of gum wrapper
- All saliva samples were excluded from the blood on the floor
- Factors that go into a DNA transfer include the source of the bio material, if the source of DNA was wet or dry (friction can remove DNA cells), the environment (heat and humidity lead to degradation, as well as high levels of UV)

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- Swabs were only taken from the Sig Sauer
- DNA does not tell us how it arrived at a location, just that it exists
- The third profile on the firearm had a Y-chromosome, indicating male DNA, but it's impossible to know who the unknown contributor is
- The unknown contributor found in each sample could belong to the same unknown or it could be three different unknown individuals
- Tertiary transfers have conflicting studies because many different environmental factors impacts DNA
- She didn't analyze DNA from the Jeep and doesn't know if any DNA was collected from the Jeep

State Witness # 42 - [PAMELA MAZAK](#)

- Criminal Intelligence Analyst, Texas Attorney General's Office
- Former Crime Analyst with APD for 20 years
- She helped analyze cell phone extraction data and the Jeep infotainment system data
- Her methodology included using databases from cell phone companies
- Call detail records document network interactions to and from a cell phone, including the date, time, duration, number called and calling number; they use cell towers to pinpoint cell placement
- Cell towers are a triangle with 4 antennae on each side

- Cell towers are considered radios that scan the cellular network and look for the best signal from the cell sites; it's often the closest cell site, but not always, and various factors affect signal quality
- Cell towers are often determined by population and anticipated capacity/use; there are usually more cell towers with partial overlapping coverage in urban areas and fewer in rural areas
- Location data is provided for calls only, not texts
- She analyzed data obtained from Verizon associated with Armstrong's cell phone, as well as cell phone data obtained for Colin and Mo
- She was asked to analyze data between 9/1/2021 through 5/15/2022 (Armstrong's phone was disconnected on 5/16/2022)
- Areas of cell phone usage were mapped out for locations with an accuracy less than or equal to 200 meters
- Locations of interest included the Fort Clarke home, Deep Eddy Pool, Pool Burger, and the crime scene in East Austin

DATA TIMELINE

10/28/2021

6:25 pm - Armstrong texts Colin: *"I know you know better than to show up at meteor with that girl."* Then... *"Aside from that, enjoy your eve"*

6:27 pm - Armstrong texts Colin: *"Where is dodge key I can't find my helmet"*

6:31 pm - Colin has unanswered call from Armstrong

6:31 pm - Armstrong texts Colin: *"Tell me you didn't take my helmet"*

6:34 pm - Armstrong calls Mo [1 minute, 28 seconds]

6:41 pm - Armstrong calls Christine [22 minutes, 38 seconds]

6:53 pm - Colin texts Armstrong: *"Could you please be an adult?"*

7:45 pm - Colin texts Armstrong: *"Mo left for meteor with friends an hour ago. I am not going because I am trying to respect you."* Then... *"Yet, I'm not feeling respect from you."*

Armstrong texts Colin: *"Not the best feeling is it."*

Colin texts Armstrong: *"Yeah, you sure are paying it back."*

8:05 pm - Colin texts Armstrong: *"Did you call Mo? Wtf?"*

9:20 pm - Colin texts Armstrong: *"Can you talk? I need to understand what is going on."*

9:37 pm - Armstrong texts Colin: *"Sorry, I can't talk right now."*

5/9/2022

5:27 pm - Armstrong views Mo's Strava profile

5/10/2022

4:12 pm - Armstrong views Mo's Strava profile

4:47 pm - Mo arrives in Austin

5:40 pm - Armstrong views Mo's Strava profile

5:41 pm - Armstrong views Mo's Strava profile

9:55 pm - Armstrong views Mo's Strava profile

5/11/2022

9:01 am - Mo texts Colin: *"Whatcha thinking?"* [Armstrong and Colin's records show they are both at home; Mo is at Cash's apartment]

8:53 am - Colin and Armstrong leave home for a morning bike ride [Colin's phone continues to Lockhart while Armstrong's turns around and heads home; this path also matches her Strava activity]

10:37 am - Armstrong arrives back at home

11:12 am - Colin responds to Mo's earlier text: *"I rolled out early with my buddy in town from Asheville. I never heard from you!"*

Mo texts Colin: *"Ahh I texted ya back! Did you not get it? Maybe phone issues again"*

12:41 pm - Mo texts Colin: *"Do you have plans tonight? Cash has a dinner with some college friends who are visiting so I'm on my own."*

1:31 pm - Mo goes on a solo bike ride

1:50 pm - Colin arrives home from his bike ride

1:53 pm - Armstrong's Jeep leaves shortly after Colin arrives home

2:07-2:26 pm - the Jeep and phone travel to S Lamar Blvd and remain stationary

2:30 pm - Colin leaves for a dentist appointment

3:15 pm - Colin texts Mo: *"Want to go swimming? Maybe swimming and a beverage?"*

3:37 pm - the Jeep leaves the S Lamar location and heads to the downtown area

3:41 pm - Colin sends a follow up text to Mo: *"What do you think?"*

4:13 - 4:48 pm - Colin finalizes plans to pick up Mo after her bike ride on his motorcycle; Armstrong arrives home

4:24 pm - Armstrong and Colin talk on the phone [3 minutes, 4 seconds]; he's still at the dentist

4:31 pm - Mo texts Colin that she's back from her ride and tells him he can come pick her up

4:48 pm - Armstrong sends Colin a series of texts about real estate

4:49 pm - Mo texts Colin the address of Cash's apartment

4:54 pm - Armstrong views Mo's Strava profile and activity, including her map and starting/ending points

5:30 pm - Cash leaves home for dinner with college friends

5:43 pm - Colin arrives to pick up Mo

5:55 pm - Mo locks the apartment door when she leaves

5:58 pm - Mo and Colin travel away from Cash's apartment

6:09 pm - Colin and Mo arrive at Deep Eddy Pool

6:21 pm - Armstrong's Jeep and phone are at home

6:24 pm - Colin has a missed call from Armstrong

6:25 pm - Armstrong texts Colin: *"Lmk if you want me to meet for food to dissect these discovery responses. Will be done with my appointment by 7:20"*

6:33 pm - the Jeep travels down South Lamar

6:45 pm - the Jeep arrives at Spa 7

6:57 pm - Mo and Colin move to the area of Pool Burger

7:00 pm - Colin orders food and drinks at Pool Burger

7:04 - 7:14 pm - the Jeep is parked in a parking area

7:17 pm - Armstrong texts Colin: *"Fini"*

7:15 pm - the Jeep moves north on South Lamar

7:20 pm - the Jeep crosses Lady Bird Lake into the downtown area and makes a series of turns through downtown for the next 10 minutes

7:24 pm - the Jeep turns west on 6th Street toward Pool Burger, makes a U-turn to go back east at approximately Pressler Street and then circles around a small block before stopping for a minute between Walsh/Orchard

7:30 pm - Armstrong's phone goes off network and the Jeep crosses N. Lamar

The Jeep heads east to I-35, north on Frontage Road, then east on MLK toward Cash's apartment; the Jeep circles the block twice using alleys around the apartment before it stops on a nearby road

7:45 pm - the Jeep travels down Maple Avenue and circles Cash's apartment block twice

7:56 pm - Mo orders a drink at Pool Burger [per timestamp on receipt]

8:03 pm - the Jeep is in the area of Cash's apartment on Ferdinand Street

8:05 - 8:08 pm - the Jeep is spotted on various video surveillance systems near Maple Avenue; she circles the block and passes Cash's apartment again

8:16 pm - Mo and Colin leave Deep Eddy/Pool Burger area

8:17 - 8:28 pm - No communication between the 3 phones

8:22 pm - the Jeep is stationary near Alamo Street

8:26 pm - the Jeep is seen on surveillance a few doors down from Cash's apartment traveling north on Maple Avenue

8:28 pm - the Jeep travels west on 18th Street at the same time Mo and Colin are traveling east on 17th Street (one block over)

8:29 pm - Mo and Colin arrive in the area of Cash's apartment; the Jeep is stationary on the side of the E 18th Street near Chestnut Avenue for 3.5 minutes

8:33 pm - the Jeep continues east on E 18th Street, then south on Singleton, then west on E 17th Street

8:35 pm - Strickland moves north; the Jeep is at 17th and Chestnut Street

8:36 pm - Mo enters the apartment with door unlock code; Colin stops at the alley and MLK and texts Armstrong to ask if she's out and says his phone died

8:37 pm - the Jeep travels westbound in the alley next to Cash's apartment and Mo's phone is actively using apps

8:41:02 pm - the Jeep parks near the end of the alley

8:43 pm - Colin texts Armstrong: *"Are you back home?"*

8:50 pm - Colin arrives at home

9:07 pm - Colin receives a call from Allan Burrows [8 minutes, 58 seconds]

9:13:43 pm - Mo sends her final text message to a podcaster

9:15:45 - Screams, followed by gunshots, are heard on surveillance footage

9:17:23 pm - the Jeep is turned back on, leaves the area, travels north on I-35, turns back south at 290

[Mo's bike was found at the approximate location the Jeep was parked]

9:21 pm - Colin texts Armstrong: *"Are you eating? I'm setting up bikes"*

The Jeep travels north on I-35 all the way to Highway 290 before turning around heading back to South Austin via I-35

9:43 pm - The Jeep stops at the end of her street and pauses for approximately 3 minutes, turns around and goes to the dumpsters at Tamor at Oak Bend Apt Homes and stops for approximately three minutes before heading back home

9:47 pm - Armstrong's phone powers back on at the end of her street

9:48 pm - the Jeep arrives at home

9:54 pm - Cash arrives home and calls 911

9:55 pm - Armstrong's phone comes back on the network

The three texts Colin sent Armstrong while her phone was powered off are delivered.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- RTT data are best estimates and not related to GPS measurements
- Cell towers are reliable for obtaining *general* locations
- Nothing in her presentation definitively says Armstrong was driving the Jeep or using her phone during the timeline
- She helped detectives and the DA narrow down the most relevant information because there was a lot to comb through
- She doesn't know if anyone attempted to corroborate Armstrong's whereabouts on the day of the murder
- She doesn't know of any data/proof that exists that shows another device was monitoring Colin's phone activity
- The phone data and Jeep data crossed 4-5 times, which verifies the phone was traveling inside the Jeep

[Additional testimony from Mazak](#)

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

– THE STATE RESTS –

Defense Witness #1 - [ERIN LAGRONE](#)

- Senior Latent Print Examiner, Austin Forensic Science Department
- She's testified in court twice on behalf of the prosecution
- She explains what a fingerprint is and explains there's been no historical evidence that shows two people have the same fingerprint
- She explains the intricacies of fingerprint analysis – micro vs. macroscopic detail, suitability criteria, exclusion criteria
- She didn't collect the fingerprints; she only analyzed them
- There was an immediate mistake with the fingerprint envelopes when they were first handed to her; the labels were switched
- She was given a known print of Armstrong's to compare with the latent prints
- The prints from the exterior/interior of Cash's front door were not suitable for comparison and the prints from bicycle were inconclusive
- The prints from the interior front door window, lock latch, and exterior north window excluded Armstrong

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- It wouldn't be concerning to find the fingerprints of someone who lived at the apartment or was visiting
- Some prints were inconclusive with regard to Armstrong; they could've been matches but there wasn't enough of a print to match with anyone
- Deep scarring is the only way to alter fingerprints; pineapple juice is weakly acidic and you'd need to hold a pineapple for an exceedingly long time to erode your fingerprints

Defense Witness # 2 - [GORDON NIELS](#)

- Officer who arrested Armstrong on 5/12/2022 in relation to the Class B warrant
- He was instructed to bring Armstrong in to HQ for questioning
- Armstrong's demeanor was calm and they engaged in small talk during the ride; she rode in the front passenger seat; says she seemed indifferent

- Officers aren't required to tell someone what a warrant is for when they pick them up
- He also escorted Armstrong home from HQ after the interview
- They told Armstrong she was free to leave but advised her that a search warrant was being executed at her house
- Upon arrival, at least 4-5 officers were at the home executing the search warrant

Defense Witness # 3 - [MATTHEW QUARTARO](#)

- Forensic DNA Consultant with Quartaro Forensics in Plano, TX
- He has testified upwards of 90x in criminal court
- When looking at DNA, we can't tell when and how it arrives somewhere
- He didn't recognize any serious flaws in the testing procedures for this case
- A single swab was used to collect DNA from the trigger, trigger guard, safety, and magazine; you would not be able to differentiate which of those locations the DNA was pulled from when collected with one swab
- Additional genetic DNA was found that wasn't consistent with the samples
- A Y-chromosome profile was found on the handlebars, which indicates male DNA, but there wasn't enough to create a full profile
- There was also DNA belonging to 3 individuals (including one unknown) on the bike seat; the other two belonged to Armstrong and Mo
- He can't say if the unknown samples belonged to the same person or multiple unknown persons
- In regards to transfer DNA, someone doesn't have to touch something in order for the DNA to be on it; someone can act as an intermediary
- He can't say whether Armstrong's DNA was present via transfer or not
- He says the helmet Mo wore would contain a lot of DNA

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- The defense advised him that the helmet Mo wore was the one Armstrong usually wore [the State clarified the helmet belongs to Colin and Armstrong hadn't been on the bike in over a month]
- He agrees that you might shed more DNA if you're nervous or your hands are sweaty

REDIRECT

- Saliva and semen potentially have a higher DNA quantity

Defense Witness # 4 - [WILLIAM TOBIN](#)

- Forensic Material Scientist and expert on firearms/toolmarks
- He's published articles that have led to debunked theories in forensic investigations
- He says The Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) is a trade organization and not a scientific association
- He's submitted 20 papers on metallurgy to journals that have been peer-reviewed and published
- He says there is no scientific accepted protocol for firearms and tool marking examinations because there is no protocol that specifies the parameters of detection
- Firearms identification is not a science because it is devoid of the six cornerstones of the scientific method and is 100% subjective

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He didn't look at any evidence in this case
- He's not a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences
- He acknowledges that firearm and tool mark examination courses are offered at universities across the country, including at his alma mater
- One of his colleagues wrote a 10-page critique of the PCAST assessment
- The State reads from journals/papers written by leading DNA experts and scientists who have published studies that disagree with Tobin's statements after claims the scientific community is universally behind his beliefs
- He was paid \$5,000 to testify as an expert witness via Zoom

[Additional Testimony](#)

Defense Witness # 5 - [COLIN STRICKLAND](#)

- He has 5 motorcycle helmets
- Armstrong has worn 2 of his helmets but he doesn't know the last time she wore them
- He can't recall buying the gun locks; he previously owned the red lock but doesn't recall buying the black lock and never put it on either gun

- He doesn't recall seeing Armstrong with the black gun lock and doesn't know how it got there
- He doesn't remember interviewing with APD on 5/17/2022 but knows he had a second interview; he believes that he spoke with Detective Spitler about the vandalism but doesn't remember the specifics

EXHIBIT: Muted video of his second interview with ADP

Colin is seen showing Spitler photos on his phone.

EXHIBIT: Vandalism photos

A series of photos show limestones used for paving are pushed over that weigh about 30 pounds each.

- The vandalism included Colin's motorcycle being pushed into Armstrong's Jeep; he doesn't believe Armstrong committed the vandalism because he was inside the house with her for most of the night
- He was awake most of the night and didn't hear anything suspicious outside
- He admits that he lied to Armstrong about his whereabouts on the night of 5/11/2022; he said he did his best to be honest with Mo

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- He and Armstrong had their own helmets; occasionally she'd wear one of his helmets, but she usually wore her own
- Armstrong arrived home on 5/11/2022 in her Jeep and didn't mention loaning it to anyone else

– THE DEFENSE RESTS –

STATE CALLS REBUTTAL WITNESS

State Witness # 43 - [DR TIM KALAFUT](#)

- Forensic Scientist, Sam Houston State University
- He's authored several articles on DNA analysis

- He was given two propositions: 1) the DNA on Mo's bicycle belonging to Armstrong was transferred when she picked up the bike with her hands and tried to dispose of it, or 2) the DNA was transferred through a series of activities, such as Mo picking up Armstrong's DNA from a motorcycle helmet and transferring it to her bicycle
- The likelihood of DNA being transferred after first being picked up from a motorcycle helmet and then swimming in a pool is highly improbable
- He counts out how many steps of transfer DNA it would entail for Mo to transfer Armstrong's DNA from the helmet to the bike – it's at least four
- He's only heard of two studies where transfer DNA was successfully passed down 4x and survived and it had to be highly amplified to be analyzed
- There's no way to tell when the DNA was deposited on the bike
- In his opinion, based on the two propositions provided, he believes it's more likely that Armstrong placed the DNA on the bicycle herself than Mo transferred the DNA there by accident

CROSS-EXAMINATION

- It's possible for someone's DNA to be found somewhere they've never been
- He has equal experience testifying for the state and the defense
- He can't say how the DNA got there

REDIRECT

- He knows the basics about the case from the case files
- He doesn't know who the unknown third person's DNA on the handlebars belongs to but knows that Armstrong cannot be excluded as a possible subject

– THE STATE RESTS –

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

CLOSING ARGUMENTS

THE STATE

- Why didn't they exclude every other gun in the world? Because no one with a Sig Sauer P365 also left their DNA at the scene but Armstrong; no one else in the world had their Jeep circling the location of the murder scene but Armstrong
- Two of Armstrong's friends testified that they'd seen her visibly shake in anger and jealousy while talking about Mo and they both called the police after they learned she had been murdered
- It couldn't have been anyone's Jeep because there's evidence from Armstrong's Jeep GPS coordinates that prove it was in the area at the time of the crime
- We also know that her phone was traveling alongside her Jeep until the point it was turned off
- Her Jeep takes off two minutes after the murder occurs and her phone is powered back on as she pulls up at her house
- It's not likely that her phone and Jeep were stolen because there were texts sent from her phone with sensitive information about a pending lawsuit that only she would know about
- Proof that Armstrong was at the apartment when Mo was shot includes the Jeep parked in the alley when the gunshots were heard at 9:15 pm and then leaves immediately after, her DNA was found on Mo's bike, and the shell casings found at the scene match her the markings of her gun

THE DEFENSE

- Colin fostered jealousy and insecurity
- Colin lied to Armstrong and her reactions in regards to Mo were "normal"
- Why wasn't the DNA collected from the bike shaft or from the Jeep ever tested? Why wasn't the DNA from the rape kit tested?
- There was DNA on the bike that didn't belong to Armstrong, Strickland, Wilson, or Cash
- Armstrong was known to consistently and spontaneously travel internationally
- It was reasonable for Armstrong to be concerned that her boyfriend may have killed someone or that the person who killed Mo might come after her
- The circumstantial evidence is a simple story but based on assumptions
- Colin's laptop is the only piece of evidence that was removed from this case
- Colin told police that Armstrong wasn't needy; he said she was sweet and couldn't harm anyone

- Anyone could have entered that unlocked apartment and killed Mo
- The things we don't have answers for in this case – the unlocked door, the untested rape kit and untested swabs from the Jeep – are important
- DNA is often mythologized based on TV and movies
- Ballistics testing is subjective/opinion
- The day Armstrong left for Costa Rica, she was free to go
- There was no investigation into Mo's ex-boyfriends
- They didn't test the rape kit because they had tunnel vision

STATE'S REBUTTAL

- If the DNA on the bike was transferred by Mo after she sat on Colin's bike and wore his helmet, why wasn't *Colin's* DNA found on the bike?
- Armstrong bought the same brand and caliber of ammo that was found at the crime scene
- Why did Armstrong create a note in her phone that contained the address of 1704 Maple and why did she delete it?
- The evidence points to Colin being innocent and the defense's strategy to suggest otherwise is a red herring and distraction
- The defense's theory about the DNA would required a four-time DNA transfer and the expert testified he's rarely heard of a successful 4x transfer
- Armstrong was viewing Mo's Strava account on May 9, May 10, May 11
- The fake passport, fake names, internet searches for eliminating fingerprints and local news articles about the murder are all indications of her guilt

VERDICT: GUILTY

SENTENCE: 90 YRS + \$10,000 FINE (eligible for parole after serving 30 years)