

1 Q. All right.

2 A. I'm sorry. I'm tired.

3 MR. ANDERSON: I'll pass the witness.

4 Thank you, sir.

5 MR. WAKEFIELD: Nothing further, Judge.

6 THE COURT: You may step down. Thank you.

7 MR. WAKEFIELD: The State calls Officer  
8 Reese.

9 THE BAILIFF: This witness needs to be  
10 sworn in, Judge.

11 (Whereupon the witness is sworn by  
12 the Court.)

13 **OFFICER PAUL REESE,**

14 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

15 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

16 BY MR. WAKEFIELD:

17 Q. Please introduce yourself to the jury.

18 A. My name is Paul Reese.

19 Q. Mr. Reese, what do you do for a living?

20 A. I'm a police officer with the Houston Police  
21 Department.

22 Q. How long have you been with HPD?

23 A. Thirty years.

24 Q. What position do you currently hold within the  
25 Houston Police Department?

1 A. I'm an investigator in the Robbery Division.

2 Q. When you are an investigator in the Robbery  
3 Division, what kind of training and experience do you need  
4 to become an investigator rather than just a patrol  
5 deputy?

6 A. I had 10 years of -- over 10 years of street  
7 experience where I responded to various types of calls.  
8 And I've been to training classes on how to be an  
9 investigator, detective. And I've got just about 19 years  
10 worth of experience doing my job.

11 Q. How long have you been an investigator?

12 A. Nineteen years.

13 Q. In those 19 years, what kind of crimes have you  
14 investigated in Houston?

15 A. Crimes against persons where some type of force  
16 is used to acquire property.

17 Q. Is that consistent with robberies?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. So, you've been doing robberies this whole  
20 time?

21 A. Yes, I have.

22 Q. Explain to the jury how a robbery investigation  
23 begins and what course it takes.

24 A. What happens is, usually, when a victim reports  
25 a robbery, he or she will call the police. A patrol unit

1 will respond to the scene. They will make the initial  
2 report and they will send it up to the detective bureau  
3 where I work. It's entered into a system. It prints out  
4 on a printer in our division. Those cases gets signed out  
5 by areas of town. What my responsibility is, is to follow  
6 up on any leads in that case.

7 Q. When you say you follow up on any leads, what  
8 kind of stuff do you do to follow up on those leads?

9 A. I interview the complainant, speak with the  
10 victim to make sure nothing is missed. Because a lot of  
11 times they are excited and some things, you know, are  
12 missed. So, I make a follow-up phone call to talk to the  
13 victim. And I look for stuff like a plate number or  
14 anything that would help lead to the identity of the  
15 suspect.

16 Q. Were you working Robbery on August 15th of  
17 2011?

18 A. Yes, I was.

19 Q. On August 15th of 2011, was there an  
20 investigation that was transferred to your unit by a first  
21 responder involving an aggravated robbery and aggravated  
22 sexual assault?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Explain to the jury how that came to you.

25 A. I was -- we have to rotate on working the desk.

1 That particular day, I was working a desk assignment and I  
2 got a phone call from the victim in the case.

3 Q. Which victim was that?

4 A. That was a Juan Newton.

5 Q. What did Juan Newton have to do with this case?

6 A. He said he needed to give me some viable  
7 information concerning the suspects.

8 Q. What information did he have?

9 A. He told me that --

10 MR. ANDERSON: Excuse me. I'm sorry. I  
11 would object to hearsay, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Through the course of your  
14 investigation, did you determine what evidence could be  
15 found?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What evidence was that?

18 A. I found a picture that I acquired of a guy.  
19 The picture was taken from the stolen laptop that was  
20 taken in the robbery.

21 Q. Explain to the jury how that happened.

22 A. Well, the victim had this laptop stolen and had  
23 some software put on his computer called Prey.

24 MR. ANDERSON: Unless he knows this of his  
25 own personal knowledge, I'd object to hearsay.

1 MR. WAKEFIELD: Judge, it's through the  
2 course of this investigation how he came up with  
3 these pictures and identified as one of the  
4 defendants.

5 THE COURT: All he's objecting to is his  
6 personal knowledge about how this process works. If  
7 he knows, he can testify about it.

8 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Officer, do you know how the  
9 software program Prey works?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Have you worked with software packages like  
12 Prey in the past in your investigations?

13 A. I've worked with other software programs like  
14 that, yes.

15 Q. Are you familiar with how they actually  
16 operate?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you explain to the jury how the software  
19 program Prey works?

20 A. It's almost like if you have your cell phone,  
21 and you go get a cell phone and you can track your phone.  
22 All you have to do is activate a program on your phone  
23 after it's stolen and you can actually track it. What  
24 this gentleman did is he installed this program called  
25 Prey on his laptop. Once the laptop was stolen, you get

1 online and you activate that software. And what it does  
2 is if somebody tries to use that laptop, it will  
3 photograph them, as well as give you the GPS coordinates  
4 of where they are at.

5 Q. Now, did you receive these photographs from  
6 that stolen laptop?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. At this point -- let's take a step back. Was  
9 this investigation yours to begin with?

10 A. No, it was not.

11 Q. Tell the jury who was actually the officer  
12 charged with doing the investigation in this case?

13 A. Officer Aaron Rodriguez.

14 Q. Why did you become involved in this early on?

15 A. This information came to me on Aaron's day off  
16 and I acted upon it.

17 Q. After you got that photograph, did you  
18 determine who the photograph was of?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Who was that?

21 A. That photograph was of an individual named  
22 Coleman.

23 MR. WAKEFIELD: Approach the witness,  
24 Judge?

25 THE COURT: Yes.

1 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Do you recognize this  
2 photograph?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. Is that one of the photographs that was taken  
5 by the Prey program?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And is it a fair and accurate depiction of what  
8 you observed from that program?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. WAKEFIELD: I'll offer State's Exhibit  
11 49.

12 (State's Exhibit No. 49 offered.)

13 MR. ANDERSON: No objection.

14 THE COURT: Admitted.

15 (Whereupon State's Exhibit No. 49 is  
16 admitted into evidence.)

17 MR. WAKEFIELD: May I publish to the jury?

18 THE COURT: Sure.

19 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Explain to the jury what we  
20 are looking at here.

21 A. That is a photo that was forwarded to me by the  
22 complainant that he received from the Prey software that  
23 he activated on his computer.

24 Q. And through the course of your investigation,  
25 were you able to identify who that man was?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Who was that man?

3 A. That is actually Craig Coleman.

4 Q. Now, what is important about Craig Coleman?

5 A. Craig Coleman is a twin brother of Greg  
6 Coleman.

7 Q. And through the course of your investigation,  
8 did you identify both of these men?

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q. After you have them identified, do you issue a  
11 warrant for the Colemans' arrest?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 Q. Why did you do that?

14 A. Because I wanted to get them picked up. The  
15 complainant recognized the photo and I wanted to pick this  
16 person up and interview them.

17 Q. Was there another photo in addition to this one  
18 of another person?

19 A. I later acquired one, yes.

20 Q. Was that other photograph, was that of Greg  
21 Coleman?

22 A. Yes, it was.

23 Q. Now, after the arrest warrant is issued for  
24 Greg Coleman, was that man arrested?

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. All right. And was that man interviewed?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And after all the evidence was collected, was  
4 Greg Coleman arrested for the charge of aggravated robbery  
5 at that location on West Main?

6 A. Yes, he was.

7 MR. WAKEFIELD: Approaching with State's  
8 Exhibit 50.

9 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Do you recognize that man?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. Do you know him by name and sight at this  
12 point?

13 A. Yes. It's Greg Coleman.

14 Q. Is this a fair and accurate depiction of how  
15 Greg Coleman looked when he was arrested?

16 A. Yes.

17 MR. WAKEFIELD: Offer State's Exhibit 50.

18 (State's Exhibit No. 50 offered.)

19 MR. ANDERSON: Is this Greg Coleman or  
20 Craig Coleman?

21 THE WITNESS: Sir, that is Greg Coleman.

22 MR. ANDERSON: G-r-e-g?

23 THE WITNESS: Yes.

24 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Through your investigation,  
25 were you available to determine --

1 THE COURT: Excuse me. Any objection?

2 MR. ANDERSON: I'm sorry. No objection.

3 THE COURT: Admitted.

4 (Whereupon State's Exhibit No. 50 is  
5 admitted into evidence.)

6 MR. WAKEFIELD: I'm sorry. At this time,  
7 I'd publish to the jury, Judge.

8 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Now, this is Greg with a  
9 "G," right?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. Is he one of the defendants who was  
12 there at the aggravated robbery of that scene?

13 A. Greg, yes.

14 Q. All right. Now, were you able to determine if  
15 Craig, his brother, had anything to do with that scene?

16 MR. ANDERSON: I'd object to that, Your  
17 Honor. It would call for hearsay on the part of this  
18 witness.

19 THE COURT: Do what?

20 MR. ANDERSON: I'd object to him  
21 testifying whether or not somebody else was present.

22 THE COURT: That wasn't the question. I  
23 will overrule the objection.

24 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Through your investigation,  
25 were you able to determine if Craig Coleman had anything

1 to do with that robbery?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did he have anything to do with it?

4 A. No, he did not.

5 Q. All right. After identifying Greg Coleman,  
6 what's the next thing you did with your investigation?

7 A. I found out who the second person was that was  
8 involved.

9 Q. All right. Now, whatever that second person  
10 that you found out, who was -- was Aaron Rodriguez  
11 involved in the investigation at this point?

12 A. Yes, he was.

13 Q. Okay. And through that investigation, who was  
14 the second person that was found to be involved?

15 A. John Thomas.

16 Q. Did you have a chance to meet John Thomas?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. Do you know him by name and sight?

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 Q. Do you see him here in court today?

21 A. Yes, I do.

22 Q. Can you tell the jury where he is?

23 A. He's the individual in the tan pants with the  
24 red-colored shirt on.

25 MR. WAKEFIELD: Your Honor, may the record

1 reflect this witness has identified the defendant?

2 THE COURT: It will.

3 MR. WAKEFIELD: Approach the witness?

4 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Did you file an arrest  
5 warrant on Mr. Thomas?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 Q. I'm showing State's Exhibit 51. Do you  
8 recognize that picture?

9 A. Yes, I do.

10 Q. Is that a fair and accurate depiction of how  
11 John Thomas looked when he was arrested?

12 A. Yes.

13 MR. WAKEFIELD: Offer State's Exhibit 51,  
14 Judge.

15 (State's Exhibit No. 51 offered.)

16 MR. ANDERSON: No objection.

17 THE COURT: Admitted.

18 (Whereupon State's Exhibit No. 51 is  
19 admitted into evidence.)

20 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Now, I'm showing both  
21 State's Exhibits 50 and 51. Can you explain to the jury  
22 and point out, if you can, which one is which?

23 A. Okay. This is going to be John Thomas right  
24 here.

25 Q. Use your finger, and you can actually put a

1 circle on his face or a dot, if you'd like.

2 A. That will be fine. This is going to be John  
3 Thomas right here and this is going to be Greg Coleman  
4 right here.

5 Q. Now, were any other suspects involved in this  
6 case?

7 A. No.

8 MR. WAKEFIELD: All right. Pass the  
9 witness.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

12 BY MR. ANDERSON:

13 Q. You talked about two photographs, those being  
14 of the Coleman brothers coming from the laptop computer  
15 belonging to the complaining witness, Juan Sanchez; is  
16 that correct?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. No other photographs came from the Prey program  
19 other than the photographs of the Coleman brothers?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. I take it you didn't respond to the scene of  
22 1827 West Main Street?

23 A. No, sir, I did.

24 MR. ANDERSON: I pass the witness. Thank  
25 you, sir.

1 THE COURT: You may step down.

2 MR. WAKEFIELD: I have one follow-up  
3 question, Judge, that I forgot to mention.

4 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

5 BY MR. WAKEFIELD:

6 Q. Did you locate the property that was stolen  
7 from the scene that day?

8 A. Yes, I did.

9 Q. What property was that?

10 A. It was a guitar and a purple I-Pod.

11 Q. Can you tell the jury where you found those  
12 items?

13 A. At a place called Top Dollar Pawn on the loop  
14 out around the Astrodome.

15 Q. Were you able to determine who pawned those  
16 items?

17 MR. ANDERSON: I will object to that.  
18 That would definitely call for hearsay.

19 THE COURT: Sustained.

20 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Through the course of your  
21 investigation, did you determine if that was pawned by one  
22 of those two men?

23 MR. ANDERSON: Again, I would object to  
24 that, Your Honor. It calls for hearsay.

25 THE COURT: Sustained.

1 Q. (By Mr. Wakefield) Was the discovery of those  
2 items important to your investigation?

3 A. Yes, it was.

4 Q. And was it consistent with the robbery?

5 A. Very much so.

6 MR. WAKEFIELD: Pass the witness.

7 MR. ANDERSON: I have no further  
8 questions.

9 THE COURT: You may step aside.

10 MR. WAKEFIELD: Your Honor, at this time,  
11 the State calls Officer Rodriguez.

12 THE COURT: Y'all come up just a minute.

13 (Whereupon counsel approached the  
14 bench out of the hearing of the  
15 jury.)

16 THE COURT: How long is it going to take  
17 to question that witness?

18 MR. WAKEFIELD: Probably 20 minutes.

19 THE COURT: I'm going to go ahead and  
20 adjourn until the morning. Is that okay?

21 MR. WAKEFIELD: That's fine.

22 (Whereupon the following proceeding  
23 is held in the hearing of the jury.)

24 THE COURT: Members of the jury, we're  
25 going to go ahead and adjourn for the evening. We