

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

NO. 78,462

TIMOTHY CURTIS HUDSON,

Appellant,

v.

THE STATE OF FLORIDA,

Appellee.

ON APPEAL FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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STATEMENT OF THE CASE AND THE FACTS

In the early morning hours of June 17, 1986, Mollie Ewinga was stabbed to death in her Tampa home,

Ms. Ewinga's roommate, Becky Collins, had recently been living with and was engaged to marry the defendant, Mr. Tim Hudson. Their relationship broke down over Mr. Hudson's addiction to crack cocaine (PC-R. 145-151). Ms. Collins observed that cocaine made Mr. Hudson, normally a courteous man towards her, hostile and quick to anger (R. 260). The victim knew Mr. Hudson through Ms. Collins, and he had often been a guest in her home (PC-R. 914). There were no indications of animosity between them, but the victim apparently knew of threats which resulted in Ms. Collins spending the night elsewhere (PC-R. 246-252).

On the evening of the murder Mr. Hudson used cocaine with his cousins, Anthony and Gerald Bemow, who were also heavy drug users. Their residence was a short walk from the victim's home (PC-R. 354). After leaving their residence, he went to the victim's home. Upon his entering the house, the victim recognized and confronted Mr. Hudson. She apparently began screaming at him to leave, and Mr. Hudson stabbed her four times in an attempt to quiet her. Hudson v. State, 538 So. 2d 829 (Fla. 1989). The victim died within two minutes and was likely unconscious as quickly as 20 seconds after the first wound (R. 290-96, 308). Mr. Hudson placed her body in the trunk of her car, then drove to purchase and use more crack cocaine (R. 349-50; PC-R. 215). He later disposed of the body and the car.

Mr. Hudson was arrested the next day. On June 18 and 19, 1986, he gradually confessed his full involvement with the murder to police, having waived any opportunity to speak to counsel first (R. 646-701). On the 19th he was induced to confess through interrogation known as the "Christian burial technique" which this court disapproved. Hudson, 538 So. 2d at 830. Mr. Hudson was crying, sick to his stomach, and visibly upset when he led police to the body (R. 349).

On June 25, 1986, Mr. Hudson was indicted for first degree murder, armed burglary, and grand theft (R. 769-770). The public defender was appointed to represent him on June 27, 1986, (R. 777). A discovery unfolded the state listed both Anthony and Gerald Bembow as prosecution witnesses. Gerald Bembow had been represented by the public defender in the recent past (R. 4-8). Based on this conflict trial counsel filed a Motion to Withdraw alleging that they were otherwise placed in a position of violating the Rules of Professional Conduct for attorneys (R. 796). The motion was heard and denied three days before trial (R. 635-640). The Bembow's testimony was not investigated by trial counsel and neither was called to the stand because of the conflict. The trial was set to begin on January 26, 1987, but counsel did not arrange for a mental health evaluation to begin until January 8, 1987, and failed to provide their psychologist with any significant background material on Mr. Hudson (PC-R. 229-230, 239 and 246). The circuit court found counsel's performance deficient in this regard and held that the jury was precluded from hearing mitigation as a result.

Becky Collins, a key state witness and Mr. Hudson's former fiancée with whom he had recently lived, was not deposed by trial counsel until January 12, 1987, two weeks before trial (PC-R. 905-923). In that deposition Ms. Collins discussed Mr. Hudson's increasing crack addiction and escalating violent behavior under the influence of crack (PC-R. 911-914). Trial counsel failed to utilize this information in any way. Again this was found to be deficient performance.

As the trial date approached Mr. Hudson became increasingly anxious about his attorney's lack of preparation and about a conflict of interest arising out of the public defender's representing Gerald Bembow. On December 8, 1986, he executed a pro se motion for reappointment of counsel (R. 794). On the day of trial, January 26, 1987, he finally insisted that he be heard by the trial court:

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Hudson, go ahead.

THE DEFENDANT: I would like to state a verbal ineffective assistance of counsel, I feel my present attorney hasn't taken

enough time to investigate my case properly. Due to the seriousness and my life is in jeopardy in this case, I feel more time is needed to prepare a good defense for me, sir.

THE COURT: What do you base your statement on, sir?

THE DEFENDANT: I don't feel Mr. Stone is capable enough of handling my trial.

THE COURT: You say, well, in your statement you said you don't feel like he had spent the time investigating your case properly.

THE DEFENDANT: True enough. But --

THE COURT: All right, sir. I am asking YOU, what do you base that on? You must have some facts that you base that statement on.

THE DEFENDANT: Well, two weeks ago he came by and talked to me, say he is going to send an investigator out to investigate, you know, more and more on this case.

THE COURT: And?

THE DEFENDANT: And it was never done.

THE COURT: Anything else on which you base your statements, sir?

THE DEFENDANT: Yea, sir. I have filed a motion December 5 for dismissal of counsel. I haven't heard nothing on it, Your Honor. And I wanted to say something about dismissal of counsel, last Friday. I noticed the Public Defender represented Bembo against me, I mean, represented Bembo in the past. And the state wants to use him against me, and I wanted to know why the motion for dismissal of counsel was denied?

(R. 5-6) (emphasis added). The trial court dismissed Mr. Hudson's concerns and those held by every defendant and refused to either continue the trial or appoint another attorney (R. 7-8).

At his trial Mr. Hudson's counsel told the jury during opening argument what the theory of defense was going to be:

The evidence will show that Timothy Hudson has mental problem. Timothy Hudson suffers from paranoid schizophrenia. And he has for some time. This does not mean that Timothy Hudson is insane. Timothy Hudson is not insane.

What it does mean is that Timothy Hudson suffers from mental defect that causes him to lose the ability to understand and reason accurately. What it does mean is that Timothy Hudson has a lessened capability for making rational choices and directing his own behavior. What it means is that Timothy Hudson lacked the mental capacity to form the specific intent necessary to be an of first degree premeditated murder.

The evidence will show that Timothy Hudeon is guilty of second-degree murder. The evidence will show that Timothy Hudeon killed Mollie Ewinga by an act imminently dangerous to another, wincing a depraved mind regardless of human life. That, ladies and gentlemen, is second-degree murder.

To be guilty of second-degree murder one does not have to have the ability to form a specific intent to kill someone.

Defense Opening Statement (R. 236-237) (emphasis added).

At the conclusion of the guilt phase trial counael failed to insure that the charge conference was recorded (R. 431-432). There was a discussion on the record about a jury inatruction on voluntary intoxication.

MR. BENITO: I will acquiescence to go that teetimony baaed on the testimony (sic) of Doctor Berland as far as this man's mental condition. I don't see to ar u intoxication in this particular caee.

I would bring to the Court's attention now that I see no evidence presented either through the cross-examination of the state's witnesses or the doctor that thie man, Timothy Hudson, was under the influence of any alcohol or druae at the time he committed thie crime and if Mr. Stone, I believe, were to argue that in hie closing argument, I may have to stand up, which I do not like to do, and object in his cloaing argument that he is arguing facta not in evidence.

THE COURT: Mr. Stone?

MR. STONE: Judge, if I had thought that the evidence was such that I could get an involuntary intoxication inatruction, I would have had one of thoe proposed.

THE COURT: You are not going to be arguing intoxication?

MR. STONE: I will not, I will not be arguing voluntary intoxication. I don't know whether in my cloeing argument I am not going to make any reference to the fact he had a drug problem, but it won't be, I won't be raying that he waa too intoxicated to form the intent.

MR. BENITO: That is fine.

(R. 438-439) (emphasis added).

The jury wae instructed on lesser included offenses which do not require specific intent (R. 473-481) as well as:

Impairment of the mental faculties does not excuse or justify the commission of a crime. But each impairment may exist to such an extent that an individual is incapable of forming an intent to commit a crime, thereby rendering such person incapable of committing a crime of which specific intent is an eaeential element. When the evidence tende to establish such an impairment, the burden is upon the State to eestablish beyond a reaasonable doubt that the defendant waa able to form and entertain the intent, which is an essential element of the crime.

Impairment of the mental faculties which does not go to the extent of making a person incapable of forming the intent, which is an essential element of a crime, does not reduce the gravity of the offense.

(R. 482).

The trial was brief and Mr. Hudson was convicted as charged. On February 6, 1987, Mr. Hudson was sentenced to death (R. 725-732).

On direct appeal this court affirmed the convictions. Of the guilt phase claims this court commented only on the denial of a defense motion to suppress. The opinion expressly disapproved of the "Christian burial technique" of interrogation as "a blatantly coercive and deceptive ploy" and "police overreaching or coercive police conduct," but found the confession still voluntary. Hudson, 538 So. 2d at 830.

As to the imposition of the death penalty this court divided 4-3 on a proportionality review. The majority opinion suggested Mr. Hudson's situation was "arguably a closer call," Hudson, 538 So. 2d at 832. A dissent distinguished Mr. Hudson's situation from that of the worst offenders deemed worthy of the death penalty:

BARKETT, Justice, concurring in part and dissenting in part.

I concur as to guilt and dissent as to sentencing. In his sentencing order, the trial judge made the following findings:

The facts of the case, as produced by the evidence, indicate that the defendant, TIMOTHY CURTIS HUDSON, was apparently surprised by the victim during the defendant's burglarizing of the home owned by the victim and shared with the defendant's ex-girlfriend....

....

The extensive testing done by Dr. Berland on the defendant, together with the circumstances of the surprise of the defendant during the burglary when confronted by the victim, convinces the Court that at the time of the killing and for at least a short period thereafter, the defendant was unable, to a certain extent, to conform his conduct to the requirements of law...

In light of our prior case law, I cannot conclude that the death penalty is proportionate under these facts. As was stated in the seminal case of State v. Dixon, 283 So.2d 1, 7 (Fla.1973), the death penalty is reserved "to only the most aggravated and unmitigated of most serious crimes." In light of the trial judge's explicit findings, I conclude that the murder in this case is not within the category of crimes described in Dixon.

KOGAN, J., concurs.

Hudson, 538 So. 26 at 832-33.

The United States Supreme Court later denied certiorari. Hudson v. Florida, 110 S. Ct. 212 (1989).

On September 7, 1990, Governor Martinez accelerated Rule 3.850 by signing a death warrant eight months early (PC-R. 474). Post conviction counsel was given until October 19, 1990, to file pleadings, the extension of time in recognition of the extraordinary load placed on the office as a result of multiple death warrants, many triggering the provisions of Rule 3.851. The pleadings laid out eight claims: (I) a conflict of interest based on the public defender's presentation of both Mr. Hudson and Gerald Bembow; (II) ineffective assistance of counsel based on a failure to develop evidence in support of an involuntary intoxication defense; (III) ineffective assistance of counsel during penalty phase; (IV) ineffective assistance of counsel through a failure to develop a competent mental health evaluation; (V) ineffective assistance of counsel through a failure to insure a fair and impartial jury; (VI) the trial court's failure to find and consider mitigation presented at trial; (VII) improper burden shifting by the penalty phase jury instruction; and (VIII) the use of unconstitutional automatic aggravating factors to arrive at the death sentence (PC-R. 493-594). The trial court stayed execution on October 24, 1990 (PC-R. 599-600). The State filed a response (PC-R. 606-617). An evidentiary hearing was set for December 12-14, 1990, on the first four claims and any that related to ineffective assistance of counsel.

At the evidentiary hearing Mr. Hudson presented nine witnesses in the following order: trial co-counsel John Conrad; Mr. Hudson's former fiancée Becky Collins; his sister Debra Hudson; trial co-counsel Raybun Stone; forensic psychologist Dr. Bob Berland; Anthony and Gerald Bembow; his father Daniel Hudson; and psychiatrist Dr. Peter Macaluso. Dr. Berland and Daniel Hudson had previously testified as defense witnesses, while Mr. Collins was a prosecution witness at trial. The State presented no testimony at the post conviction hearing

Trial counsel testified, among other things, that they devised a defense of diminished capacity which ought to avoid a voluntary intoxication defense based on Gurganus v. State, 451 So.2d 817 (Fla. 1984), a voluntary intoxication case (R. 246-237; PC-R. 200, 219, 220-223). They further testified that they considered Gerald Bembow brothers to be "a harmful estate witness" (PC-R. 229-230). However, they never deposed, investigated, or took any attempt to determine what the brothers knew about the case (PC-R. 230-232).

Mr. Hudson's former fiancée, Me. Colline, testified that with his growing crack addiction he lost interest in work, began to exhibit mental problems, became irrational, physically violent, and that his whole personality changed for the worse. She had not been asked to testify to three things by the defense at trial. The Bembow brothers, neither of whom were asked to testify at trial, testified to Mr. Hudson's using crack with them, his growing need for crack, and its severe, long lasting effect on him. Both were with Mr. Hudson the night of the murder and observed the same things at that time. Debra Hudson, his sister, testified to her observing his growing crack use in 1986 when he became paranoid and violent, lost all interest in caring for himself, and left "crack cans" at the residence they shared. Mr. Hudson had borrowed money from her the day of the murder to buy more crack. Me. Hudson had also not been called to testify at the trial, nor had she ever been contacted by his defense team.

A defense psychologist had been retained for trial on January 6, 1987 (PC-R. 201, 260-261) for a trial that began on January 26 where what amounted to a voluntary intoxication defense was announced (R. 236-237). The psychologist, Dr. Bob Berland, testified at the evidentiary hearing below that he needed more time to do an adequate evaluation (PC-R 260, 262):

Q. In three weeks adequate time in your opinion to put together a capital case and in this case, a guilt phase defense and a penalty phase defense?

* * *

A. No, that is insufficient. Customarily, I have needed to do testing and interview with the defendant. I need to look through documents, I need to track down and talk to lay witnesses. Typically need to brief the attorney. And that, unfortunately,

taken a fair amount of time. And three weeks would normally not suffice. I wouldn't take a case normally under those kind of constraints.

(PC-R. 261-262). Dr. Berland was not provided any background materials on Mr. Hudson (PC-R 262-263, 272-273, 276-277). In particular, Dr. Berland was not given materials about Mr. Hudson's serious cocaine addiction (PC-R 263). Had he been provided anything on this issue, he testified that it would have prompted his wanting more because psychoactive drugs, particularly cocaine, tend to exacerbate psychotic systems (PC-R 266). At the evidentiary hearing Dr. Berland observed cocaine use by a person with Mr. Hudson's other mental disorders results in "somebody who is going to be severely disturbed and with relatively few controls over his behavior" (PC-R 283-284). Having been provided this additional background material Dr. Berland concluded that Mr. Hudson was "a lot more severely mentally disturbed than I had, at the time of the offense, than I had understood him to be" (PC-R 287). He saw no evidence the defendant was malingering (PC-R 298).

The last of Mr. Hudson's post-conviction witnesses was Dr. Peter Macaluso, an expert in addiction medicine (PC-R. 400-402). In his examination and evaluation of Mr. Hudson he relied upon background materials and witness interviews supplied by post-conviction counsel but neglected by trial counsel. He told the trial court below of Mr. Hudson's severe cocaine intoxication and its effect on his ability to form specific intent:

Q. Mr. Hudson's disease of chemical dependency, how advanced was it by the time of the crime in this case, which would have been June of 1981

A. Mr. Hudson, by the time you mentioned was consuming massive amounts of cocaine along with other drugs, mainly marijuana and alcohol and often times heroin. His cocaine addiction was to such a extent where he would use what is termed as a slab per day, which is about a hundred to two hundred hits of cocaine. This is advanced addiction to cocaine, producing toxic affects, toxic psychosis, if you would, meaning that the level of cocaine was to such an extent where his ability to perceive and interact with his environment were grossly impaired. His ability to reason, to process information were grossly impaired. And these effects would produce what we term a toxic psychotic state. Cocaine psychosis. The prolonged effects produced was termed organic brain syndrome, inability to remember, to process information.

Q. In layman's term, damage to the brain?

A. Brain damage. That's, that's correct.

(PC-R. 410-411).

After allowing for transcription of post-conviction testimony, post hearing memoranda (PC-R. 636-735), and oral argument the trial court on July 23, 1991, denied guilt phase relief, granted a new jury sentencing, but refused to impose a life sentence.

Cross appeal timely followed.

SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENTS

I. Gerald Bembow was listed by the State as a person with material and relevant information regarding the charged offenses. Mr. Hudson's trial counsel advised the trial court and Mr. Hudson that counsel had previously represented Gerald Bembow and that counsel was burdened with a conflict. Mr. Hudson did not waive the conflict, and in fact, asked to have counsel removed. The trial court denied the request. The State then chose not to present Gerald Bembow as a witness. However, defense counsel, because of his conflict, never spoke to Gerald Bembow and never learned what relevant information he possessed. As a result, Mr. Hudson was denied conflict free representation and deprived of the benefit of exculpatory evidence. A new trial must be ordered.

II. Counsel unreasonably failed to investigate Mr. Hudson's drug usage and how it could be used as a defense at the guilt phase of his trial. Ample evidence was available and could have been used in an effort to convince the jury to convict of the lesser offense, second degree murder. As a result, Mr. Hudson was prejudiced by counsel's deficient performance.

III. Trial counsel failed to obtain a timely and adequate mental health evaluation of Mr. Hudson. Had counsel performed reasonably, mental health testimony supporting a voluntary intoxication defense would have been available. This testimony would have resulted in a second degree murder conviction; at the very least confidence is undermined in the reliability of the verdict in the absence of the available expert opinion. Accordingly, a new trial must be ordered.

IV. The circuit court ruled that penalty phase counsel's performance was deficient, and that, as a result, a wealth of mitigating evidence was not presented to the jury nor in the direct appeal record. The circuit court, accordingly, granted a new penalty phase proceeding. However, the circuit court should have gone further and simply imposed a life sentence. This is because, had the additional mitigating evidence been contained in the record on direct appeal, this Court would have imposed a life sentence in the course of its proportionality review. Accordingly, this Court should order a life sentence imposed now.

ARGUMENT I

MR. HUDSON WAS DENIED HIS FIFTH, SIXTH, EIGHTH AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT RIGHTS BECAUSE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

In summary, the problem was that the public defender's office represented Mr. Hudson and in the recent past had represented Gerald Bembow. Mr. Bembow was serving a prison sentence at the time of this trial. The State listed Mr. Bembow as a witness and had him transported back to Tampa for trial. Trial counsel filed a motion to withdraw from Mr. Hudson's case based on this obvious conflict between clients. It was denied at a motion hearing four days before trial. Mr. Hudson refused to waive the conflict but it was represented to the court that Mr. Bembow would waive his rights as to the conflict.

While this transpired, trial counsel had been placed on notice that Mr. Bembow would be the source of important testimony both as to voluntary intoxication at the guilt phase and mitigation at the penalty phase. However, having been paralyzed by the conflict issue, trial counsel failed to investigate Mr. Bembow's testimony in that regard. In fact, they were circumspect in avoiding any contact with Mr. Bembow, much to Mr. Hudson's detriment.

Mr. Hudson is entitled under the sixth and fourteenth amendments to legal representation that is free of conflicts of interest. Wood v. Georgia, 450 U.S. 261, 270-271 (1981); Burden v. Zant, 871 F.2d 956, 957 (11th Cir.

1989), and Harich v. State, 542 So. 2d 980, 981 (Fla. 1989). This is not possible where the public defender's office represents both Mr. Hudson and a potentially key government witness. It makes no difference that the government witnesses came had already plead out at the time of Mr. Hudson's trial. Brown v. State, 17 F.L.W. §159, 160 (Fla. March 5, 1992).

In order for [Mr. Hudson] to prevail on this claim, he must demonstrate that [trial counsel] actively represented conflicting interests and that an actual conflict of interest adversely affected [trial counsel's] performance. Cuyler v. Sullivan, 466 U.S. 335, 350, 100 S.Ct. 1708, 1719, 64 L.Ed.2d 333 (1980); Stevenson v. Neweome, 774 F.2d 1558, 1562 (11th Cir.1985), cert. denied, ___ U.S. ___, 106 S.Ct. 1476, 89 L.Ed.2d 731 (1986). "An actual conflict exists if counsel's introduction of probative evidence or plausible arguments that would significantly benefit our defendant would damage the defense of another defendant whom the same counsel is representing." Baty v. Balkcom, 661 F.2d 391, 395 (5th Cir.1981)(Unit B), cert. denied, 456 U.S. 1011, 102 S.Ct. 2307, 73 L.Ed.2d 1308 (1982). In order to show an actual conflict, [Mr. Hudson] must demonstrate that [trial counsel] chose between possible alternative courses of action such as eliciting or failing to elicit evidence helpful to [Mr. Hudson] but harmful to [Mr. Bembow]. See Stevenson, 774 F.2d at 1562.

In the instant case, [Mr. Hudson] claims that [trial counsel] owed a continuing duty to [Mr. Bembow] which prevented vigorous cross-examination without violating the attorney/client privilege. [Mr. Hudson] asserts that [trial counsel] was forced to choose between discrediting his former client through information learned in confidence, or foregoing vigorous cross-examination in an attempt to preserve [Mr. Bembow's] attorney/client privilege. If true, these assertions would suffice to demonstrate an actual conflict of interest.

In addition to showing an actual conflict of interest, [Mr. Hudson] must also show that the conflict adversely affected his lawyer's representation. In other words, [Mr. Hudson] must show that another defense strategy that could have been employed by another lawyer would have benefitted his defense. See Stevenson, 774 F.2d at 1562; United States v. Mers, 701 F.2d 1321, 1328, 1329-30 (11th Cir.1983), cert. denied, 464 U.S. 991, 104 S.Ct. 482, 78 L.Ed.2d 679 (1983).

Porter v. Wainwright, 805 F.2d 930, 939-940 (11th Cir. 1986).

Trial counsel was aware of the conflict. In the days before trial they filed a motion to Withdraw And To Appoint Private Counsel alleging "[t]hat representation of the defendant, TIMOTHY CURTIS HUDSON under the circumstances of this case would constitute a conflict of interest and/or a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct for attorneys" (R. 796). The motion was heard on January 23, 1987:

[The Court:] This is is the matter of the State of Florida versus Timothy C. Hudson, Case 86-8613.

First motion is motion for individual voir dire and sequestration of jurors. You wish to add anything to your motion, sir? Don't repeat any of the allegations of your motion, because I have read all the motion.

MR. STONE: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you have anything to add to it?

MR. STONE: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Response from the State?

MR. BENITO: Judge, if I can stop you there, I hate to throw a monkey wrench in there. Am you recall, we continued until today Mr. Stone's motion for conflict. He tried to withdraw sometime last week because I was going to call a witness Gerald Bembow, and he had previously or his office had previously represented Mr. Bembow. We put it off to today to see what the situation is. If he is still going to make the motion to conflict off, I think we have to decide on that before we get into the other motions.

THE COURT: I agree. I had completely forgotten that.

Mr. Stone?

MR. STONE: Your Honor, the position that we are in is that we have a problem if the State chooses to call Gerald Bembow. I believe it was continued until today for the State to decide whether they were going to use Gerald Bembow.

THE COURT: Wasn't the State's comment at that time you didn't think you were going to use him at all, Mr. Benito?

MR. BENITO: That is correct, Judge.

THE COURT: Well, what is the State's position now?

MR. BENITO: I think I can use him now, Judge.

THE COURT: Okay. Now, Mr. Stone?

MR. STONE: Judge, it's our position that there is a conflict that is covered by 4-147 of the Rules of Conduct of Lawyers, that being: A lawyer shall not represent a client if the lawyer has exercised independent professional judgment and representation of that client may be limited by the lawyer's responsibilities to another client or to a third person or by the lawyer's own interest unless:

(1). Lawyer reasonably believed representation will not be adversely affected and,

(2). The client consents after consultation. I would submit that that client, Your Honor, would be Mr. Hudson. I believe that this case does fit into that situation. And I have discussed the case with Mr. Hudson and he does not consent to my continued representation.

* * *

THE COURT: What is the State's response to Mr. Stone's posture that he finds himself in?

MR. BENITO: Well, I don't see where Mr. Stone is going to have under that section he cited from the code, a responsibility to another client after I have conferred with Mr. Bembow. Mr. Bembow will tell the Court under oath that he will waive any prior attorney/client privilege between himself and the Public Defender's Office, that he is willing to allow the Public Defender to ask him anything on the witness stand that they want to ask him, that in his conversation with me he says he does not recall talking to the Public Defender about anything that would lead to any embarrassment to him if he did testify in this particular case.

And with that I don't see why Mr. Stone can't effectively cross-examine Mr. Bembow if he is called to testify.

MR. STONE: Your Honor, the issue is more than merely an attorney-client privilege and a waiver; doesn't, a waiver of Mr. Bembow does not solve the problem.

THE COURT: Tell me what the problem is.

MR. STONE: I am not at liberty to discuss all the new answers and permutations of how this rule affects the situation I find myself in.

THE COURT: I tell you what you do. You come up here, approach the bench with the court reporter, without the State being here, you all step back at the first bench.

Mr. Stone, you come up here; put it on the record with me, with only me listening.

MR. STONE: Your Honor, I would prefer to decline that offer and stand on the motion.

THE COURT: Your motion is denied, then. You will continue to represent him, sir. And I do accept a waiver of the attorney-client privilege from the witness. How do you spell his name?

MR. BENITO: Gerald Bembow, B-e-m-b-o-w. I bring to the Court's attention that does not mean I am going to use Mr. Bembow. I have that option at this time. I have made Mr. Stone aware that Mr. Bembow's brother, Anthony Bembow, who will be available any time Mr. Stone wants to take the deposition between now and the time we start this trial, has the same information that Gerald Bembow has.

THE COURT: If you call Gerald Bembow.

MR. BENITO: Yes, air.

THE COURT: He is going to have the opportunity, I don't care what similar information the other guy has, he is going to have the opportunity to depose him.

MR. BENITO: Oh, I understand that, sir.

THE COURT: All right.

(R. 635-640) (emphasis added). Trial counsel never deposed, investigated, or took any steps to determine what either of the Bembo brothers know about the case (PC-R. 230-232).

Mr. Hudeon continued to be in fear of this dual representation of himself and Gerald Bembo. The day his trial began Mr. Hudeon told the court:

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. I have filed a motion December 5 for dismissal of counsel. I haven't heard nothing on it, Your Honor. And I wanted to say something about dismissal of counsel, last Friday. I noticed the Public Defender represented Bembo [sic] against me, I mean, represented Bembo [sic] in the past. And the State wants to use him against me, and I wanted to know why the motion for dismissal of counsel was denied?

(R. 6) (emphasis added).

Gerald Bembo testified at the December hearing as to his willingness and availability:

Q. Shortly after Mr. Hudson was arrested for this offense, you got in some trouble; is that correct?

A. Yee.

Q. And what was that in relation to, what were the charges?

A. Crack cocaine sales and delivery.

Q. You, in fact, were caught and you recall that you were convicted of possession and delivery of crack cocaine?

A. Yea.

Q. Is that not correct? When was that, do you recall, in '86?

A. I think June, June 27th, something like that.

Q. Sometime shortly after this incident?

A. Right.

Q. And, in fact, you were sentenced; is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were you shipped off to?

A. Apalachicola Institution.

Q. And as a matter of fact you were later brought back here to Tampa in reference to Mr. Hudson's Case, were you not?

A. Yes.

Q. And at any time either prior to being brought back or after you were brought back did anyone representing Mr. Hudeon attempt to talk to you or to ask you questions about what you saw on the night that Miss Ewina was murdered?

A. No, sir.

Q. You indicate in your affidavit that surprised you.

A. Yes.

Q. Why is that?

A. Because when the detective talked to me and when they brought me back. I figured that somebody would talk to me about it, you know. I didn't know.

Q. No one ever attempted to talk to you then?

A. No.

Q. Had Mr. Hudson's attorney wanted to call you on the stand during this trial in January of '87 and testify to the things you have testified to here today, would you have done that?

A. Yes.

Q. No doubt in your mind?

A. No doubt.

(PC-R. 370-372) (emphasis added).

Trial co-counsel testified he was vaguely aware that *Mf.* Bembow might have some testimony as to Mr. Hudson's drug use:

Q. okay. Other than Miss Colline, do you know if there was any other information that you can recall now that crack cocaine had been mentioned in connection with Mr. Hudeon?

A. I have been told that, well --

Q. If you can remember. If you can't, sir, I mean, we realize it was four years ago.

A. I remember that there was other evidence out there that he had and that he had not used crack cocaine shortly before.

Q. All right.

A. The incident.

Q. Do you recall who had the information that he had used it shortly before?

A. The only name that comes to mind is Gerald Bembow but the reason that I remember that, the reason that name comes to mind, is, quite frankly, I read it in your motion.

Q. Okay. Do you recall seeing that police report that was quoted in our motion prior to trial?

A. No.

(PC-R. 212) (emphasis added). He also testified that there were no defense contact. with Gerald Bembow:

Q. I understand, sir. Did you talk to Gerald Bembow?

A. I don't remember ever talking to Gerald Bembow or seeing in my notes anywhere where our investigator had talked to Gerald Bembow.

Q. Do you know why?

A. It, I would have to, I would have to guess. Gerald --

Q. Guessing doesn't help Judge Lazzara, doesn't help me and it doesn't help Mr. Benito.

A. I don't know.

* * *

Q. You know what Gerald Bembow would have said, Mr. Stone?

A. Do I know what he would have said? No, I don't know what he would have said.

Q. Do you always make tactical decisions before investigating what a witness could say?

A. Do I always make tactical decisions? No. I don't always make tactical decisions.

Q. But you did in this case?

A. If the question is, did I decide to not put Gerald Bembow on without personally talking to him, the answer is, yes, I decided not to put Gerald Bembow on without first talking to him. I have no recollection of ever talking to him.

* * *

Q. Sir, let me ask it this way: Who handled the penalty phase of Mr. Hudson's case?

A. Mr. Conrad. John Conrad.

Q. You have testified that you chose not to use Mr. Bembow's evidence at the guilt-innocence phase. Would you have deferred to Mr. Conrad as to a decision whether to use Mr. Bembow on the penalty phase of the trial?

A. Yes.

Q. And just to clarify it, I don't want to belabor the point, you decided not to talk to Mr. Bembow for tactical reasons; is that my understanding?

A. I don't, I don't ever remember making a decision not to talk with him. Evidently, I didn't talk with him.

(PC-R. 230-232) (emphasis added).

On cross examination, trial co-counsel again spoke of the conflict and suggested his concerns were not met by the State's representation to the court that Mr. Bembow would waive his rights:

Q. And you made a motion for conflict based on Gerald Bembow, but isn't it a fact that we resolved that: when Gerald Bembow, I announced Gerald Bembow wouldn't even testify?

A. My concerns with Gerald Bembow revolved around my having to cross-examine him.

Q. Right. And you recall, if you have read the transcript, the State did not use Gerald Bembow?

A. That is correct.

(PC-R. 241) (emphasis added). It should be pointed out that just because the State did not call Gerald Bembow does not remove the problem of defense being effectively paralyzed by his remaining a potential prosecution witness whom the defense would have to cross-examine until the last minute. Gerald Bembow had been disclosed as a person who possessed relevant information; yet, defense counsel never talked to Gerald Bembow.

Trial co-counsel could not recall either defense lawyer having made any effort to determine just what Mr. Bembow would have to say:

Q. Okay. Do you recall any statements given to police by a Gerald Bembow, spelled B-E-M-B-O-W?

A. Without benefit of the police report, I can't say yes or no.

Q. Do you know if you talked or Mr. Stone talked with Mr. Gerald Bembow?

A. I don't believe we talked to Gerald Bembow. I think we interviewed Anthony Bembow.

(PC-R. 53-54) (emphasis added). He could not recall the circumstances of this critical omission (HR. 61-62). He was aware of the conflict between these two public defender clients:

Q. Sir, do you know what charges Mr. Bembow had been represented on by the PD's Office which caused the initial conflict?

A. Which one?

Q. The one that Mr. Stone raised the conflict issue on? Do you know what charges were involved in Mr. Bembow's case?

A. I think -- as I stated earlier, I think I was just trying to guess, based on my recollection that there was a conflict with one of the Bembow brothers. Which one I do not recall. And I do not recall which charges would have been pending either at the time or in the past that we would have represented which one of them on.

I'm not sure which one it was.

(PC-R. 63)(emphasis added). Trial co-counsel had no recollection as to whether they followed through on information disclosed in a deposition that suggested Gerald Bembow would be an important witness:

Q. And what does Me. Roberson indicate her understanding is of what Mr. Gerald Bembow does?

A. According to this is he believed that Gerald Bembow mold rock cocaine.

Q. All right. And after she states that, what does Mr. Benito say?

A. Well --

Q. On Page 14, I'm sorry, Line 2.

A. Mr. Benito says, "Ray, you need to get ahold of Gerald."

Q. What does Mr. Stone say?

A. "Yes."

Q. Do you know if Mr. Stone ever did that?

A. I have no recollection or knowledge of whether he did or did not.

(PC-R. 67-68)(emphasis added).

Trial co-counsel apparently resolved the conflict with Mr. Bembow by avoiding any contact with him, thus avoiding knowledge of the potentially valuable testimony he could add to their quasi-voluntary intoxication defense. At the evidentiary hearing below lead trial counsel testified that he could not recall any strategic or tactical reason for not determining what Gerald Bembow might have to say, but added "I considered Gerald Bembow a harmful state witness" (PC-R. 229-230). He offered no explanation for why he would not determine the testimony of "a harmful state witness" in advance of trial. Trial counsel testified that he undertook no independent investigation of Mr. Hudson's intoxication at the time of the offense, including interviewing Mr.

Bembow (PC-R. 234). This in spite of the fact it was the foundation of his planned defense. Had Gerald Bembow testified at trial, he would have stated:

Q. Let me draw your attention to the time period of 1985, 1986 were you in contact with Mr. Timothy Hudson?

A. Yes.

Q. And how often would you say that you saw Mr. Hudson during that period?

A. Very frequently, probably three, four times a week.

Q. During that time period did you ever have the opportunity to smoke crack cocaine with Mr. Hudson?

A. Yes.

Q. How often would you say that you smoked crack cocaine with Mr. Hudson?

A. Maybe approximately three times a week.

Q. Would it be typical for you two to smoke crack cocaine every time you got together?

A. Yea.

Q. During that period of time you were selling crack cocaine; is that right?

A. Yea.

Q. What kind of reaction did Mr. Hudson have to crack cocaine? What were your observations?

A. Very, very paranoia. It was, you know, in my experience using the drug, I never seen anyone react the way he did on it. And it was, he was a different person.

Q. How so? In your terms what can you tell the Judge about your observations?

A. He was, like, Paranoid and afraid of his surroundings or someone hurting him or something like that. He just reacted totally different from anybody I ever seen using the drug.

Q. Did you ever see him get argumentative or mad for no reason while under the influence of crack cocaine?

A. Not really mad but upset if you moved around or something like that. He would like things to be quiet and everybody still.

Q. So he would react to movement?

A. Right.

Q. To sound?

A. Right.

Q. How would he react?

A. Jump you. Scared. paranoia, real bad.

Q. Is it safe, you have seen other people use crack cocaine?

A. **Yes.**

Q. Is it safe to say that everyone reacts to crack cocaine? Your behavior chancee to some extent?

A. Right. But hia was, his, the way he chanaed was like nothina I ever saw before, you know, in my experience in smoking crack. And I, you know, it waa very, very paranoia. Frightening.

Q. How many different people, approximately, would you say you have smoked crack cocaine with?

A. I can't give a number. Plenty.

Q. Quite a few?

A. **Yes.**

Q. You noticed a profound difference, though, in the way Mr. Hudson reacted?

A. Yes.

Q. From your observations how bad wae Mr. Hudson's crack problem during the time frame of June 1986?

A. I think it was aort of bad. He was, he smoked it pretty bad.

Q. In fact, you were interviewed by a Detective Black, were you not?

A. **Yes.**

Q. **As** a matter of fact, you told Detective Black that Mr. Hudson had a bad cocaine, crack cocaine problem?

A. Yea.

Q. Do you recall the night that Miss Ewing wan killed?

A. **Yes.**

Q. Did you see Mr. Hudson an that day?

A. Yea.

Q. You recall when you first saw Mr. Hudson that day?

A. **Yes.** It was dusk. Dusk dark.

Q. Approximately what time; do you know?

A. I think about 5:00 or 6:00.

Q. Late afternoon?

A. Right.

Q. Was, where did you see Mr. Hudeon at that time?

A. Rembrandt Apartment.

Q. Who was living at that Rembrandt Apartments?

A. Well, I lived there.

Q. And what were your observation of Mr. Hudeon when you saw him during the late afternoon of that day?

A. He was, I could tell he had been getting high.

Q. And how could you tell that he was getting high?

A. Because I, I have known him all my life and I knew him when he wasn't high and when he was. And I could tell, you know, by looking at him, he was high.

Q. Did you see him use crack cocaine on that occasion?

A. NO.

Q. But you did observe that he appeared to be high at that time?

A. Right.

Q. How long was Mr. Hudson with you at that time; do you recall?

A. No, I don't recall. He left.

Q. Did he come back later?

A. Yes, he come back around eleven, 11:30, something like that.

Q. And do you recall what kind of condition Mr. Hudson was in when you saw him at approximately, say, 11:00, 11:30 that night?

A. Yes. I could tell he had been smoking more drugs, because he was higher.

Q. What do you mean, smoking more drugs?

A. Crack. I mean, he was high. He was nervous. And his eyes were big and glassy.

Q. How long was he with you at that time; do you recall?

A. I think about five minutes, five, ten minutes.

Q. And you indicated to the police, in fact, he asked you to go some place with him; is that correct?

A. I think so. And my ex-girlfriend asked me to come inside, and that is when I went inside. I asked him to spend the night, but he told me he was going.

Q. Why did you ask him to spend the night?

A. Because he was high. And I felt like he should have slept it off, try to sleep it off because I observed he was very high.

Q. In fact, he indicated in the report that he got upset with you when you wouldn't go with him?

A. Yes, he was, he was anary because he was high and I knew it.

Q. Again, an indication that he got upset for no apparent reason?

A. No.

Q. Do you know a Miss Roberson?

A. Yes.

Q. Was she living near you at this time?

A. Yes, two apartments over.

Q. Mr. Hudson apparently left, then, after your girlfriend asked you to come in?

A. Yea.

Q. And how long was he with you at that time?

A. About five or ten minutes. I think he left it was around 12:00.

Q. When you get high on crack cocaine, there's an initial high; is that correct?

A. Yea.

Q. How long does that last, in your experience?

A. About ten, fifteen minutes.

Q. And are you back to normal, then, after ten or fifteen minutes?

A. Most people are.

Q. okay.

A. But --

Q. What about Mr. Hudson, as far as your observation?

A. I think the high last longer on him because my experience around him, it affected him a lot different than other people I know.

Q. Had you ever asked Mr. Hudson to sleep it off before?

A. No.

Q. Why did you that night?

A. Because I could tell he was very high.

(PC-R. 363-370) (emphasis added) (see also PC-R. 377). Gerald Bembow testified that he was so struck by Mr. Hudson's reaction to crack that he broke his own habit as a result. "I got to thinking about Tim and I knew him all my life. He is a good person. And I know this. And I seen how it affected him. And I tried to straighten my life out now, you know, because of what happened with him and his situation." (PC-R. 372).

Gerald Bembow was in prison at the time of Mr. Hudson's trial as a result of the charges on which the public defender has represented him. He was brought back to Tampa for Mr. Hudson's trial, but did not testify. He was surprised that no one contacted him on behalf of Mr. Hudson (PC-R. 371).

The defense afforded Mr. Hudson by the Public Defender was inevitably eroded, much to Mr. Hudson's prejudice, by this conflict between clients. "If the defendant or his attorney give the trial court notice of an alleged conflict, and the trial court fails to inquire into the conflict, a reviewing court will presume prejudice upon a showing of possible prejudice." United States v. Horton, 845 F.2d 1414, 1418 (7th Cir. 1988). Even if the conflict only arises in conjunction with sentencing proceedings, reversal is required if a court is given notice and fails to act to insure that the conflict does not prejudice the defendant. United States v. Ziegenhagen, 890 F.2d 937 (7th Cir. 1989). Here the trial court was put on notice of the conflict. Even so, nothing was done to insure that conflict free counsel interviewed the witness and evaluated his story to determine whether it could be used on Mr. Hudson's behalf at either guilt or penalty phases. Prejudice must be presumed.

It makes no difference whether this situation was caused by trial counsel's lack of sensitivity to a very real conflict, or if the situation was forced on trial counsel by the trial court's refusal to see the conflict and ordering trial counsel to proceed. See United States v. Cronin, 466 U.S. 648

(1984). Mr. Hudson lost his sixth amendment right to counsel either way. Counsel did not learn what Gerald Bembow might know about the case and did not employ that important information in his defense. A new trial must be ordered.

ARGUMENT II

MR. HUDSON WAS DEPRIVED OF HIS EIGHTH AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT RIGHTS TO THE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL BY HIS ATTORNEY'S FAILURE TO ADEQUATELY INVESTIGATE, DEVELOP, AND PRESENT AMPLY AVAILABLE EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF A VOLUNTARY INTOXICATION DEFENSE.

From the beginning, trial counsel developed a theory of this case which required the presentation of testimony about Mr. Hudson's voluntary ingestion of crack cocaine and other substances, as well as his individual response to these drugs. Because this was a case with "a full-blown confession" (PC-R. 235), an absolute innocence defense was not considered. Trial counsel, instead, sought to show that Mr. Hudson could not form specific intent. This is obvious from trial counsel's argument to the jury making it clear how important these issues would be to the final outcome. At trial, the theory of defense offered was that:

The evidence will show that Timothy Hudson has mental problems. Timothy Hudson suffers from paranoid schizophrenia. And he has for some time. This does not mean that Timothy Hudson is insane. Timothy Hudson is not insane.

What it does mean is that Timothy Hudson suffers from mental defect that causes him to lose the ability to understand and reason accurately. What it does mean is that Timothy Hudson has a lessened capability for making rational choices and directing his own behavior. What it means is that Timothy Hudson lacked the mental capacity to form the specific intent necessary to be guilty of first-degree premeditated murder.

The evidence will show that Timothy Hudson is guilty of second-degree murder. The evidence will show that Timothy Hudson killed Mollie Ewing by an act imminently dangerous to another, evincing a depraved mind regardless of human life. That, ladies and gentlemen, is second-degree murder.

To be guilty of second-degree murder, one does not have to have the ability to form a specific intent to kill someone.

Defense Opening Statement (R. 236-237) (emphasis added).

Trial counsel here failed to insure that the guilt phase charge conference was recorded (R. 431-432), but some discussion of jury instructions does appear on the record. Trial counsel and the court indicated that a

voluntary intoxication instruction would not be sought or given because counsel had not produced sufficient testimony to support it:

MR. BENITO: I will acquiescence to go that testimony based on the testimony (sic) of Doctor Berland as far as this man's mental condition. I don't know if Mr. Stone proposee to argue intoxication in this particular case.

I would bring to the Court's attention now that I see no evidence presented either through the cross-examination of the State's witnesses or the doctor that this man, Timothy Hudson, was under the influence of any alcohol or drugs at the time he committed this crime and if Mr. Stone, I believe, were to argue that in his closing argument, I may have to stand up, which I do not like to do, and object in his closing argument that he is arguing facts not in evidence.

THE COURT: Mr. Stone?

MR. STONE: Judge, if I had thought that the evidence was such that I could get an involuntary intoxication instruction, I would have had one of those proposed.

THE COURT: You are not going to be arguing intoxication?

MR. STONE: I will not, I will not be arguing voluntary intoxication. I don't know whether in my closing argument I am not going to make any reference to the fact he had a drug problem, but it won't be, I won't be saying that he was too intoxicated to form the intent.

MR. BENITO: That is fine.

(R. 438-439) (emphasis added). However, the jury was instructed on Mr. Hudson's impairment:

Impairment of the mental faculties does not excuse or justify the commission of a crime. But such impairment may exist to such an extent that an individual is incapable of forming an intent to commit a crime, thereby rendering such person incapable of committing a crime of which specific intent is an essential element. When the evidence tends to establish such an impairment, the burden is upon the State to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant was able to form and entertain the intent, which is an essential element of the crime.

Impairment of the mental faculties which does not go to the extent of making a person incapable of forming the intent, which is an essential element of a crime, does not reduce the gravity of the offense.

Burglary and murder in the first-degree are both crimes requiring a specific intent.

(R. 482).

Guilt phase counsel testified at the Rule 3.850 hearing that "the defense theory was that it was second degree murder rather than first-degree murder.

That his mental impairment prevented him from forming the premeditated design to effect the death" (PC-R. 200) (emphasis added). However, trial counsel's testimony at the evidentiary hearing made it clear they did not understand the law on which the defense was based. Under questioning from the court, guilt phase counsel identified this as a "Greganue defense" based on Greganue v. State, 451 So. 2d 817 (Fla. 1984), where "mental impairment that doesn't rise to the level of insanity but does go to show that he could not have formed the specific intent" (PC-R. 219).

It is clear from his testimony at the evidentiary hearing that trial counsel was not adequately familiar with Greganue. His trial preparation and strategy clearly are not grounded in Gurganus. Trial counsel was ignorant of the law in addition to his having failed to adequately investigate and develop the evidence of drug usage which was readily available. At issue in Gurganus was the use of intoxicants in conjunction with specific mental deficiencies.

Gurganus was decided in 1984, more than three years before Mr. Hudson's trial. It concerned a capital murder case where "the defense gave notice that insanity would be relied upon as a defense," 451 So. 2d at 819. Expert testimony was excluded by the trial court and affirmed by this Court because expert witnesses were unable to reach an opinion on the central issues, but still wanted to reach legal conclusion which were held to be for the jury to decide, 451 So. 2d at 821-22. However, this Court ruled that Gurganus was entitled to have his experts testify as to voluntary intoxication - based on alcohol in combination with a barbiturate compound called Fiorinal - which negated his ability to form the specific intent required for premeditated or felony/murder convictions.

When specific intent is an element of the crime charged, evidence of voluntary intoxication, or for that matter evidence of any condition relating to the accused's ability to form a specific intent, is relevant, Cirack v. State, 201 So. 2d 706 (Fla. 1967); Garner v. State, 28 Fla. 113, 9 So. 835 (1891). As such it is proper for an expert to testify "as to the effect of a given quantity of intoxicants" on the accused's mind when there is sufficient evidence in the record to show or support an inference of consumption of intoxicants. Cirack, 201 So.2d at 709. In this case, after having been told to presume that Gurganus had ingested Fiorinal and alcohol the psychologist testified that Gurganus would have a lessened capability for making rational choices and

directing him own behavior, he would not be in effective control of his behavior, and would have had a mental defect causing him to lose him ability to underatand or reason accurately. We find these responses to be relevant to the issue of Gurganus' ability to form or entertain a specific intent at the time of the offense. Their exclusion from evidence was error.

Gurganus, 451 So. 2d at 822-823. Gurganue won a new trial on that basis.

Gurganus doee not and did not stand for a diminished capacity defenae under Florida law, an auggeeted by trial counsel's opening pronouncement. Chestnut v. State, 538 So. 2d 820 (Fla. 1989). Note also: Hall v. State, 568 So. 2d 882, 885 (Fla. 1990); Stephens v. state, 549 so. 2d 187 (Fla. 1989), 513 So. 2d 1275 (3rd DCA 1987); and Zamora v. State, 361 So. 2d 776, 779 (Fla. 3rd DCA 1978), cert. denied, 372 So. 2d 776 (Fla. 1979): "diminished capacity is not recognized an a defense, unlees a defendant's capacity is so diminished that he cannot distinguish right from wrong pureuant to the M'Naghten rule" (citations omitted). Gurganus is limited to the principle that "(t)he (voluntary) intoxication defense is etill allowed if it can be shown that the defendant is unable to entertain the requisite intent of premeditation." Occhicone v. Sfate, 570 So. 2d 902, 904, fn. 2 (Fla. 1990).

Trial couneel testified at post-conviction that his Guruanue defenee wae based on a desire to avoid a voluntary intoxication inatsuction. Trial counsel clearly did not know the law. This wae deficient performance. Harrison v. Jones, 880 F.2d 1279 (11th Cir. 1989). As a result, a viable defenee wae missed:

Q. Mr. Stone, now, are you telling the Court that you intentionally decided not to put any direct evidence of intoxication before the jury on the night of the offense so that it would fit within your Gurganus defenee?

Or let me ask it conversely. Would direct evidence that Mr. Hudson wae high on cocaine on the night of the incident in any way atop you from arguing Curaanue? Would it have? If it would have, could you please tell me how?

THE COURT: Wait. Wait. Wait. Let him answer the question, the first question, first.

A. I am not sure I underatand the first queslton (sic).

MR. BENITO: Could you repeat that?

A. would the very, if I had direct evidence of cocaine intoxication on the night of the offense, would that have prevented me, and I had --

Q. Let me make it easier. If you had that evidence, would you have used it?

* * *

A. I think it depends on how strong the evidence was.

* * *

Q. okay. Why?

A. Why? If I had extremely strong evidence of cocaine intoxication, other than one of his friends saying that he was high on cocaine, for instance, had he been hospitalized for it, we may have been in a whole other level. But the level of evidence that I had at that time, I didn't feel was enough to use the voluntary intoxication instruction when I had --

Q. What --

A. -- the Gurganus instruction, which was, in essence, the voluntary intoxication instruction without the drugs. Just the mental impairment.

* * *

Q. Mr. Stone, in this case if you had evidence that Mr. Hudson was intoxicated on rock cocaine at the time of the offense, would that have required you to have asked for a voluntary intoxication instruction to use that to his benefit, in light of all of Mr. Hudson's other significant impairment and in light of the fact that even Mr. Benito agreed to a Gurganus type instruction in this case because of those mental health problems?

A. I think that I would not have been allowed to argue cocaine intoxication without a voluntary intoxication instruction.

Q. And why do you say that, sir?

A. Because I think that is the law.

Q. Do you know of a case where that law is stated?

A. Do I have the case cite or the case name?

Q. Anything about the case?

A. NO.

(PC-R. 220-223) (emphasis added).

Counsel failed to investigate or secure a mental health evaluation of Mr. Hudson until three weeks before trial. With a trial on January 26, 1987, trial counsel acknowledged he only began the process of securing a mental health evaluation around January 6 (PC-R. 201). This late beginning quickly

put him on notice that he could not be prepared for the scheduled trial date, but his motion to continue was denied (PC-R.. 205-206).

Trial counsel failed to inform him mental health expert of the information he had indicating drug usage, not to mention that which he ineffectively failed to investigate:

Q. Okay. Do you recall seeing that police report that was quoted in our motion prior to trial?

A. No.

Q. Do you know if that police report was provided to Doctor Berland?

A. I don't know. I don't know. I don't remember. I am not sure that we gave him any police reports. I just don't remember.

Q. Okay. while we are on that subject, just to move on, do you recall what you did give Doctor Berland, if anything?

A. My memory is so dim that I am, I am even presuming that I am the one that talked to Doctor Berland. I am assuming that it was, it was probably a telephone briefing. And I am assuming it was me that called him, but I am not completely sure.

Q. You don't have any independent specific recollection?

A. No.

(PC-R. 212-213).

Q. Have you ever seen what has been marked Defense Exhibit 10?

A. I have seen some documents with the same heading on it in this case, but whether I have seen this exact document I have no recollection. But by the same heading, I mean, Prison Health Services with the same logo.

Q. Do you know where you saw those documents?

A. I think in our file.

Q. And did you see that document?

A. I don't recall.

Q. Is that information that you would have intentionally kept away from Doctor Berland?

A. I don't know.

Q. Is that information that you feel would have been helpful or may have been helpful to Doctor Berland?

A. I don't know.

(PC-R. 226-227) (emphasis added).

Q. Let me ask you, do you just give your mental health experts things that help? Or do you give him --

A. I guess maybe it's the way, the question was, "Would this help Doctor Berland?"

Q. Only Doctor Berland can answer that. I am asking you whether you should have given that to him in '86, '87 for his determination as to whether it was helpful or not?

A. The way I feel today, the knowledge I have today, the answer is yes.

Q. And you can't answer as to 1987, '86, '87?

A. How I felt then?

Q. Yes.

A. I can remember at the time that for whatever reason we weren't, at least my recollection is that we weren't giving the experts as much information as we are giving them now, and I think at least partially it's because today they are asking for more information. I am really not sure how to answer the question.

Q. Let me ask it this way: Did you have a tactical or strategic reason for not providing that document to Doctor Berland?

A. I, the straight answer is that I don't remember. I don't remember whether I provided the documents to Doctor Berland. So, I don't remember the motive that I may have had for providing it or not providing it.

Q. What about the deposition of Becky Collins? Did you have a tactical or strategic reason for not providing that to Doctor Berland?

A. No, I don't, I, really, the answer is the same. I really don't, if I didn't, I am not sure whether I provided it or not. And I am trying to be as accurate as I can.

Q. I understand, sir. Did you talk to Gerald Bembow?

A. I don't remember ever talking to Gerald Bembow or seeing in my notes anywhere where our investigator had talked to Gerald Bembow.

(PC-R. 229-230)(emphasis added).

Counsel acknowledged his failure to investigate the cocaine use:

Q. And just to clarify it, I don't want to belabor the point, you decided not to talk to Mr. Bembow for tactical reasons; is that my understanding?

A. I don't, I don't ever remember making a decision not to talk with him. Evidently, I didn't talk with him.

* * *

Q. Sir, what if any efforts did you make to investigate whether Mr. Hudeon was intoxicated at the time of the offense?

A. Intoxicated at the time of the offense?

Q. At or near the time of the offense?

A. I am not aware of any independent investigation. I have no independent recollection of any investigation we made. There were requests to talk to people to see what they knew about it, see what they could say about it. But as to trying to develop his intoxication at the time, I don't recall any specific effort.

(PC-R. 233-234) (emphasis added).

Had trial counsel conducted a reasonable investigation into Mr. Hudson's drug experience he would have found considerable testimony from willing witnesses. Mr. Hudson's post conviction counsel located several witnesses with ease and presented their testimony at the December hearing. They described his use of cocaine and the striking changes it brought to his ability to think and make reasoned decisions, both historically and on the night of the murder.

Becky Collins was called as a state witness in the guilt phase of the trial (R. 239-261). She was not called by the defense to develop Mr. Hudson's serious drug problem. This in spite of the fact she discussed "his drug addiction" extensively in a January 12, 1967 deposition conducted by trial counsel. (See PC-R. 911-914 of the deposition transcript.) Collins was Mr. Hudson's former fiancée. The two had lived together for six months while he worked steadily. He was a considerate person and they enjoyed a good relationship. Then Mr. Hudson began spending time with a cocaine user and Collins noticed a dramatic change in him (PC-R. 143-145). She was called at the Rule 3.850 hearing in order to establish the prejudice which resulted to Mr. Hudson's case when counsel failed to adequately investigate:

Q. What was happening? What brought about this change?

A. Oh, when we were living in the apartment complex he became friendly with another tenant there that liked to use cocaine, and this tenant would ask him to go and purchase or take him to where he could get some.

And he started being with this person more. And I saw a bit of a change in him myself. I didn't know at that time if he was using.

Q. Okay. Did there come -- did there come a time when you did notice that, in fact, Timothy was using cocaine?

A. In him change of moods I know he wae on eomething. I assumed he was on eomething.

Q. Okay.

A. He became more hyper. We couldn't eit still. and he was on the an all the time.

Q. Okay.

A. And he had to leave the house and come back. Just couldn't be still.

Q. Okay. When did you find out that he was uaing crack cocaine?

A. Oh, I found out for sure after I had moved out -- moved out of the apartment.

Q. When waa that approximately, do you know?

A. I believe it wae in December.

Q. December of 19853

A. Of 1985, yes. I moved back to where I was at before.

Q. Okay. How did you find out that he was using crack cocaine?

A. He etarted -- he would aet me to take him to places that I knew they were selling drugs, and he was getting money from me, borrowing money from me.

He quit working, and he wasn't interested in working anymore.

Q. Did he tell you he was doing crack cocaine?

A. Not right at first.

Q. Eventually?

A. Eventually he did, yea.

Q. Okay. Did you talk to him about that?

A. I tried to many times. I tried to get him to stop. I tried to get him to get help. I even called some places to try to get him help, and they like had a two month waiting list.

Q. Okay. Did you notice that Tim's cocaine use, did it gradually progress to get worse or was he just suddenly doing a lot? Did you have any idea earlier on?

A. It waa -- I would say it gradually aot worse. He probably started with the tenant at the apartment complex, and than ae we moved from there he wam iuet in the street all the time.

Q. What about Tim's change as he got more and more involved in using crack?

A. He would become angry real easy. I had never seen him angry like that before. Even when I would raise my voice it would anger him.

Q. Okay. Did you try to talk to him about it?

A. Yes, I tried to. when he seemed to be real hyper or when he would already be anarv. I couldn't say anything to him too much. It would just anger him more. and he would get more anarv.

* * *

Q. Okay. Did there come a point in time where YOU felt he was addicted to it just from your observations?

A. Yes.

Q. Why is that?

A. He would call me and want to talk, but before our talk was over with or sometime during that talk he would stop me and want me to go take him some place to pick up some, and want money from me and call me and want money from me. asking me for money.

Q. Okay.

A. And it was, you know -- it wasn't every day that he did that, because I wouldn't go over there every day, but every week, every other day.

Q. This was even after you two moved out and split-up?

A. Yeah. He called me every day.

Q. Okay.

A. At the house that I was living at.

Q. Okay.

A. And I wouldn't always go over.

Q. Okay. Had he become abusive at times, when he was on cocaine, with you?

A. Yea. He would become anarv, and I would try to talk with him, and he would hit me and tell me to shut up. He would take me somewhere and leave me and take my car and stay gone all night or -- a couple incidents he stayed a couple of days.

Q. Had he ever treated you like that in the first couple of months of the relationship?

A. No, he didn't.

Q. Okay. Were you afraid of him when he was on crack?

A. Yes, I was, very much.

Q. Okay. When did you finally tell Tim that you didn't want to have anything to do with him; that the relationship just wasn't going to work?

A. It was, I think February or March of 1986. I had just taken enough and didn't want to deal with it anymore, and I was trying to tell him.

You know. I didn't want to see him anymore if he couldn't try to help himself and get off of drugs, I just couldn't deal with it.

Q. Okay. Did you ever talk to any of his family about the problem?

A. I finally did. I went to his dad one night and told him what had been going on for a while.

Q. Okay. What did his dad say to you?

A. He told me he was sorry and that he wished I had come to him earlier about the problem, and that's about all I remember.

(PC-R. 145-50) (emphasis added). Collins continued to have contact with Mr. Hudaon in the period leading right up to the murder. She recognized that he continued to be heavily drug involved in that period.

Q. Did Tim continue to try to talk to you and contact you to come and see him?

A. Yea, he would.

Q. Okay. How often?

A. Almost every day or every other day, at least.

Q. Was he still under the influence of drugs during that period?

A. Yes, because he would call me and sound sincere on the phone and want to talk. and I would go and get him and later on he would have me to go drop him off where I knew the drugs were being sold.

Q. Okay. So there were even times when you agreed to see him in hopes that you two could work something out?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Ms. Ewing was killed on the night of or the morning of the 17th, 18th of June 1986, is that correct, the best you can remember?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Had you had contact with Tim up through that period?

A. Yes, I had.

Q. What kind of contact?

A. He was calling me on the phone, and I had stopped receiving his calls. I wouldn't pick up the phone.

I had an answering machine, and I would just let him leave the message, or he wouldn't leave a message. He would just keep saying my name and tell me to pick up the phone. He knew I was there.

Q. Did he still sound like the Tim strung out on crack cocaine?

A. Yeah. He still frightened me, his voice. I didn't want to talk to him anymore.

Q. Didn't sound like the Tim you had first met?

A. No.

(PC-R. 152-154) (emphasis added).

Q. Mr. Benito asked you if Timothy had been jealous all the way throughout your relationship, and you indicated, no, not at first?

A. No. I didn't feel like he was. He never seemed to be to me.

Q. Okay. Is it safe to say that these changes in his behavior seemed to get worse as you realized he was doing crack cocaine?

A. Yes. I would say so.

Q. Okay. He became a different person?

A. Yes.

(PC-R. 166) (emphasis added).

Mr. Hudson's sister, Debra Hudson, also had opportunities to closely observe his drug addiction. She also was not contacted by trial counsel. She testified as to what she saw during the Rule 3.850 hearing:

Q. Okay. Did there come a time when you realized that Tim was involved in drugs?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember when that was?

A. Around 1986.

Q. Okay. What did you notice about Tim that made you realize that he was into drugs?

A. Because he wouldn't -- he wouldn't bathe for days. He didn't keep himself up, and he was like paranoid.

His eyes would be real large, and he couldn't eat still. He had to be on the go all the time.

Q. Do you know what kind of drugs he was using at that time?

A. Crack.

Q. How do you know that?

A. Because I would find the crack cans in the bathroom where he had been in there using them.

Q. What do you mean by "crack can"?

A. Well, somebody had -- I took one of the cans to my friend and asked what it was, and they told me that they used crack with the holes. It had holes in the top of it.

Q. Just a normal, like soda can?

A. Any kind of can.

Q. With holes in it?

A. Yes.

* * *

Q. Okay. What was Tim's mood like when he was on crack? How was it different than it was when he wasn't?

A. He would get upset about things. He didn't want to be bothered. He didn't talk to us.

Q. Okay. You indicate in your affidavit he was paranoid. What do you mean by that?

A. Like scared. Like somebody was after him or watching him or something.

Q. Okay. Was he asking you for money during that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Your mom?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Your dad?

A. I'm not sure about him, because I didn't live with him.

Q. Okay. You indicated in your affidavit that he was a crazy person when he was on cocaine. What do you mean by that?

A. Because anything -- if you would say something to him and get him angry, he would try and fight or something.

Q. Became violent?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Do you recall the day before the crime occurred when Ms. Ewing was killed?

A. Yeah.

Q. Do you remember the day itself?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Did you see Tim on that day?

A. Yeah.

Q. When did you see Tim?

A. Well, when he woke up.

Q. Okay.

A. That morning.

Q. That morning?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Okay. The morning before she was killed?

A. Uh-huh, yeah.

Q. Okay. what, if anything, did you and Tim talk to each other about?

A. Nothing really. Later on that day he asked me for ten dollars.

Q. Okay. Did he tell you what he was doing with the ten dollars?

A. At first he wouldn't, but I said, "If you don't tell me what you're going to do with it, I won't give it to you." And then he said he was going to buy him a hit.

Q. What's a hit?

A. I guess a hit of crack.

Q. Okay. Did you give it to him?

A. Yes.

(PC-R. 175-179) (emphasis added). She went on to describe Mr. Hudson's return to her home the morning after the murder, still showing the effects of the cocaine:

Q. Okay. Did you see him when he came in?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he high?

A. I would assume.

Q. It appeared to you he was?

A. Yeah. His eye were all stretched out. He wae like acting like he wae paranoid.

(PC-R. 180). Debra Hudeon waa never contacted by Mr. Hudson's lawyers, but she would have been willing to cooperate had they done so (PC-R. 181).

Two of the most useful witneese on Mr. Hudson's drug addiction were, Anthony and Gerald Bembow. Gerald Bembow was the source of trial counsel's conflict discussed in Argument I. They are brothers who were also Mr. Hudson's cousins and who grew up with him. They lived near Mr. Hudeon. They sold and also used crack cocaine extensively with him in 1985 and 1986 (PC-R. 349, 353-55, 363). They were listed as witnesses by the State, but were not interviewed by defense counsel. Anthony Bembow first saw Mr. Hudaon use crack in 1986 (PC-R. 360). He testified at the Rule 3,850 hearing as to his observations of Mr. Hudson while on cocaine:

Q. Let me draw your attention to the time frame of 1985-86. Were you in contact with Mr. Hudeon during that period?

A. I was.

Q. During that period did you have occasion to use crack cocaine with Mr. Hudson?

A. Yes.

Q. How often during that period would you say you used crack cocaine with Mr. Hudson?

A. Just about every time we run across one another. we would get high.

Q. How many times would that be? Once a month? Once a week? Approximately, you know?

A. As many times as we see one another. Frequently.

Q. I mean, what in your mind, what is frequently?

A. Maybe three, three times a week. Just whenever we see gne another.

Q. Have you ever smoked crack cocaine with other people?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Other than Mr. Hudeon?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. What affects did you observe that cocaine, crack cocaine, had on Mr. Hudson?

A. Paranoia, that he would, wants you to be quiet, not say nothing, listen. Think somebody is after him. you know. That is about the best I could put that.

Q. Would you say that in your observations his reaction to cocaine was any different than the reactions you would see in yourself?

A. No, it wasn't normal as to where it would be with me or anybody else. It would be a little bit worse,

Q. Why do you say that?

A. By the actions from when we smoked together. The way that he would act as far as, you know, looking out, wanting everybody to be quiet or what not.

Q. Any change in his mood when he was on crack cocaine?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. How so?

A. From being normal to, like, just the only way I could put that is paranoia, not acting normal like normal people would act after smoking crack.

Q. Was he quicker to anger under cocaine?

A. Yes.

* * *

A. As far as getting upset, yes.

Q. Okay. upset over things that wouldn't upset you?

A. Minor things. Minor things that as to where we would smoke, as to where it would be normal, it would be exceedingly further with him.

* * *

Q. Do you recall the night that Mollie Ewina was killed?

A. I do.

Q. Had Mr. Hudson's crack cocaine problem gotten any worse during that time frame, from your observations?

A. I would say, yes.

Q. Why would you say that?

A. Because at the time, the day that I seen him, Tim never had ever approached me and asked to get high. And that particular day he had asked to get high when he had first seen me. That wasn't, you know, normally he would wait and let me offer or something like that.

Q. He came out and asked for it that day?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall when it was during that day that you saw Mr. Hudson?

A. It was earlier during the day, around maybe 5:00, 6:00.

Q. In the afternoon?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did you see Mr. Hudson at?

A. He was on the front porch of his brother's house.

Q. Your brother's name is?

A. Gerald.

Q. Okay. Did you see Mr. Hudson use cocaine?

A. Yes.

Q. At that time? And who used cocaine with Mr. Hudson?

A. I did.

Q. Crack cocaine?

A. Crack cocaine.

Q. Do you know how much you two used at that time?

A. Approximately total in dollars probably twenty dollars worth, two dime lots.

Q. Just the two of you smoking it?

A. Yes.

Q. How long was Mr. Hudson with you during that period?

A. Not very long. Maybe an hour at the most.

* * *

Q. Was he high when you left him?

A. Yes, he was.

(PC-R. 349-355) (emphasis added).

Q. What was he doing? What was his reaction at the time?

A. Quiet at the time. We wasn't talking very much. Just getting high, to get it over with.

Q. And you left?

A. And I left.

Q. There was, you may, around six o'clock in the evening?

A. Yes.

Q. When I asked you to describe Mr. Hudson's reaction to cocaine, you said it was different than normal people. Did you mean different than most people that you saw smoking crack cocaine?

A. That is true. That is correct.

(PC-R. 356). Anthony Bembow was not contacted by Mr. Hudson's lawyers, but had they done so he would have been willing to testify to these matters (PC-R. 356).

Gerald Bembow also testified at the 3.850 hearing:

Q. Let me draw your attention to the time period of 1985, 1986 were you in contact with Mr. Timothy Hudson?

A. Yea.

Q. And how often would you say that you saw Mr. Hudson during that period?

A. Very frequently, probably three, four times a week.

Q. During that time period did you ever have the opportunity to smoke crack cocaine with Mr. Hudson?

A. Yee.

Q. How often would you say that you smoked crack cocaine with Mr. Hudson?

A. Maybe approximately three times a week.

Q. Would it be typical for you two to smoke crack cocaine every time you got together?

A. Yes.

Q. During that period of time you were selling crack cocaine; is that right?

A. Yea.

Q. What kind of reaction did Mr. Hudson have to crack cocaine? What were your observations?

A. Very, very paranoid. It was, you know, in my experience using the drug, I never seen anyone react the way he did on it. And it was, he was a different person.

Q. How so? In your terms what can you tell the Judge about your observations?

A. He was, like, paranoid and afraid of his surroundings or someone hurting him or something like that. He just reacted totally different from anybody I ever seen using the drug.

Q. Did you ever see him get argumentative or mad for no reason while under the influence of crack cocaine?

A. Not really mad but upset if you moved around or something like that. He would like things to be quiet and everybody still.

Q. So he would react to movement?

A. Right.

Q. To sound?

A. Right.

Q. How would he react?

A. Jump you. Scared, paranoia, real bad.

Q. Is it safe, you have seen other people use crack cocaine?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it safe to say that everyone reacts to crack cocaine? Your behavior changes to some extent?

A. Right. But his was. hie, the way he chanaed wae like nothing I ever saw before. you know. in my experience in smoking crack. And I. you know, it was very, very paranoia. Frightening.

Q. How many different people, approximately, would you say you have smoked crack cocaine with?

A. I can't give a number. Plenty.

Q. Quite a few?

A. Yea.

Q. You noticed a profound difference, though, in the way Mr. Hudson reacted?

A. Yea.

Q. From your observations how bad was Mr. Hudson's crack problem during the time frame of June 1986?

A. I think it was sort of bad. He was, he smoked it pretty bad.

Q. In fact, you were interviewed by a Detective Black, were you not?

A. Yes.

Q. As a matter of fact, you told Detective Black that Mr. Hudson had a bad cocaine, crack cocaine problem?

A. Yea.

Q. Do you recall the night that Miss Ewing was killed?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see Mr. Hudson on that day?

A. Yes.

Q. You recall when you first saw Mr. Hudson that day?

A. Yes. It waa duak. Duek dark.

Q. Approximately what time; do you know?

A. I think about 5:00 or 6:00.

Q. Late afternoon?

A. Right.

Q. Was, where did you see Mr. Hudeon at that time?

A. Rembrant Apartment.

Q. Who was living at that Rembrant Apartments?

A. Well, I lived there.

Q. And what were your oboervation of Mr. Hudeon when you maw him during the late afternoon of that day?

A. He was, I could tell he had been aetting hiah.

Q. And how could YOU tell that; he was aettina high?

A. Because I, I have known him all my life and I knew him when he wasn't high and when he was. And I could tell, you know, by looking at him, he was hiah.

Q. Did you see him use crack cocaine on that occasion?

A. No.

Q. But you did obaerve that he appeared to be high at that time?

A. Right.

Q. How long was Mr. Hudeon with you at that time; do you recall?

A. No, I don't recall. He left.

Q. Did he come back later?

A. Yes, he come back around eleven, 11:30, something like that.

Q. And do you recall what kind of condition Mr. Hudson was in when you saw him at approximately, say, 11:00, 11:30 that night?

A. Yes, I could tell he had been smoking more druua, because he waa hiaher.

Q. What do you mean, smoking more drugs?

A. Crack, I mean, he was high. He was nervous. And his eyes were big and glassy.

Q. How long was he with you at that time; do you recall?

A. I think about five minutes, five, ten minutes.

Q. And you indicated to the police, in fact, he asked you to go some place with him; is that correct?

A. I think so. And my ex-girlfriend asked me to come inside, and that is when I went inside. I asked him to spend the night, but he told me he was going.

Q. Why did you ask him to spend the night?

A. Because he was high. And I felt like he should have slept it off, try to sleep it off because I observed he was very high.

Q. In fact, he indicated in the report that he got upset with you when you wouldn't go with him?

A. Yes, he was, he was angry because he was high and I knew it.

Q. Again, an indication that he got upset for no apparent reason?

A. No.

Q. Do you know a Miss Robereon?

A. Yes.

Q. Was she living near you at this time?

A. Yes, two apartments over.

Q. Mr. Hudson apparently left, then, after your girlfriend asked you to come in?

A. Yes.

Q. And how long was he with you at that time?

A. About five, or ten minutes. I think he left it was around 12:00.

Q. When you get high on crack cocaine, there's an initial high; is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. How long does that last, in your experience?

A. About ten, fifteen minutes.

Q. And are you back to normal, then, after ten or fifteen minutes?

A. Most people are.

Q. Okay.

A. But --

Q. What about Mr. Hudson, as far as your observations?

A. I think the high last longer on him, because my experience around him, it affected him a lot different than other people I know.

Q. Had you ever asked Mr. Hudson to sleep it off before?

A. No.

Q. Why did you that night?

A. Because I could tell he was very high.

(PC-R. 363-370) (emphasis added) (see also PC-R. 377). Gerald Bembow testified that he was so struck by Mr. Hudson's reaction to crack that he broke his own habit as a result. "I got to thinking about Tim and I knew him all my life. He is a good person. And I know this. And I seen how it affected him. And I tried to straighten my life out now, you know, because of what happened with him and his situation." (PC-R. 372).

Gerald Bembow was in prison at the time of Mr. Hudson's trial. He was brought back to Tampa for it, but did not testify. He was surprised that no one contacted him on behalf of Mr. Hudson (PC-R. 371). As a result of counsel's failure to interview Gerald, a wealth of evidence supporting an intoxication defense was not heard by the jury.

Mr. Hudson's father, Daniel M. Hudson, was approached by counsel and did testify at trial. However, trial counsel failed to develop the drug addiction issue with him. The father testified at the Rule 3.850 hearing:

Q. Now, Mr. Conrad talked to you about testifying for Timothy; is that correct?

A. Yee.

Q. And do you recall what he asked you about Timothy?

A. It was just like I said, vaguely, way back there, I can't remember word for word. But he asked me things, you know, about how was he when he was coming up different things like that. Then he even told me to just talk about Tim. And I started talking and, you know, saying the things that I can remember about him coming up, what he liked to do and, you know, places we went. Things that we done together.

Q. What kind of thing did you tell Mr. Conrad?

A. Things like what?

Q. What did you tell him? I mean, do you recall any of the conversation, any information you gave Mr. Conrad? Did you talk to Mr. Conrad about your divorce with your wife?

A. Just like I say, I can't recollect that far back. I don't know whether he asked me those questions or not. I can't really remember.

Q. Do you know if you ever talked to him about your wife's drinking problem?

A. I don't think I had that much talk with him, for to get that deeply in.

Q. What was your impression of what he wanted from you at that time, if that is easier for you?

A. Okay. My impression was that I was supposed to be a character witness. And he wanted to better part of Tim's life.

Q. And did you tell him what you could about that?

A. Yea, I did.

Q. Did you, as far as your recollection goes, get into the, maybe not the better parts, the problems at home and that kind of stuff?

A. I don't think so.

Q. Did you ever mention to him the fact that you became aware that Tim was having a drug problem?

A. No, I don't think it even got that far.

Q. Did you not mention that because you didn't want to cooperate with Mr. Conrad?

A. No, it wasn't the idea I didn't want to cooperate with him. I just never was asked the question of that nature.

Q. Were you aware that that kind of information may have been relevant to Mr., to your son's trial?

A. I am not good at the word "relevant."

Q. At that time did you --

THE COURT: Did you think it might be important to his trial?

* * *

A. I was thinking it might hurt.

Q. You didn't volunteer that?

A. I didn't volunteer it.

Q. Had Mr. Conrad asked you about that stuff, would you have hesitated to tell him about it?

A. Just what he wanted to know, I told him.

Q. You had no reason to withhold that from him, did you?

A. NO.

(PC-R. 381-384) (emphasis added).

Counsel simply failed to investigate the matter and as a consequence failed to inform his mental health expert, Dr. Bob Berland, on the topic. Had he conducted an adequate investigation he would have found a wealth of evidence supporting a voluntary intoxication defense. Trial counsel's complete failure to determine what the Bamboe brothers, as well as other witnesses, might have to say was unreasonable and ineffective. Decisions made in ignorance, without investigation, are not reasonable. Harris v. Dugger, 874 F.2d 756 (11th Cir. 1989).

"The adequacy of a pretrial investigation turns on the complexity of the case and trial strategy," Code v. Montgomery, 799 F.2d 1481, 1483 (11th Cir. 1986). Here counsel had elected a complex defense requiring expert testimony supported by that of lay witnesses. Trial counsel's failure to investigate was not reasonable under the circumstances. Futch v. Dugger, 874 F.2d 1483, 1486 (11th Cir. 1989). See also: Kenley v. Armontrout, 937 F.2d 1298, 1303 (8th Cir. 1991); Chambers v. Armontrout, 885 F.2d 1318, 1320-1322 (8th Cir. 1989); Goodwin v. Balkcom, 684 F.2d 794, 817 (11th Cir. 1982); and Pinnell v. Cauthron, 540 F.2d 938 (8th Cir. 1976).

Furthermore, Mr. Hudson had a right to expect his lawyers to know the law they were relying upon. Their failure to understand Gurganus, supposedly the foundation of their theory of defense, was grossly unreasonable. Vela v. Estelle, 708 F.2d 954, 965-966 (5th Cir. 1983) and Harrison v. Jones, 880 F.2d 1279, 1281 (11th Cir. 1989). This obligation to know the law attaches even as it evolves with recent decisions. Lewandowski v. Makel, 949 F.2d 884, 887-889 (6th Cir. 1991); Fretwell v. Lockhart, 946 F.2d 571 (8th Cir. 1991).

Substantial and valuable lay testimony as to Mr. Hudson's cocaine addiction and intoxication was available. It was presented at the Rule 3.850

hearing by poet conviction counsel. This important testimony was not developed for the jury or for consideration by the mental health expert. Confidence is undermined in the outcome by counsel's deficient performance. Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984). Here trial counsel's "identified acts or omissions were outside the wide range of professionally competent assistance," 466 U.S. at 690. Because of the deficient performance, a wealth of evidence supporting a voluntary intoxication defense was not presented to the jury. Had it been presented, there exists a reasonable probability of a conviction of the lesser included offense of second degree murder. Mr. Hudson met his burden and 3.850 relief was required. This Court must order a new trial.

ARGUMENT IIT

MR. HUDSON WAS DENIED A COMPETENT MENTAL HEALTH EXAMINATION IN VIOLATION OF HIS SIXTH, EIGHTH AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT RIGHTS, AND DEFENSE COUNSEL RENDERED INEFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE IN THEIR FAILURE TO SECURE A MINIMALLY ADEQUATE AND TIMELY MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION.

This murder took place the night of June 17-18, 1986 (R. 782). Mr. Hudson was arrested for violation of probation and charged with the murder on June 19, 1986. He is and was indigent, and the public defender was appointed shortly after his arrest. Witnesses were not deposed until October 1986 and January 1987. Trial counsel had very little contact with Mr. Hudson until days before trial. It is not surprising in the general neglect of his defense that a mental health expert was not contemplated until the last minute, that the evaluation process did not begin until days before trial, and that the expert was provided almost no background information on Mr. Hudson. The mental health expert was appointed on January 6, 1987 (PC-R 201, 260-61). He evaluated Mr. Hudson on January 8, 9, and 22, 1987 (PC-R. 259). Trial counsel filed a motion to continue just before trial and told the Court Dr. Berland needed more time to prepare his evaluation. Trial counsel also volunteered to the Court that Dr. Berland's testimony would go to Mr. Hudson's ability to form intent, recognizing that this was not an insanity defense. The motion was denied (R. 7-8). Given the defense theory of voluntary intoxication and

Mr. Hudson's severe cocaine addiction which went uninvestigated, this was clearly ineffective assistance of counsel. The circuit court in fact found deficient performance as to the failure to timely obtain the assistance of a mental health expert.

As argued elsewhere in this brief in detail, trial counsel almost completely failed to investigate important aspects of Mr. Hudson's background relating to his ability to form specific intent at the time of the murder, in particular his crack addiction. Their testimony at the evidentiary hearing is set out in the preceding argument.

The expert at trial, forensic psychologist Dr. Bob Berland, also testified at the Rule 3.850 hearing. He did not recall being provided any background material on Mr. Hudson's drug problems and a review of his trial testimony suggested he had none to rely upon:

Q. Specifically, and let me ask you if you have any recollection of receiving any materials from either Mr. Stone or Mr. Conrad which in any way documented Mr. Hudson's drug abuse problem?

A. Again, I have no direct memory at this time. Based on my responses in testimony, and knowing how I thought about this at the time, I apparently had no evidence, because I made a comment to the effect that I had no evidence in either direction.

(PC-R. 262-263). When shown an exhibit in this case (Defense Exhibit 10), a 1986 jail intake report indicating Mr. Hudson's cocaine use, Dr. Berland said this would have triggered a desire to know more in order to perform a thorough evaluation:

A. Well, if I understood the nature of your question, the issue is, would I have pursued information which suggested the presence of cocaine as a factor in the offense. And because psychoactive drugs, including cocaine, particularly cocaine, will tend to gravely exacerbate or intensify psychotic symptoms, they are very relevant to an understanding of what his mental health condition is at a particular time in my opinion.

So that had I had direct evidence, the way I have done this since the early '80's, I would have been very interested in that and needed to pursue it as part of the mental health evaluation.

(PC-R. 266-267).

Dr. Berland had not been given anything at the time of the trial on Mr. Hudson's cocaine addiction:

Q. Did you have sufficient information at the time of your original evaluation, which allowed you to develop either from Mr. Hudson or from lay witnesses the relevant information concerning his cocaine problem and specifically the use of cocaine at or near the time of the offense?

A. To the extent that I was unaware of the lay witnesses or was unable to gain access to them, no, I didn't have.

(PC-R. 293).

He specifically did not recall being given any information on Mr. Hudson's use of cocaine shortly before the offense and testified as to its importance:

Q. At the time of the original trial did Mr. Stone ever report to you that, in fact, Mr. Hudson had told him that he had used cocaine shortly prior to the offense?

A. I have no direct memory of that. I would have to infer from my reactions at the time that I did not have that knowledge, simply because my reactions would be, normally, under those circumstances that I have information from the defendant but I have no outside corroboration of it.

But my indication at the time of that trial was that I had no information either way.

(PC-R. 277-278).

In re-evaluating Mr. Hudson for the hearing, Dr. Berland was able to interview lay witnesses he had not previously been given access to by trial counsel:

A. The lay witnesses were interesting and as is typically the case, helpful in that, one, they corroborated symptom information I got from the defendant, and each of these interviews was done independently. Of course, I tried to ask the questions in a nonleading fashion as much as possible.

They had a similar picture of the defendant among the witnesses. Many of them saw the same kind of symptom.

They appeared to be fairly genuine reports in all but one of the witnesses whose information I did not use in reaching my current conclusions, in that all but this one witness admitted to some symptom about which I asked them and denied others in a fashion that is fairly typical when people are being genuine. NO one person can have all the symptoms you are inquiring about.

Several of the witnesses indicated the presence of symptom without benefit of drugs but in much milder forms, which is consistent with what I observed and with what I would expect from the test findings with the defendant.

One witness indicated that the defendant seemed to react fairly extreme and was able to describe some symptom that he showed with marijuana. All of them indicated that there was an

extreme difference in the defendant's behavior when he was under the influence of cocaine. That he had what would be called in my field a idiosyncratic response to cocaine. And they pretty much universally described his responses, including two important factors:

1. restless, unable to control his impulses or to sit still, and he would become acutely paranoid to the point where a lot of them described his eyes as getting very big when he was on cocaine.

He got extremely angry and violent over-reacting to things that would normally not create a reaction. Minor jokees, seemingly innocent comments. Things that would not normally provoke anger or a physical reaction. Things that would normally provoke anger he would overreact to in a way that made him threatening to at least some of the witnesses. He would look around as if he were frightened.

There is in their spontaneous descriptions that he checked the windows frequently because he thought people were out there looking at him. Thought people were out to get him. A number of the witnesses indicated that when they were using cocaine he would hush them, say,

"Did you hear something? Did you hear something? I hear something outside. People are out there."

There was a consistent description of "Acutely paranoid and disturbed individual." A number of the witnesses, three of them, also noted that the defendant appeared to show unusually long reactions to the cocaine, so that the effects on him wouldn't last the normal duration of a high, which as she described it would be anywhere from, say, ten to twenty minutes. He could go on for as much as several hours of reacting.

That's the primary information that I got from them, that he was not out of control when he wasn't high, but when he was, he appeared to be a very, very different person, to function differently, to act differently, and to have fewer controls over his thinking and his behavior.

Q. Doctor was any information of that nature provided to you prior to your testimony at Mr. Hudson's trial in 1987?

A. Well, I didn't talk to any of these witnesses, so I didn't have access to that information at that time.

Q. None was provided to you as best you can recall in any other form, information of that nature?

A. That he had this extreme idiosyncratic reaction to cocaine?

Q. Yes, sir.

A. No, not that I can recall.

(PC-R. 269-273) (emphasis added).

Dr. Berland testified at the Rule 3.850 hearing that his not having these important background source considerably diminished him as a witness at the original trial:

Q. Now would that have been important to your testimony before Mr. Hudson's jury and judge in his case?

A. Well, it's a judgment call in part, on my part, having presented evidence to juries over the years. It seems to me from my experience that it would have been a more persuasive and more clearly understandable presentation had I been able to go through the kinds of detailed information that I have now from the lay witnesses which give direct information about what he does when he is under the influence of cocaine and how it affects his mental health condition.

Certainly, the problems that he had would have appeared to be a lot more serious than I was aware of at the time I testified in the past. And of course, what complicates all of it is that since the defendant didn't trust me at the time of that evaluation, by his report at least, because of the lateness into which, with which I came into the game, I had no information from him about his perceptions or his actions or anything regarding what was going on with him at the time of the offense.

(PC-R. 276-277). In particular, he felt not having this information diminished his testimony as to Mr. Hudson's ability to form a specific intent:

Q. How, if in any way does your opinion change based upon the new information that has been provided to you by our office and the lay witness you have talked to?

A. That is a very difficult question to answer. Strictly on the basis of the new information that I have from the lay witnesses and from the defendant and from your office, the increased seriousness of his disturbance at that time would certainly have an impact insofar as making my opinion firmer in that regard. The problem, of course, is that there is no clear guideline in the law as to how severely disturbed someone has to be before they cannot form a specific intent.

* * *

Q. How would it have been relevant in the way that you explained the issue to the jury?

A. How would this added information --

Q. Yea.

A. Well, of course, if I had had direct information about him being intoxicated, and about the offense, I would have been able to provide more direct information about his condition at the time of the offense. That certainly would have reinforced the arguments about mitigation.

The information that I had was simply less potent than it is with the evidence about his reaction to cocaine. It's less clear that he, I mean, there is plenty of evidence just from

sitting in, watching him, that he can sit calmly. He is not somebody that is enraged and out of control.

And it seems to me that it's harder for juries to accept the severity of someone's disturbance when they see them sitting calmly in court. Not to say that somebody can't sit calmly in court and be very disturbed. But I think it's harder for a jury, in my observation, at least, to accept. However, if I am able to bring to the jury a lot of information from people who have no personal stake in the outcome of the trial that, in fact, his behavior is radically different when he is under the influence of cocaine, then I am making a very different argument to the jury in a more forceful argument.

(PC-R. 279-280) (emphasis added). Dr. Berland concluded that Mr. Hudeon was "a lot more severely mentally disturbed" than he previously found:

Q. In this case what did the information from the lay witnesses do concerning your original opinion that Mr. Hudeon was not malingering these symptoms?

A. Well, in his case he had withheld enough information that the lay witnesses made him to appear to be a lot more
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offense, than I had understood him to be.
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(PC-R. 287) (emphasis added).

Post conviction counsel had Mr. Hudaon reevaluated by a mental health professional who was given adequate background material. At the Rule 3.850 hearing, Dr. Peter Macaluso testified as to his evaluation as an expert witness and addictionologist:

Q. What is addictionology?

A. An addictionologist is a physician who specializes in addiction medicine, which is the diagnosis, treatment and management of addictive disorders, mainly alcohol and drug addiction.

Q. And are you currently in private practice, Doctor?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. Can you just briefly describe for the Court what your practice involves at this time?

A. My practice mainly at this time involves treating patients that are addicted to drugs and alcohol. That is about seventy or eighty percent of my time. I also work as a consultant for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. I am the only addictionologist that the Joint Commission has. And it's in that capacity that I utilize my, of course, expertise in addiction medicine but also quality assurance and utilization review.

(PC-R. 400-401).

Dt. Macaluso testified as to his evaluation of Mr. Hudson, and described the physical and mental health effects of cocaine abuse. It should be noted how closely his descriptions of the effects of the drug match lay testimony presented elsewhere in the hearing, describing Mr. Hudson at the time of the crime.

Q. In your evaluation of Mr. Hudson, Doctor, did you determine that there had been a history of drug and/or alcohol abuse?

A. Yea, I did. Mr. Hudson has a fairly significant family history of chemical dependency. It's found in his mother, also in a brother and sister. We usually begin with family history. It's extremely important because we know now that chemical dependency is basically a biogenetic disease.

Q. Doctor, did you make an ultimate conclusion concerning whether Mr. Hudson suffered from the disease of chemical dependency?

A. Oh, yes there is no question in my mind that Mr. Hudson suffers from the disease of chemical dependency. It's fairly in an advanced form at this time.

Q. Just briefly for the Court could you explain what is the disease of chemical dependency?

A. Yes. The disease of chemical dependency is, as I said earlier, it's a biogenetic disease with various psychosocial components to it that result in a person obsessively and compulsively using mood altering drugs despite adverse life consequences.

Q. Drawing your attention to the time frame of 1985 and 1986 was Mr. Hudson addicted to any substance?

A. Mr. Hudson was very addicted at that time frame. His addiction began around the time he was twelve, thirteen or fourteen when he first began using drugs and escalated throughout his teen years and early twenties. During the time frame that you mentioned he became severely addicted to the crack form of cocaine, often consuming four or five hundred dollars of cocaine per day.

Q. What is crack cocaine?

A. Crack cocaine is a form of cocaine that can be smoked or inhaled; therefore, get a much higher euphoria, much higher intoxicated state.

Q. How does it affect a person?

A. Well, cocaine is basically a narcotic drug. When I try to teach, say, my patients what cocaine is and what it does, I usually start off with, it's a drug that's a narcotic drug. What that means is that it paralyzes nerve endings. We use, "we" meaning physicians, use cocaine in medicine and have for a long time, especially eye specialists, ophthalmologists, or ENT

specialists, if someone has a piece of steel in their eye, say, a physician can put a drop of cocaine on your eye, the nerve endings would be paralyzed, you won't feel anything. You can go in with an instrument and take out the metal splinter or foreign body. Could also go in and remove cataract or do cataract surgery. With a couple of drops of cocaine if someone breaks their nose you could place cocaine up in the nasal passages, break the bone of the nose and set it.

So what it does on a physiological biochemical level is that it paralyzes nerve, it paralyzes the proper functioning of nerves. And with that point of reference, very similarly, when someone smokes cocaine, injects it, or snorts it, the primary effect of the cocaine as we know is on the brain. People use cocaine for the effect it has on the person's brain. What it does to the brain is basically what it does in the eye or in the nose. It, it paralyzes brain tissue, nerve tissue, it begins by impairing or paralyzing those parts of the brain that are that are concerned with what we term as higher brain functioning.

Q. What are those?

A. Meaning?

Q. Higher brain functioning?

A. That means those functions that make us different from other animals, ability to reason, ability to form judgments, the ability to have insight. Those higher brain functioning, that higher cognitive behavior, is the first areas that are affected with cocaine or other drugs. If someone takes more cocaine or other drugs, the other centers are affected.

We are all familiar with motor impairment, say, with alcohol. As someone consumes more drugs, their sensory centers may be impaired, their perception, how they perceive their environment, then their motor functioning, the ability to walk, talk, as one should. And, then, finally, with very higher levels of cocaine or other drugs, the centers that control vital life functioning, blood pressure, heart beat, respiration, those are impaired. And then it's at that stage that someone enters into a coma and may possibly die.

Q. You have explained some of the results of a person using cocaine. Doctor, if I can ask you a hypothetical, you have had an opportunity to review the testimony and findings of Doctor Berland at the original trial, did you not?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Assuming that someone such as Mr. Hudson is suffering from mental defects as Doctor Berland testified at trial, problems with some organic impairment and paranoid schizophrenia, how would cocaine affect a person suffering from those mental defects, as opposed to someone without those mental defects?

A. Well, with that etiology already present, if that is your hypothetical, which, I guess it is, with that syndrome or that condition present, and then you add cocaine and other drugs to that, what one would expect and what would happen would be an exacerbation of the normal effects of the drugs, exacerbating the symptomatology of what is underlying it.

As a concrete example, if someone, say, is paranoid schizophrenic, that means that they have a major mental illness, a major illness involved in a person's thinking, which is also characterized by a lot of free flowing paranoia. So paranoid schizophrenic. Cocaine, crack, the chronic use of cocaine, will also produce paranoia. It's very rare to see a cocaine addict who is not paranoid. If then you have chronic use of cocaine and very high amounts of it, in this case, added to a situation where someone has underlined paranoid and underlying impairment of his thinking, well, then, that would be exacerbated.

Q. Mr. Hudson's disease of chemical dependency, how advanced was it by the time of the crime in this case, which would have been June of 1986?

A. Mr. Hudson, by the time that you mentioned was consuming massive amounts of cocaine along with other drugs, mainly marijuana and alcohol and often times heroin. His Cocaine addiction was to such an extent where he would use what is termed as a slab per day, which is about a hundred to two hundred hits of cocaine. This is advanced addiction to cocaine, producing toxic effects, toxic psychosis, if you would meaning that the levels of line was to such an extent where his ability to perceive and interact with his environment were grossly impaired. His ability to reason, to process information were grossly impaired. And these effects would produce what we term a toxic psychotic state. Cocaine psychosis. The prolonged effects produced was termed organic brain syndrome, inability to remember, to process information.

Q. In layman's term, damage to the brain?

A. Brain damage. That's, that's correct.

Q. The effects of prolonged use of crack cocaine, this brain damage, could this will be regenerated? Is that something that someone can recover from?

A. It depends, depends on the individual, it depends on the drug.

Q. Let's stay in this case, just with crack cocaine.

A. In this case where we are talking about a young healthy individual and we are talking about cocaine. Cocaine as opposed to alcohol, normally doesn't produce permanent brain damage. I say normally because it depends on how you are taking it. If you are injecting it, if it's mixed with talcum powder, that can often produce brain damage.

But as a general rule, chronic cocaine use doesn't produce permanent brain damage. However, chronic use produces organic brain syndrome, organic brain syndrome or brain damage, and this damage can exist for quite prolonged periods of time. That is why it's termed chronic.

As an example, I think it's important for the Court to realize that, as I said earlier, these drugs are toxic. You put a drop of cocaine in your eye, and the surgeon may have a half hour, forty-five minutes to do whatever he has to do. It's very similar to the analogy of someone doing some carpentry work with a hammer and nail. Someone misses the nail and hits their thumb, well,

the time frame that the hammer is in contact with the thumb may be a few milliseconds where it's actually in contact with the thumb. But depending upon the size of the hammer, the force of the awing and so on, the thumb, your thumb may be impaired from, anywhere from a few minutes to several hours. Or if you hit yourself so severely and shattered some bones, your thumb may be impaired forever.

Normally, with cocaine, in a healthy individual, the brain recovers over a period of time.

Q. It does take a period of time?

A. It takes a period of time.

Q. What are we talking about, approximately?

A. Usually a month, if not a year or two for some of the higher functions to return.

Q. Doctor, based upon your evaluation in this case, did you reach a decision to a reasonable degree of medical certainty that the prolonged and acute toxic effects of crack cocaine on Mr. Hudson caused gross abnormal cognitive impairment along with diminution of judgment, perception, and insight in this case?

* * *

A. I certainly agree with that. I think it's well within more than a reasonable degree of medical probability that these amounts of cocaine had, had impaired Mr. Hudson's higher cognitive function. That is what cocaine does, you know.

(PC-R. 405-415)(emphasis added).

Dr. Macaluso noted that it was important that Mr. Hudson was in jail the 30 days immediately preceding the murder and his apparently intensive use of crack:

Q. You know where he was approximately six days prior to the incident, Doctor?

A. Six days I think he would have been in jail.

Q. Do you know how long he had been in jail at that time?

A. I believe thirty days.

Q. Is that unusual for someone with Mr. Hudson's advanced disease of chemical dependency, especially in crack cocaine, to get out of jail and going on, as you say, a binge?

A. Not unusual. It's actually typical, someone who has been removed, incarcerated, therefore, removed from their drug that they have to have, the moment they get out, they will start a binge. That is normal, typical, for that.

(PC-R. 417).

It was Dr. Macaluso's experience as an expert treating addicted persons that they did not take drugs to screw up their courage. On cross-examination the doctor testified:

Q. Would you agree that alcohol and drugs are also used in many instances to build up someone's courage to do something they would not normally have the courage to do?

A. People do things under the influence of alcohol and drugs that they normally wouldn't do otherwise for a variety of reasons. One is decreased inhibition. Whether, I don't think someone takes drugs primarily to build up one's courage, no.

(PC-R. 440-441).

The doctor also thought it was significant that after the murder and disposal of the body Mr. Hudson "goes out and starts using cocaine again" (PC-R. 449). "...I think it shows impairment for someone then to go back to the drug section of town, start using drugs continually and then go back home" (PC-R. 450). This established that Mr. Hudson's intent was simply to get drugs:

Q. Doctor, how important is it in your opinion that according to the detectives that Mr. Hudson confessed to them that after he disposed of the body, he went and bought some more cocaine?

A. I think it's extremely important, sir, because this is what I have been trying to say in my testimony, that his primary intent was to obtain cocaine that evening.

Q. In fact, Doctor, if you were to accept Mr. Benito's hypothesis, Mr. Hudson's statements to Me. Roberson after he left Mr. Gerald Bemow's house minutes after the murder would be very irrational, would they not?

A. Extremely, in my opinion.

(PC-R. 453-454) (emphasis added).

A criminal defendant is entitled to expert psychiatric assistance when the State makes his or her mental state relevant sentencing. Ake v. Oklahoma, 470 U.S. 68 (1985). What is required is an "adequate psychiatric evaluation of [the defendant's] state of mind." Blake v. Kevg, 758 F.2d 523, 529 (11th Cir. 1985). In this regard, there exists a "particularly critical interrelation between expert psychiatric assistance and minimally effective representation of counsel." United States v. Fessel, 531 F.2d 1278, 1279 (5th Cir. 1979). When mental health is at issue, counsel has a duty to conduct

proper investigation into his or her client's mental health background, see, _____ v _____, 461 So. 2d 1354, 1355 (Fla. 1984), and to assure that the client is not denied a professional and professionally conducted mental health evaluation. See Feaael; Mason v. State, 498 So. 2d 734 (Fla. 1986); Mauldin v. Wainwright, 723 F.2d 799 (11th Cir. 1984).

The fourteenth amendment mandates that an indigent criminal defendant be provided with an expert who undertake his or her task, and who undertake that task in a professional manner. Cowley v. Stricklin, 929 F.2d 690 (11th Cir. 1991). An appointed psychologist must render "that level of care, skill, and treatment which is recognized by a reasonably prudent similar health care provider as being acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances." Fla. Stat. sec. 768.45(1) (1983). In his or her diagnosis, an expert is required to exercise a professionally recognized "level of care, skill, and treatment." The expert is required to adhere to procedures that experts in the field deem necessary to render an accurate diagnosis. Olschefsky v. Fischer, 123 So. 2d 751 (Fla. 3d DCA 1960). Dr. Berland did not exercise, nor even approximate, the requisite professional level of care, skill or treatment because he had inadequate time. The situation is akin to circumstantial ineffective assistance of counsel. See United States v. Cronin, 466 U.S. 648 (1984).

Florida law also provides for a right to professionally adequate mental health assistance. See, e.g., Mason; cf. Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.210, 3.211, 3.216; State v. Hamilton, 448 So. 2d 1007 (Fla. 1984). Once established, the state law interest is protected against arbitrary deprivation by the federal due process clause. Cf. Hicks v. Oklahoma, 447 U.S. 343, 347 (1980); Vitek v. Jones, 445 U.S. 480, 488 (1980); Hewitt v. Helms, 459 U.S. 460, 466-67 (1983); Meachum v. Fano, 427 U.S. at 223-27. In this case, both the state law interest and the federal right were arbitrarily denied.

The duty to protect the client's right to professionally adequate mental health assistance does not rest solely with the mental health professional. Trial counsel must discharge significant responsibilities as well. See Blake;

Fessel; O'Callaghan, Here, counel failed in that duty. He failed to obtain the expert's appointment in a timely fashion. This is especially shocking in light of the six or seven months in which he failed to act. He neither obtained nor provided the expert with any of the wealth of available information regarding Tim Hudson's background. No records were obtained or provided; no first-hand accounts from those who had come into contact with Mr. Hudson were made known to the expert. Trial counsel failed to take any of the steps necessary to assure that his client would receive the expert mental health assistance to which he was entitled to further a defense relying on it.

Mr. Hudson was denied his fifth, sixth, eighth, and fourteenth amendment rights. Consequently, Mr. Hudson was tried without the wealth of mental health testimony supporting a voluntary intoxication defense. Trial counsel's hurried, last minute use of a mental health professional, including their complete failure to provide necessary background information, negated the value of an evaluation. In a case where Mr. Hudson's mental condition was central to the defense this was critical ineffectiveness. Counsel failed to investigate and prepare. Had a reasonable investigation been conducted, a wealth of evidence regarding Mr. Hudson's drug usage was available. This evidence was critical evidence for the mental health examiner to know, consider, and use in his testimony. Had it been presented, the result of the proceedings would have been different; a second degree murder conviction would have been returned. Rule 3.850 relief should have been given by the trial court and must be ordered by this Court. A new trial is called for.

ARGUMENT IV

THE CIRCUIT COURT SHOULD HAVE GRANTED MR. HUDSON'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND ENTERED A SENTENCE OF LIFE IN PRISON.

On direct appeal this court divided 4-3 as to whether a death sentence was legally supported by facts presented at trial. As this Court noted on direct appeal, "Our function in reviewing a death sentence is to consider the circumstances in light of our other decisions and determine whether the death penalty is appropriate." Menendez v. State, 419 So. 2d 312, 315 (Fla. 1982), Hudson, 530 So. 2d at 831. The opinion noted Mr. Hudson's situation was

"arguably a close call," 538 So. 2d at 832. A dissent distinguished Mr. Hudson's situation from that of the worst offenders deemed worthy of the death penalty:

BARKETT, Justice, concurring in part and dissenting in part.

I concur as to guilt and dissent as to sentencing. In his sentencing order, the trial judge made the following findings:

The facts of the case, as produced by the evidence, indicate that the defendant, TIMOTHY CURTIS HUDSON, was apparently surprised by the victim during the defendant's burglarizing of the home owned by the victim and shared with the defendant's ex-girlfriend....

.....
The extensive testing done by Dr. Berland on the defendant, together with the circumstance of the surprise of the defendant during the burglary when confronted by the victim, convinces the Court that at the time of the killing and far at least a short period thereafter, the defendant was unable, to a certain extent, to conform his conduct to the requirements of law....

In light of our prior case law, I cannot conclude that the death penalty is proportionate under these facts. As was stated in the seminal case of State v. Dixon, 283 So.2d 1, 7 (Fla.1973), the death penalty is reserved "to only the most aggravated and unmitigated of most serious crimes." In light of the trial judge's explicit findings, I conclude that the murder in this case is not within the category of crimes described in Dixon.

KOGAN, J., concurs.

Hudson, 538 So. 2d at 832-33.

In granting Mr. Hudson a new penalty phase the trial court found:

The Court cannot draw the same conclusion as to trial counsel who represented the Defendant at the penalty phase. It is inexplicable to this Court why the office of the public defender which had been representing the Defendant for five to six months waited until three weeks before the Defendant's trial to assign an attorney with no previous capital murder experience to start preparing for the penalty phase. (EH 19-20). Further exacerbating this situation is the fact that a mental health expert was not retained to assist counsel until about the same time. (EH 23-24)

Based on this sequence of events penalty phase counsel was clearly "hurried" in his preparation and was "uncomfortable with the time constraints, considering the magnitude of the case." (EH 33) (emphasis supplied) Indeed, penalty phase counsel had never been confronted with such a limited period of time to prepare any type of felony case, "much less a first-degree murder." (EH 33) The gravity of this situation is best summed up by penalty phase counsel's testimony at the evidentiary hearing. Although he testified he was as prepared as he could have been under the circumstances, he stated:

In reflecting back on the case and the way the case was presented to me, I certainly felt uncomfortable professionally with proceeding with the penalty phase, based on the limited amount of time that I had to prepare. (EH 41) (emphasis supplied)

As a result, a significant and substantial amount of time was not spent on investigating the Defendant's background as to drug addiction. (EH 45) While it is true that penalty phase counsel's statement in that regard was predicated on what the Defendant and his parents told him, it is clear to this Court based on the record that there was other independent evidence which he did not pursue. (EH 54-74) And, had he discovered this available evidence, it was the type of information he would have "definitely" presented to the mental health expert. (EH 74) Accord, State v. Lara, 16 FLW S306 (May 9, 1991)

But even more egregious is penalty phase counsel's testimony that he "did not actively . . . pursue any evidence or witnesses concerning the Defendant's drug problem" outside of talking to the Defendant. Indeed, he relied "primarily" on evidence developed during the mitigation phase relating to the Defendant's "mental capacity or incapacity." (EH 88)

Accordingly, the Court finds and concludes that the Defendant was rendered ineffective assistance of counsel at the penalty phase of his trial.

The issue now presented is whether there is a reasonable probability that, absent the deficiencies of counsel, the sentencer, which includes the Florida Supreme Court, would have concluded after an evaluation of the aggravating and mitigating circumstances, that death was not warranted in this case. The Court concludes that there is such a reasonable probability predicated in part on the opinion of the Florida Supreme Court which affirmed the defendant's sentence of death by the narrowest of margins - 4 to 3. Hudson v. State, 538 So.2d 029 (1989).

At the Defendant's trial, the mental health expert who examined the defendant testified on cross examination that he had no evidence or information based on his research or review of reports that the Defendant either was or was not under the influence of cocaine at the time he committed this murder. (R 419) At the evidentiary hearing he testified that based on that lack of evidence he was not in a position to intelligently convey to the jury what effect cocaine may have had on the Defendant at the time of the offense but that he now had significant information to be able to do so. (EH 340)

More significant is his testimony that had he possessed the information which was available through certain witnesses prior to the first trial, his testimony as to the mental health condition of the Defendant at the time of the offense would have been "substantially" more forceful, convincing, persuasive, understandable, and comprehensible with regard to how the Defendant would react while under the influence of cocaine as opposed to the speculative opinion he gave at trial. As he noted, this evidence convinced him that the Defendant "was a lot more severely disturbed than I realized at the time of this offense." (EH 309-311 and 315)

Bad penalty phase counsel precluded the available evidence relating to the Defendant's addiction to cocaine and its effect on his mental state and had penalty phase counsel given this information to the mental health expert thus allowing the expert to render a substantially more comprehensive and persuasive opinion, there is a reasonable probability that the sentencing judge would have given more weight to the two mitigating circumstances relating to the mental health of the Defendant which be considered. (R 883-884) Had this been the case the sentencing judge, in undertaking his weighing process, may have found that these mitigating factors outweighed the two aggravating circumstances and may have sentenced the Defendant to life imprisonment thereby rejecting the jury's recommendation of death.

But, even assuming the sentencing judge would have still imposed the death penalty in the face of the omitted evidence, the Court finds there is a reasonable probability that the Florida Supreme Court's ultimate decision to affirm the death sentence would have been different. As is noted in that Court's opinion, it undertook a comprehensive proportionality review to determine whether the death penalty was appropriate in the Defendant's case. In ultimately rejecting the Defendant's position, the Court found one case to be "arguably close call" - Fitzpatrick v. State, 527 So.2d 809 (1988). However, the Court found that "Hudson's mitigating evidence is not as compelling as that presented by Fitzpatrick." Hudson, pg. 832 (emphasis supplied)

This Court finds that had the omitted evidence been part of the record in this case, there is a reasonable probability that the Florida Supreme Court would have found that the Defendant's mitigating evidence would have been just as compelling as Fitzpatrick's and would have found his death sentence to have been disproportionate in terms of Fitzpatrick. As noted, the Florida Supreme Court affirmed the Defendant's death sentence by the narrowest of margins - 4 to 3. Given that fact, this Court cannot be certain that had the omitted evidence been part of the record, one additional justice would not have voted to reverse the death sentence. cf. Way v. Duer, 568 So.2d 1263, 1267 (Fla.1990).

Therefore, for the reasons expressed, it is ORDERED and ADJUDGED as follows:

1. The Defendant's Motion to Vacate his judgments of conviction is denied.
2. The Defendant's Motion to Vacate his sentence of death is granted, his sentence of death is vacated, and he is awarded a new sentencing before a jury.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED and ADJUDGED that the Court will conduct a status conference in this case on Tuesday, July 30, 1991, at 1:30 p.m., to either schedule a penalty phase trial or to stay these proceedings pending an appeal by either party.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, on this the 23rd day of July, 1991.

/s/ RICHARD A. LAZZARA
RICHARD A. LAZZARA
CIRCUIT JUDGE

(PC-R. 807-810) (emphasis added) (footnotes omitted).

3
The State called no witnesses in rebuttal during post conviction and was prepared to stipulate to testimony of Mr. Hudson's crack use and addiction (PC-R. 343-48). The substance of Mr. Hudson's post conviction evidence of undeveloped mitigation was not denied by the State.

Knowing the compelling additional testimony presented at post conviction which was not presented at trial, and having the benefit of careful, extensive briefing and argument, the trial court should have simply imposed a life sentence. On this record a sentence of death violates the proportionality standards set out by this Court in State v. Dixon, 283 So. 2d 1 (Fla. 1973) and the many cases that flow from it. The circuit court believed that this court may have imposed a life sentence had counsel presented the additional mitigation. However, the circuit court obviously felt constrained in the relief that it could grant. This Court is not so constrained. On this record, this Court should find that, had the additional mitigation been present in the direct appeal record, a life sentence would have been ordered pursuant to a mandatory proportionality review.

CONCLUSION

Appellant, Timothy Curtis Hudson, based on the foregoing, respectfully urge that the Court vacate his unconstitutional capital conviction and grant all other relief which the Court deems just and equitable.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing motion has been furnished by United States Mail, first class postage prepaid, to all counsel of record on April 30, 1992.

Respectfully submitted,

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