

No. 23-5817 ORIGINAL

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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Cordarius Lawrence — PETITIONER
(Your Name)

vs.

The People OF The State of Illinois "et al." — RESPONDENT(S)

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO

Supreme Court OF Illinois

(NAME OF COURT THAT LAST RULED ON MERITS OF YOUR CASE)

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Cordarius Lawrence
(Your Name)

P.O. Box 1000

(Address)

Menard IL 62259

(City, State, Zip Code)

773-355-7037

(Phone Number)

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED

- 1) Whether the evidence at trial was sufficient to prove petitioner guilty beyond a reasonable doubt?
- 2) Whether the state's inflammatory statements during closing argument substantially prejudiced petitioner and the court erred in its rulings?
- 3) The 100 year sentence imposed by the court, whether it is excessive?

LIST OF PARTIES

All parties appear in the caption of the case on the cover page.

All parties **do not** appear in the caption of the case on the cover page. A list of all parties to the proceeding in the court whose judgment is the subject of this petition is as follows:

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APPENDIX A
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TABLE OF AUTHORITIES CITED

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OTHER

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Petitioner respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment below.

OPINIONS BELOW

For cases from **federal courts**:

The opinion of the United States court of appeals appears at Appendix _____ to the petition and is

reported at _____; or,
 has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
 is unpublished.

The opinion of the United States district court appears at Appendix _____ to the petition and is

reported at _____; or,
 has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
 is unpublished.

For cases from **state courts**:

The opinion of the highest state court to review the merits appears at Appendix C to the petition and is

reported at _____; or,
 has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
 is unpublished.

The opinion of the Circuit Court of Cook County court appears at Appendix B to the petition and is

reported at _____; or,
 has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
 is unpublished.

JURISDICTION

[] For cases from **federal courts**:

The date on which the United States Court of Appeals decided my case was _____.

No petition for rehearing was timely filed in my case.

[] A timely petition for rehearing was denied by the United States Court of Appeals on the following date: _____, and a copy of the order denying rehearing appears at Appendix _____.

[] An extension of time to file the petition for a writ of certiorari was granted to and including _____ (date) on _____ (date) in Application No. ___ A _____.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U. S. C. § 1254(1).

[] For cases from **state courts**:

The date on which the highest state court decided my case was 1-9-23.
A copy of that decision appears at Appendix A.

[] A timely petition for rehearing was thereafter denied on the following date: _____, and a copy of the order denying rehearing appears at Appendix _____.

[] An extension of time to file the petition for a writ of certiorari was granted to and including _____ (date) on _____ (date) in Application No. ___ A _____.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U. S. C. § 1257(a).

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

The Due Process of Law Clause of The Fourteenth Amendment
of The United States Constitution.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

In the early morning hours of February 6, 2014, Corey Williams was shot in the neck at 8137 S. Marshfield Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. Following a months-long investigation, defendant was charged with Personally Discharging a Firearm that caused the death of Williams.

- 1) Petitioner argues that the trial evidence was insufficient to prove him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt due to the fact 2 of the state's witnesses stated they were coerced + threatened to give false testimony by detectives, the key witness stated it was "too dark for her to see anything", misidentified petitioner in photo array, along with no physical evidence linking petitioner to the crime scene.
- 2) Petitioner argues that the prosecutor's inflammatory statements during closing arguments prejudiced him when the state told the jurors they will be the "voice of the victim", which caused reversible error. Along with the court delaying petitioner's timely objection by overriding the objection. Then before the state finished closing the court sustained the petitioner's objection, then instructed the jurors with the wrong instructions.
- 3) The 100 year sentence imposed by the court was excessive because it does shock the moral sense of the community and violates the proportionate penalties clause. The trial court is in a superior position to weigh such factors as the petitioner's credibility, demeanor, general moral character, mentality, social environments, habits, and age. *People v. Stacey*, 193 Ill. 2d 203, 209 (2000).

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE PETITION

Reasons for Granting The Petition is because this was a cold case that took police over a year to arrest and charge Mr. Lawrence. In their rush to close out the case, Chicago police conducted a woefully inadequate investigation that included suggestive witness identifications of Mr. Lawrence. The state's witnesses were not credible, there was no physical evidence presented tying Mr. Lawrence to the scene, and detectives made essentially no effort to find any such evidence, even though they had the opportunity to do so. The prosecutorial misconduct committed during the state's rebuttal closing argument, along with the error in ruling prejudiced Mr. Lawrence and while no instruction could have cured the error, the court's instruction was certainly insufficient. Lastly, the excessive sentence was imposed by a judge who has not only been reversed for excessive sentences before, but also reversed by this court for other reasons on numerous occasions. For all the reasons stated above this court shall grant Petitioners Writ of Certiorari.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, your Petitioner respectfully request this honorable court to grant his Petition.

The petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

Cordarius Lawrence Prose

Date: 8/25/23

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the

21st day of August, 2023

Shelley A. Shevlin
Notary Public

