

25-6914

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

On Petition for Writ of Certiorari  
to the Court of Criminal Appeals of Alabama

Murray Lawrence Jr, Petitioner  
v  
State of Alabama, Respondent

Petitioner:  
Murray Lawrence Jr  
AIS 00241380  
Holman Correctional Facility  
Atmore Alabama

ORIGINAL

FILED  
SEP 03 2025  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
SUPREME COURT, U.S.

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SUPREME COURT, U.S.

## 1. QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the prosecution violated Brady v Maryland when it suppressed exculpatory forensic evidence concealed the absence of any Alabama autopsy and falsely implied the existence of a later autopsy that supported a gunshot theory which contradicted its own medical examiner.
2. Whether racial discrimination in jury selection violated Batson v Kentucky when the prosecution struck nearly every African American juror leaving a single African American juror on a twelve person panel.
3. Whether due process was violated under Napue v Illinois and Giglio v United States when the State relied on coerced and incentivized testimony from witnesses who were threatened with death penalty exposure criminal charges loss of children or immunity manipulation.
4. Whether the conviction is unsupported by evidence under Jackson v Virginia where no physical evidence tied Petitioner to the crime and the only forensic autopsy proved strangulation in Mississippi rather than gunshot in Alabama.
5. Whether Petitioner was denied effective assistance of counsel under Strickland v Washington when counsel failed to investigate failed to call alibi witnesses failed to challenge the gunshot theory and failed to object to Batson violations.
6. Whether prosecutorial misconduct including theory shifting inflammatory arguments racialized insinuations and misrepresentation of forensic findings violated due process under Berger v United States and Darden v Wainwright.
7. Whether Alabama's Rule 32 process failed to provide meaningful review in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment when the petition was dismissed without discovery without a hearing and without addressing jurisdiction Brady violations or coerced testimony.

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Murray Lawrence Jr

AIS 00241380

Date: 11-19-25

2. PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDING

Petitioner is Murray Lawrence Jr AIS number 00241380 incarcerated at Holman Correctional Facility in Atmore Alabama.

Respondent is the State of Alabama.

M-L v

Murray Lawrence Jr

AIS 00241380

Date: 11-19-25

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 Apepenix \_\_\_\_\_ to the petition and is

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

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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 3  
Alabama Supreme Court one-page denial of certiorari (June 13, 2025) 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 Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals appears at Appendix 2  
Memorandum Opinion (February 14, 2025) to the petition and is

reported at \_\_\_\_\_; or,

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

The order of the Baldwin County Circuit Court denying Rule 32 relief appears at  
Appendix 1 (May 21, 2024) and is

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

Signature: ML

Date: 11-19-25

Murray Lawrence Jr.

AIS #00241380

Holman Correctional Facility

Atmore, Alabama

3. OPINIONS BELOW

Appendix One

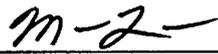
Order of the Baldwin County Circuit Court denying Rule 32 relief dated May 21 2024 unpublished.

Appendix Two

Memorandum opinion of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals dated February 14 2025 unpublished.

Appendix Three

Denial of certiorari by the Alabama Supreme Court dated June 13 2025 unpublished.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M-L", is written above a horizontal line.

Murray Lawrence Jr

AIS 00241380

Date: 11-19-25

4. JURISDICTION

The Alabama Supreme Court issued its Certificate of Judgment on June 13 2025.

This petition is filed within ninety days under section 1257 of title 28 United States Code.

M-L

Murray Lawrence Jr

AIS 00241380

Date: 11-19-25

5. CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

United States Constitution amendments Five Six Eight and Fourteen.

Section 2254 of title 28 United States Code.

Relevant authorities include Brady v Maryland Kyles v Whitley Batson v Kentucky Napue v Illinois Giglio v United States Strickland v Washington Jackson v Virginia and Berger v United States.

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Murray Lawrence Jr

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## SUPPLEMENTAL RECORD CITATIONS AND LAWS VIOLATED

1. Brady and Kyles Violations: McGarry testimony pages 827-867; page 835; pages 860-863; Mississippi death certificate.
2. Jurisdiction and Venue Violations: Death in Mississippi; indictment alleges gunshot in Alabama.
3. Prosecutorial Misconduct: Voir dire pages 399-567; theory shift pages 583-587; closing pages 1777-1874.
4. Batson Violations: Voir dire pages 44 129 132 146.
5. Coerced Testimony: McNeil pages 1420-1568; Tonya Mixson 1134-1204; Damien Heard 1403-1417.
6. Ineffective Assistance: No alibi witnesses; no forensic rebuttal; no Batson objections.
7. Jackson Insufficiency: No physical evidence of any kind.

## 6. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This case arises from the wrongful conviction of Murray Lawrence Jr for the 2003 death of Brandon Hastings. The conviction rests on a theory that contradicts the only forensic autopsy. It relies on witnesses who were coerced or rewarded. It is unsupported by physical evidence. It was obtained through suppressed evidence racial discrimination and ineffective counsel. The transcript shows repeated violations of state and federal law.

Only one autopsy was ever performed. Dr Paul McGarry of Jackson County Mississippi conducted the autopsy and testified live at trial pages 827 through 867. He told the jury the cause of death was ligature strangulation. He documented a fractured hyoid bone. He stated there was no gunshot wound and no bullet path in any tissue.

No Alabama medical examiner ever conducted an autopsy. No Alabama autopsy report exists. No Alabama death certificate exists. Alabama conducted an exhumation between May 9 and May 13. No doctor testified. No report was disclosed. Yet the State repeatedly implied that a later autopsy existed and supported a gunshot theory. The transcript disproves this at pages 827 through 867 835 and 860 through 863.

Jurisdiction and venue were never established. The indictment charged murder by gunshot committed in Baldwin County. The State's own medical evidence showed death by strangulation in Mississippi. A conviction based on an offense the grand jury did not charge is void.

The prosecution struck nearly every African American juror. Voir dire included repeated references to interracial relationships and drug culture that introduced prejudice into the jury before testimony began.

The State relied on coerced or threatened witnesses including Jarius McNeil Tonya Mixson Damien Heard Elizabeth Mixson Brooks Miller and others. Several faced threats of jail charges or loss of children. Some later recanted. All were pressured.

There was no physical evidence tying Murray to the crime. There were no fingerprints no DNA no blood no fibers no weapon and no ballistics. Phone records showed communication between McNeil and Brandon not between Brandon and Murray. Five alibi witnesses who placed Murray at home asleep were never called.

Counsel failed to investigate, failed to call alibi witnesses failed to challenge the gunshot theory failed to object to Batson violations failed to question coercion and failed to use phone logs and timeline evidence.

Post conviction review provided no relief. The Rule 32 petition was dismissed without a hearing and without discovery. The Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed without addressing jurisdiction or Brady. The Alabama Supreme Court issued a one page denial.

## 7. REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

1. The prosecution suppressed exculpatory evidence.
2. The conviction contradicts uncontested forensic evidence.
3. Racially discriminatory jury strikes violated Batson.
4. Coerced testimony violated Napue and Giglio.
5. No physical evidence supports the verdict under Jackson.
6. Counsel was ineffective under Strickland.
7. Post conviction review denied due process.

## 8. CONCLUSION

For these reasons Petitioner asks the Court to grant a writ of certiorari and review the judgment below.