

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

No. 25-7568

**ROLLIE DESHAWN LAMAR,
Petitioner,**

v.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Respondent.**

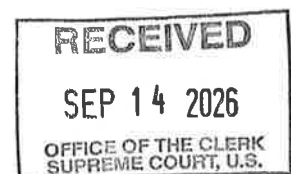
**SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR A WRIT OF
CERTIORARI**

PURSUANT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 15.8

Petitioner Rollie Deshawn Lamar respectfully submits this Supplemental Brief pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 15.8. The petition remains pending before the Court. This supplement is confined to intervening authority that was not available when Petitioner made his last filing.

I. INTERVENING AUTHORITY

On June 12, 2026, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit issued its published decision in *United States v. Hamaed*, Nos. 25-1056/1099/1104/1157/1353 (6th Cir. June 12, 2026). The decision post-dates Petitioner's September 19, 2025 petition for a writ of certiorari and therefore constitutes intervening authority within the meaning of Rule 15.8.



Hamaed addresses principles directly relevant to the evidentiary issue presented by this petition: the requirement that testimony be grounded in a witness's own perception and personal knowledge, and the significance of genuinely independent evidence when an evidentiary error is assessed for harmlessness.

II. HAMAED REINFORCES THE PERSONAL-KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENT

Federal Rule of Evidence 602 permits a witness to testify to a matter only when evidence is introduced sufficient to support a finding that the witness has personal knowledge of that matter. Personal knowledge is therefore a foundation requirement, not merely a matter of credibility for the jury.

In Hamaed, the Sixth Circuit explained that lay testimony must be rationally based on the witness's perception and grounded in the witness's own experiential observations. The court upheld the challenged testimony there because the witness had participated in the relevant conversations, had direct knowledge of the underlying facts, and possessed a lengthy relationship with the persons and transactions about which he testified. *United States v. Hamaed*, Nos. 25-1056/1099/1104/1157/1353, slip op. at 14–16 (6th Cir. June 12, 2026).

That intervening decision is significant here because Petitioner's Rule 602 claim concerns testimony attributed to Anna Sizemore concerning matters allegedly known through her observations of Lewis and matters that, according to the trial record, could have been known to her only through statements made by Lewis himself. The distinction between what a witness personally perceived and what the witness learned from another person is central to the question presented.

The Sixth Circuit's intervening decision thus provides additional guidance for evaluating whether testimony rests upon personal perception or instead conveys

information obtained from an absent declarant. Hamaed does not decide Petitioner's case, but it confirms the importance of identifying the source of a witness's asserted knowledge before permitting the testimony to reach the jury as personal knowledge.

III. HAMAED ALSO BEARS DIRECTLY ON HARMLESS-ERROR REVIEW

Hamaed further illustrates the importance of examining the independent evidentiary record when determining whether an evidentiary error affected substantial rights. There, the Sixth Circuit relied upon substantial independent evidence, including testimony from other participants and written communications, in concluding that the challenged evidentiary matters did not warrant reversal. Hamaed, slip op. at 30–31.

That analysis is relevant to Petitioner's preserved objection because the harmless inquiry cannot be separated from the role the challenged testimony played in proving the Government's case. Where challenged testimony supplies an important link in the Government's proof, the reviewing court must consider what admissible evidence independently establishes the same proposition and whether the remaining evidence was sufficient without the challenged testimony.

Petitioner's petition already presents the question whether the admission of Sizemore's testimony, despite the Rule 602 and hearsay objections repeatedly raised at trial, was harmless. Hamaed supplies intervening Sixth Circuit authority that reinforces the need to distinguish personal observations from information supplied by another person and to evaluate harmless against the genuinely independent evidence remaining in the record.

IV. THE INTERVENING AUTHORITY STRENGTHENS THE QUESTION PRESENTED

The significance of Hamaed is not that it creates a new claim. Rather, it strengthens the federal question already presented to this Court. The Sixth Circuit's treatment of personal perception, personal knowledge, and independent evidence provides a more recent articulation of the principles governing the very evidentiary problem raised by Petitioner.

The petition presents an important question concerning the limits of Rule 602 when a witness is permitted to present information as personal knowledge even though portions of that information originated with another witness. It also presents the related question whether an appellate court may deem the error harmless without adequately identifying independent admissible evidence establishing the same disputed propositions.

Hamaed confirms that the source and foundation of a witness's knowledge matter. It also demonstrates that harmless-error review properly considers whether substantial independent evidence supports the challenged result. Those principles materially assist the Court in evaluating the question already presented by Petitioner.

V. REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION

Petitioner respectfully requests that the Court consider *United States v. Hamaed*, Nos. 25-1056/1099/1104/1157/1353 (6th Cir. June 12, 2026), as intervening authority in its consideration of the pending petition for a writ of certiorari.

This Supplemental Brief does not add a new question presented. It is limited to the intervening authority described above and its significance to the evidentiary question already before the Court.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests that the Court consider this Supplemental Brief pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 15.8 and grant the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 4, 2026

